



Hermit Park Herald



Issue 2

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14th February 2014

Dear Community,

Happy Valentine's day and welcome to another week of news. This week I read an interesting article from the Courier Mail regarding Prep and the move to textbooks in schools and away from Play based learning and the author's yearning for Prep to remain exploratory focussed. I thought of our Preps wearing our new uniforms and how some have already a paint mark or two on them. The author of the Courier Mail article encouraged schools like ours to almost wear these paint stains like a badge of honour – A badge that states in prep we play, paint and engage in collaborative learning. That in Prep at our school we still have paint, collage and no textbooks. It is certainly an interesting debate.

With regards to uniforms, we have had another order arrive and almost sell out. Currently we have sizes 6,8 and 10 available. It has been an amazing response by our community to the new uniforms. I would also like to clarify a couple of reasons why we have been low on stock –

- Our P and C had to pay cash upfront for the uniforms. So far we have spent \$21,000 on uniforms and whilst we do recoup the money, we have to have the money first to spend! This is a huge commitment for a small group such as the P and C.
- The uniform manufacturer who specialises in uniforms advised our school that an order of 15,000 would be sufficient based upon previous experience. As we all found out, the order was short.
- Once our next order arrives, we will have plenty of stock.
- Finally, I would like to thank our parent volunteers who run our uniform shop. Our parents in this shop do this job for the pure love of our school and we are very lucky to have them. Please remember that whilst 99.99% of everyone is polite, there are a few who become frustrated when we cannot supply shirts and I ask that you show respect to all of our volunteers – there are always teething issues when we embark on a major change such as a uniform. Overall though, it has been a wonderful success.

P and C Meeting

Our first P and C meeting will be held this Tuesday beginning at 6.30pm in the main staff room. Everyone is welcome!

School Board

As you would be aware, we are an Independent School this year and are now required to form a School Board. We have begun early discussions and at this stage it looks as though it will start at around 7 members including the Principal and the P and C President. We will discuss this further at the upcoming P and C Meeting.

Swimming Carnival

Our first ever Inter-house Swimming Carnival will be held this Wednesday at Long Tan Pool for nominated students born from 2001-2006. For students in grades P, 1 and non-swimmers, it will be a normal day at school. A further note will be sent home on Monday. Our agenda is-

9am – Swimmers meet under A Block.

9.45 – Students arrive at pool.

10 – 11.40 – 25 m races (Timed)

11.40-12 – Morning Tea.

12 – 1.30 – Novelty Events.

1.30 – 1.45 – Clean Up/ Pack Up

2 – 2.15 – Arrive back at school.

School Goals- Behaviour

Along with our focus this year upon Writing and Reading in our school, we are now also setting Behaviour Goals for our school. I will let you know more about these next week.

Year 1-5 Meet the Teacher Evening

Our meet the teacher evenings for grades 1-5 will be held in two weeks' time. We will be setting the agenda and times on Tuesday and will let you know. Year 6 and 7 classes will be holding individual interviews and each teacher will let parents know when these occur.

Thank You all for another week at our awesome school. Cheers,
Clayton and Sharon.

Arid Landscape-in partnership with Glencore - A News Update

The garden is looking spectacular at the moment; the recent rain has certainly spurred on new growth. The ponds are buzzing with water spiders, lilies, dragonflies, snails and unfortunately some 'toadpoles'.

The year sevens now patrol each morning checking for frog and toad eggs. We plan to stock the pond with Townsville Blue eyes, a cute little fish that does not worry frog eggs or tadpoles and our own Townsville fresh water crab.

Before we open the garden for the children we would like to erect a split log fence to control the entry and exit. The fence will certainly blend with the theme of the area however it seems a dying art; if any one has any contacts or can help please get in touch.

With the outdoor oven we would like to include a concrete wash tub (single?) with if possible a stand and an old style hand pump. If you can help with these items please let me know.

Parents, feel free to walk through the area at any time.

Ps. Hopefully an aquaponics will be installed on the infant campus this semester.

Craig Aisthorpe

P & C News

P & C - You're Invited!

The first school P & C meeting for 2014 kicks off this Tuesday 18th at 6:30pm in the Main Office Staffroom. So whether you wish to lend a hand, your voice, or are simply just curious about school events and activities come along on Tuesday. We look forward to seeing you there.

Project Old Uniforms

Do you have any old uniforms you no longer need? The P & C would love to receive your unwanted items. These will then be sent overseas to a school community in need. Please drop your old uniforms to the office (any day) or uniform shop (Tuesday 2:45 to 3:30). Thank you for your generosity.

Electronic Newsletter

We will be sending our newsletter electronically later this term so if you are new to the school or have changed your email address since last year please email Karen Maher on kmahe31@eq.edu.au so you can be added to our list.