Parents and Community Members,

We are more than halfway through the term. I would like to acknowledge the efforts of staff at the school and applaud their commitment to their work, despite a challenging transition this year.

I would also like to single out the efforts of Graham Easton, who has been volunteering to support Joelleene in the maintenance of the school grounds. If you see either Graham or Joelleene, be sure to acknowledge their efforts on making the school look like a great place to be.

As some of you may be aware, Mrs B is not well at the moment. Our thoughts are with her while she returns to better health. Please thank Mr Buttah and Mrs Grant for doing extra hours to ensure students are not disadvantaged during this time.

AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM UNITS

Last week, the first units of work for English and Mathematics using the new Australian Curriculum were completed. I am happy to report that students engaged well with the new materials, despite some initial difficulty. The new curriculum is very specific in some ways, with a focus on ‘metalanguage’. This is a fancy word for language about language—what this means is there is a greater focus on developing students’ understanding about naming of things, such as understanding what verbs, nouns and adjectives are and how they fit together to form sentences. It may seem obvious, but this is a significant shift to the previous curriculum.

We have begun the next units of work for the term. The focus for English for all students is on understanding and writing texts that persuade. This includes things such as advertisements and letters to the editor. As one student put it, a persuasive text is written to try and convince someone into doing something.

With the upcoming State Election, it may be helpful to discuss with your child how political parties use marketing materials (such as TV advertisements and flyers) to persuade voters’ decisions about political candidates. As always, if you would like to discuss the units of work we are studying, or anything to do with your child in particular, please contact the school so we can arrange a time.

P&C AGM

A reminder that P&C will hold their Annual General Meeting on Monday, 19th of March. The election of the P&C executive will occur at this meeting. If you are interested in becoming a member of P&C, please come along to the meeting.

SWIMMING

A reminder that swimming is on each Thursday. Please send your child to school with a swim shirt, swimmers and a towel. The school provides sunscreen, or you can provide your own. There are still some permission slips outstanding. Swimming finishes this term in Week 9 (Thursday, 22nd March).

CROSS COUNTRY—The following message is on behalf of Ms Paula Roberson, Principal Homestead SS. On the 29th of March 2012, Homestead State School will welcome parents and students from Pentland State School, Ravenswood State School and Greenvale State School to join in a social night prior to hosting the Interschool Cross Country events the following day.

Families are welcome to arrive at Homestead State School any time after 4pm. Students, parents and staff will mingle until 5pm. Students will then be engaged in an array of party type games prior to dinner being served. At 6pm we will enjoy the BBQ dinner catered for by the Homestead P&C. Following dinner the students will then return to the supervision of the teachers and will continue to participate in a Disco! The lights will go down on the disco at 8.30 at which time it will be time to change into PJ’s and settle into our swags. Lights will be out at 9pm.

Students will be segregated into boys and girls areas. The boys will be sleeping in the classroom while the girls will be sleeping in the library. Staff will supervise students who are sleeping over in these allocated areas. Parents are welcome to camp over as well. Please feel free to bring with your camper trailers, caravans, tents etc!
Key Strategic Directions:
1. Provide quality schooling through curriculum programs that cater for individuals, educational initiatives and societal expectations.
2. Develop and share high expectations for individual student learning.

Unfortunately no shower facilities are available so it is preferred that staff, students and families shower prior to arriving at Homestead State School.

On Friday the 30th, students will be woken around 6.30 to be dressed and in preparation for breakfast at 7.30. Bacon and egg muffins, a selection of cereal and fruit will be served by the Homestead P&C. Following breakfast, students, staff and families are to set up their individual school tents in preparation for a 9.00am start.

The National Anthem and march past will commence at 9.00am. The cross country events will then take place as we begin with the junior students. Morning tea will be scheduled for 10.30 with the senior races to follow. Following the races the presentations of age champions will occur. This will conclude the official components of the day which will be around 12.00. The P&C are also catering for lunch and these packed lunches can be ordered.

**Sleepover requirements**
If your child is sleeping over they are required to bring their pyjamas, sleeping bag or swag, pillow, toothbrush and other toiletries.

For the cross country day children are required to wear full school uniform on the day and appropriate footwear such as joggers/running shoes. The following items should also be packed for your child water bottle, sunscreen and a wide-brimmed hat.

Please indicate on the form attached your planned intentions and the catering you will be ordering (there is also a revised permission slip on the last page of this newsletter—if you can please complete this).

**Homestead State School Sleep Over & Interschool Cross Country**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family name: ________________________________</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Each catering option is $5 per person per meal.**

**BBQ DINNER**
- [ ] My family will be attending the BBQ. We will be feeding
  - [ ] ________ adults
  - [ ] ________ children
- [ ] My family will NOT be attending the BBQ

**SLEEPOVER**
- [ ] My child/children will be attending the disco and sleeping over
- [ ] My child/children will be attending the disco only and will not be sleeping over
- [ ] We will NOT be attending either the disco or sleepover

**BREAKFAST**
- [ ] My family will be attending the breakfast. We will be feeding
  - [ ] ________ adults
  - [ ] ________ children
- [ ] We will NOT be attending the breakfast.

**LUNCH**
- [ ] My family will be requiring the packed lunch. We will be feeding
  - [ ] ________ adults
  - [ ] ________ children
Key Strategic Directions:
3. Build the capacity of our teachers and staff across a range of professional competencies.
4. Provide appropriate resourcing and quality learning environments to support and extend student learning and commit to sustainable practice.

STUDENT AWARDS
This week’s award winners are Parker, Jayde and Rachael, congratulations to these hard working students.

SCHOOL BEHAVIOUR TICKETS
Students have started off an excellent year with behaviour. I am pleased to let you know that there have been 89 tickets handed out this year so far, which is an average of 4-5 per student.

Students are being recognised most for ‘being a learner’, which includes things such as putting in their best effort, having a go, staying on task, being on time to class, being organised and ready to learn, asking good questions and showing that they are thinking and focusing on their work. Great work everyone—it proves what everyone is saying, Ravenswood is a great school to be at!

Remember that you can encourage your child’s behaviour by rewarding them if they receive a behaviour ticket. Look for the blue ticket they receive when they leave the school gate!

STUDENT ATTENDANCE
Students need to come to school regularly to learn. We have been working very hard over the past year to ensure that students get to school as often as possible and on time. Even when absences are excused through illness or are unavoidable for other reasons, students miss work and are less successful in school. The hard truth is that regardless of the reason, when a child is not at school they miss critical learning time and it can be difficult to catch up. So far this term, there have been 44 absence days recorded in total. The table below describes the facts in more detail.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Year</th>
<th>Number of School Days this term X Number of Students in the school</th>
<th>Total recorded absences</th>
<th>Total hours of missed instruction (Recorded Absences X 5 hours)</th>
<th>School attendance rate (%)</th>
<th>School target for attendance (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012 (to Tuesday, 28 February 2012)</td>
<td>26 x 20 = 520 days</td>
<td>44 days</td>
<td>220 hours</td>
<td>84.61%</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This data shows we have a long way to go to reaching the target of 95% attendance for all students. I urge you to please do everything that you can to make sure your child comes to school regularly and on time. For more information on school attendance, please visit [www.education.qld.gov.au/everydaycounts](http://www.education.qld.gov.au/everydaycounts) or speak with me.

If you have any questions about your child’s progress or about the school as a whole, please feel free to make an appointment to speak with myself or Mrs Watt.

Cameron Warne
A/Principal
Our Purpose: Ravenswood State School exists to provide learning to all stakeholders. We provide a learning environment which supports students in their achievement, facilitated by skilled, professional and compassionate staff.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITIES (DISABILITY SERVICES)

Local Area Coordination

Local Area Coordinators (LAC) work with people with a disability, their families and the local community to bring about positive change.

An LAC can help by:
★ providing access to services, supports and networks
★ assisting people with a disability to live independently and participate in the community
★ providing information on employment, recreation and support options.

The LAC for Charters Towers and Hughenden is Jason Thomas.

For more information or for assistance please contact Jason on 4787 8520 / 0428 114 153 or email: jason.thomas@communities.qld.gov.au

Child Protection & Protective Behaviours Training

Child Protection
1. What is child abuse?
2. Why do we need child protection?
3. What effects does child abuse have on our society?
4. Who is a child abuser or sex offender?
5. How do children become victims?
6. What are the signs I should look for in a child?
7. How do we provide child protection training?
8. Is there a fool proof plan?
9. What can we do as parents and care providers?

Protective Behaviours
1. About Protective Behaviours
2. Talking to your child about P&B
3. Step 1: Feeling Safe
4. Step 2: Keeping in Touch/Connected
5. Step 3: Keeping Networks
6. Step 4: Having Adventures
7. Step 5: “I can handle it”
8. Step 6: Personal Emergencies
9. Step 7: Safe... even if
10. What about babies and toddlers?
11. When Parents/Carers need Protective Behaviours
12. Situation Activities
13. Where to get help.

Saturday 28th April 2012
9:00am to 2:00pm
Charters Towers Neighbourhood Centre
3 Powell Lane Charters Towers
Cost: $30
(Incl. lunch, handouts and Certificate of Attendance)
RSVP & Payment by: 25th April
Please advise of any special needs you have
Ph: 07 4787 4797
Fax: 07 4787 4648
Email: info@ctnc.org.au
Our Values

Respect – We treat ourselves and each other with respect, show care and regard for property.
Excellence – We work always as learners and seek the best in ourselves and others.
Accountability – We take responsibility for our performance and own up to mistakes, so that we can learn from them.
Productive Relationships – We are aware of others in our school and work together so that success belongs to us all.

Permission Note for Cross Country

I, _______________________________________ give permission for my child/children ___________________ to attend Cluster Cross Country at Homestead State School. I understand the event commences at 9am.

Please indicate below how your child will be travelling to the event:

- I will be transporting my child/children in my own vehicle to and from the event described above and am available to assist as a Parent Volunteer.
- I will be transporting my child/children in my own vehicle to and from the event described above.
- I require transport in the school bus. I give permission for Mrs Bianca Byers (or other nominated driver) to transport my child to and from the event described above.

Please indicate how your child will be picked up:

- My child will need to be transported back to school and picked up at 3:05pm
- My child will be picked up at the pool at 2:55pm.

Signed ___________________________
Parent/Guardian

---

Permission Note for Swimming Term 1

I, _______________________________________ give permission for my child/children ___________________ to attend Swimming from Week 3-9.

Please indicate below how your child will be travelling to the event:

- I will be transporting my child/children in my own vehicle to and from the event described above and am available to assist as a Parent Volunteer.
- I will be transporting my child/children in my own vehicle to and from the event described above.
- I require transport in the school bus. I give permission for Mrs Bianca Byers (or other nominated driver) to transport my child to and from the event described above.

Please indicate how your child will be picked up:

- My child will need to be transported back to school and picked up at 3:05pm
- My child will be picked up at the pool at 2:55pm.

Signed ___________________________
Parent/Guardian