From the Principal’s desk …..

As you can see when you enter the school, construction of our new building has started. This has created a lot of interest for many of our students and they enjoy watching the earth moving equipment in use. We have had to alter some of our play activities during the construction phase. Students have quickly adapted and been very cooperative.

Thank you to the Parents and Carers who were able to attend the school information evening. It was an excellent opportunity for you to see what is happening in your child’s classroom and to hear the strategic direction of our school. We have a lot happening this year in curriculum delivery as well and professional development of staff. Four staff have recently completed two days of intensive PECS (picture exchange communication system) training and have quickly set about implementing this into their classrooms. I hope to have more staff trained later in the year.

The week will see the naming of our school leaders. We are conducting a ballot at the moment of the school students and will announce our School Captains, Vice Captains and Sports Captains for 2014. We hope to present badges soon and have a morning tea with the parents of those students. I will keep you posted as soon as a decision has been made.

As I indicated recently I am about to depart on two weeks long service leave. While I am away Sarah Lockwood will be the Acting Principal and Karlie Bulow will be the Head of Curriculum full time for the two weeks. I will relax knowing the school is in great hands. If you need to contact the school during this time both Sarah and Karlie will be more than happy to assist you.

Andrew Thompson
Principal
**LP1**

Hello Everyone! This fortnight LP1 has been participating in various specialist programs. On Wednesday we have speech therapy groups, Thursdays we have Gross motor and on Friday we have a great science lesson with Miss Kali. The students of LP1 are really enjoying these times and responding well to all the hard work our teachers are putting in. In addition, some of our children have started using PECS (Picture Exchange Communication System) and they have already shown great ability and success. We look forward to showing our parents how well their children are doing.

Have a great fortnight.

Miss Ish, Miss Lynda and Miss Susan.

**LP2**

This fortnight LP2 has been learning about the letter ‘Ii’ and the letter ‘Pp’. We made icecreams out of coloured cotton balls and painted pigs using pink and purple paint. We also started cooking on Fridays and swimming and gross motor with Krystal so we have been very busy.

Miss Erin, Sue and Tracey

**LP3**

This week in English we have started learning about the emotion ‘happy’. We have made happy faces with play dough, making sure the mouth has a great big smile. We are reading a book called "My mob going to the beach". In this book we have been looking at the characters’ emotion and how they are feeling when they are at the beach. We have taken photos of each other being happy and talked about what makes us happy. Our sight words this week are ‘I’ and ‘am’, so we have practised writing the sentence, “I am happy.” When we were at the library on Monday Melissa found a great book to read while we are learning about being happy, it’s called “If you’re happy and you know it”. LP3 have really enjoyed listening to this story.

In Maths this week we have continued learning about addition. We found some good APPS to use on the iPad to help the children learn this concept. “iLearn with Poko” is very interactive and the children have enjoyed using it to learn how to add numbers together. If you get a chance on the weekend please practise some addition sums at home with your child. You just need some objects. For example 2 books + 2 books = 4 books altogether.

We have started our grooming activities in the afternoons. Please make sure your child has 1 toothbrush, 1 tube of toothpaste, 1 comb/brush and 1 roll on deodorant at school.

Miss Kristy, Melissa and Fiona
**UP1**

Welcome to week 6. UP1 have been terrific learners throughout the past two weeks. In English, we spent some time reading "Jack and Jill" and identified the rhyming words. We have been reading lots of books and listening for rhyming words! Our sight words of the week last week were “and” and “me”. This week’s sight words are “up”, “you” and “we”. Every morning we use our “when, who, what, where” picture folder to create simple, silly sentences. We have been learning to build sentences and use capitals and full stops! We practice writing and spelling our name every morning in our sign in book too. In maths we began learning simple subtraction. Most of the class picked up the concept with ease, well done! We have been playing interactive games, using lots of different materials and worksheets to help us learn. We have also been practicing our name, numeral, quantity match and missing numbers up to 20! Our swimming skills are continually developing and we are becoming fearless in the water with each visit! Our class thoroughly enjoys dance on Tuesday afternoons and love showing off their new “moves”!

Miss Krystle, Carol and Kathy

**UP2**

Upper Primary 2 has is really getting into the swing of the term and all of our units of work. In English we focus on a new letter each week and this year we are learning them in alphabetical order to help us learn the sounds and names of all the letters. Each week we create a simple sentence together focussing on our descriptive words. This week the sentence is, “The drum is white and smooth.” We work towards being able to construct the sentence independently by the end of the week and already we are getting very good at this! In maths have been learning about patterns and skip counting. Here is Kyarna and Axel working hard to learn to skip count using active learning strategies.

From Miss Michele, Angela and Kylie

**UP3**

UP3 have been working very hard learning new spellings and sight words. This week our spellings have been: there, the, to, they, that and then. The class also used the iPads to write sentences using their spelling words. In English we have been reading informative texts about Ducks focusing on the who and the where. In our phonics lesson the students have been identifying beginning sounds of words and creating a new word with those letters. Math has been about partitioning numbers to 20 in two and three parts. The class has been using a new app on the iPad ‘Zumba Dance’. We connected it to the interactive whiteboard and practiced our Salsa. I have sent home the students usernames and passwords for Studyladder which is an excellent way for them to reinforce their learning. If students can’t access the internet at home I can arrange time during the week for them to use it at school.

Sarah, Anthea, Margaret and Susan
UP4

The boys have been excelling in their school work so far. They are recognising essential words better and the best thing I have noticed is their motivation and willingness to try even if they get it wrong. It is also pleasing to hear the wonderful reports coming in from parents saying how well their boys are doing. So thank you parents for working with us at school to ensure the best for your child. The boys are also enjoying the cooking program and are getting better at their skills in the kitchen. It is hard to believe that 6weeks have gone by already but I couldn’t be happier with the class that we have.

Neve, Debbie and Gwen

LS1

Week six into the term! Time surely is flying! The schoolyard is looking a bit bare but soon there’ll be a brand new building to fill the empty space. Thank you to all the parents who attended the parent evening get-together. I’m sure you’re excited about all the great things happening at our school. As mentioned at our meeting on Tuesday evening students are working well and some great learning is taking place! Students are involved in the following extra-curricular activities: Vital Program – a Life Skills program, Drumbeat – with Bill (School Chaplain), Golf and Dance. A swimming Carnival will also be held before the end of term for those students who can swim 10m or more. More details on this event will follow closer to the date.

Mrs Singh, Belinda and Kylie

LS2

Autumn has begun and so has week 6! These past two weeks have seen LS2 working hard but having fun at the same time. Maths has us busy collecting data. We have used the experimental method to see how many times a number on a die shows up in 20 rolls. We have recorded our findings on a tally board and next lesson we are going to learn how to record these findings on a graph. All of us are finding this topic interesting and fun and we look forward to the up and coming lessons. In English we are almost finished with our book Tiddalick the Frog and will move onto our next book Girawu the Goanna, another story from the Dreamtime. Last week we had our first CBL outing to Ipswich Library. We had a fantastic time browsing through hundreds of books. We picked a few that we liked and quietly flick through them. We also did a lot of reading, we either read to Miss Sheryl and Miss Laura, to our friends or just read quietly to ourselves. As a class we chose 20 books to take back to the classroom and Sheridan used our class library card to borrow them. We then had a picnic lunch in the park before heading back to school. This week CBL, shopping at Coles for ingredients we’ll need for cooking next week. We are loving Art with Miss Sarah, Drumming with Mr Bill, Hip Hop with Miss Krystal and Swimming with Mr Griffiths. Life is just awesome down in the Oval Office.

Miss Kathy, Miss Sheryl and Miss Laura
There's never a dull moment in LS3! In English we are exploring imaginative texts using the novel *The Forest of Hands and Teeth*. We are currently exploring the author’s use of verbs and procedural language in the book and how these language features influence the mood of the text. In maths we have completed our review of place value to 1 000's using partitioning. We have now started our investigations of angels and their relevancy in real situations. Our learning with time telling and counting is continuing. In science we have been exploring Earth and its features. So far we have identified the cause of day and night on our planet and are now exploring Earth’s place in space. Our CBL trips have been successful and the students have been having a great time. We have done excellent work using our GoCards and have demonstrated safe practises whilst traveling throughout the community. As for other business in LS3, we have finished stringing our fishing reels and are learning how to tie *Sand Diego Jam* knots. We will soon be ready to practise our casting. Then, at long last, we will learn to bait hooks and then try our luck at some real fishing. Captain Claw, the class yabby, has moulted from his shell and seems to be getting bigger every day. We may need a bigger tank soon! So all is well with LS3 and we are looking forward to the many learning adventures ahead.

Mr. Tom, Miss Justine, Miss Margaret

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Term 1 is BUSY BUSY BUSY in the Art Studio!!! Our creative students have been very productive so far and made a great start on their Art projects. The older students are doing sculpture work with wire, wood and found objects, or 3D papier mache work. Our younger students are involved in creating artworks relating to our ‘New School Building’ and new beginnings. Over the year every art student will also be making an Art Journal/Artbook that will include samples of artworks and techniques. The Art team are very proud of the efforts our students have been putting in so far this year. Well done!!!

We are starting to run low on some materials needed for our room. Items required are:

- Old magazines
- Costume jewellery
- Haberdashery items (ribbon, buttons, ric rac, tassles, fabrics, cotton, embroidery threads, etc)
- Empty cereal boxes, toilet rolls, etc

We would greatly appreciate any donations!!

With thanks from the Art team
Miss Sarah, Miss Justine and Miss Sheryl

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Please mark your diaries. The next Bunnings BBQ is the 16 March. If anyone has any donations or they are able to donate some time please contact the school and we will organise a roster. Remember these fundraisers are to help your students.

Kylie Thompson