Welcome back everyone. I trust that everyone has had a safe and eventful holiday and students are well ready for the race towards Christmas break. There are already only 43 days of school remaining (as of 16th October) and staff have been stressing to students how important it is that no unnecessary absences are taken this term.

Students this term are studying Folktales and traditional stories, with a view to creating their own persuasive speech or presentation, depending on which year level they are in. In Mathematics, students have been learning about chance, addition and subtraction problems and money. I am very impressed with students’ hard work so far and am looking forward to further improvement in their results.

For their SOSE unit, students have been learning about and preparing for UNICEF day for children. Students from Year 1 and 2 have been organising the activities for the day on Wednesday 24th October at 11am, while students from Years 3-5 have been contacting people asking for donations. If you own/work for a local business, you will probably receive a letter or phone call or email from one of our students. Montana (Yr 5) and Jayde (Yr 4) have each completed a flyer which is attached in alternates to this newsletter. For more information on UNICEF day for children, please go to http://unicefdayforchildren.org.au/

Date Claimers for this Term-
- Monday, 22nd of October : Student Free Day
- Wednesday, 24th October: Mine/Water Plant Visit; UNICEF Day for Children; Lifesavers visit
- Friday, 26th October : World Teacher’s Day
- Saturday, 27th October : Halloween Ball
- Friday, 2nd November : Swimming Carnival @ Greenvale
- Thursday, 8th November : Teaching and Learning Audit
- Thursday 15th/Friday 16th November : Mr Warne at Meetings/Workshops in Charters Towers
- Sunday, 2nd December : Last working bee for 2012!
- Thursday, 13th December : Break up day
- Friday, 14th December : Clean up day

Changes to Staffing
This week has been Mr Buttah’s last at Ravenswood as a Teacher Aide. Over the period of time he has worked here, Mr Buttah has accumulated a significant amount of additional leave for working extra hours. He will be on leave effective from Weeks 3 to 10 of this term. From 2013, Mr Buttah has informed us that he intends to study an Education degree in Townsville. We wish him the best and know he will be an excellent teacher—although he will be sorely missed by everyone at Ravenswood.

From 2013, Mrs Watt will be teaching in Charters Towers. I have not been advised of a new teacher for Ravenswood yet as it is dependent upon our 2013 enrolments. We thank Mrs Watt for all of her efforts so far in 2012 and will enjoy the remainder of the year she is with us.

Lynn (our school Cleaner) has resigned from her position effective 19th October. The position must undergo a vacancy review process, where persons who may be interested in relocating to Ravenswood can transfer from other schools. If the position is not filled after this, there will be an advertisement for a new school cleaner made. In the interim, the school is open to any expression of interest from persons in the community who may seek to fill the 14.25 hour Cleaning position.

Steve (our school grounds person) has also resigned from his position effective 8th October. This position will not be re-filled in 2012 and funds for grounds keeping wages will be reallocated.

Swimming—Greenvale Carnival 2nd November
Thankyou to all the parents who returned a preference form for a free bus to Greenvale. Due to a very small number of people wanting one, there will not be a bus transporting students to and from the Carnival.
Parents are reminded that all catering and permission forms were be returned with payment Friday 19th October. If forms are not received by this date, catering will not be available. If you have yet to return your form contact the school immediately.

Because the drive to Greenvale is 3.5 hours from Ravenswood, students will be released from class early on the 1st November. Students can be picked up from the school at 1:00pm, to enable them to pack, change and head to Greenvale in daylight hours. If you are going to be unable to collect your children at this time, please contact the school to make an alternative arrangement.

World Teachers' Day—Friday 26th October
The Queensland College of Teachers (QCT) is the regulatory authority for the teaching profession and the QCT is calling for a celebration of teachers on World Teachers’ Day. Celebrated in over 100 countries, World Teachers’ Day is symbolic of the hard work done in classrooms and of hopes for our next generation. Introduced in 1994 by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), it is a day on which students, parents and community members are encouraged to show their appreciation for the contributions that teachers have made to their community. Students and parents may show their appreciation by presenting their teacher with a certificate from www.qct.edu.au/wtd.

Spelling—Read Australia
Last Tuesday, Mrs Watt, Mrs Grant, Miss Shea and I attended reading training along with staff from Pentland and Homestead State Schools. The training, provided by Read Australia (www.readaustralia.com), focuses teachers on the development of phonemic awareness, the systematic and explicit teaching of the alphabetic code, verbal intelligence, and developing fluency and comprehension. The approach allows for very early independent reading and spelling. The approach is called the Speech Sound Pics (SSP) approach, which complements the work we are already doing with Jolly Phonics in Prep and Year 1. This approach however targets students from Prep through to Grade 7, making the results more consistent and effective. Staff are very enthusiastic about using this new approach—look for the speech sound clouds as they appear in the classroom. We are looking forward to seeing much improved reading, spelling and comprehension. Parents can find out more about this approach, resources they can use at home, as well as videos of teaching at www.readaustralia.com or www.facebook.com/readaustralia. More information is also available on our school website at www.ravenswoss.eq.edu.au

Reading—Lexile Readers for 2013
From 2013, Ravenswood State School will begin using the Lexile Framework for reading, in conjunction with PM (what is currently used). The Lexile framework for reading is a way to connect students to books—more effective than what is currently done with PM readers, where students ‘max out’ on the scale at approximately grade 3 or 4. After that, the books often don’t fit the child because there isn’t an effective measure being taken. The Lexile framework determines a child’s reading ability and matches it with levelled texts from 200L to 1700L. This scale exceeds the range necessary for students at Primary school (roughly, 200L would be a Prep/Early reader, 1200L-1300L would be a Year 7 reader).

Because this system matched students to books, an updated set of 240 Library books has been purchased for students, while existing books will be matched to the Lexile framework database of over 7000 books over
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.

the course of 2013. The Lexile Framework for Reading is grounded in over twenty years of research and has been developed in consultation with the Australian Centre for Educational Research (ACER).

For more information, please see http://www.scholastic.com.au/schools/education/lexile/

Teaching and Learning Audit—8th November
As part of an initiative to improve student learning in Queensland state schools, Teaching and Learning audits are conducted in every Queensland state school to provide quality feedback on how the school is performing and to inform the school’s planning processes.

The audits are usually carried out every four years or following the appointment of a new school principal—for Ravenswood, the last Teaching and Learning Audit was carried out in 2010, with my appointment effective July 2012, this is the reason for the audit. During the audit, an experienced school principal visits the school to collect a range of data and information about school practices, programs and procedures in the area of teaching and learning.

Interviews will also be conducted with staff, students and the P&C president to gather a range of perspectives on school strategies and practices—parents of all students are invited to a morning tea on the 8th of November at 11am so that the auditor has the opportunity to gather a range of perspectives from parents.

The audit will take one day, and the school will receive the auditor’s report within 15 days and key findings will be discussed with the school principal and staff.

From this report, the executive summary and eight-page profile will be made available to parents and caregivers on the school’s web site. The principal will work with the school community to include any recommendations in the school’s forward planning.

For further information about Teaching and Learning Audits, please contact the school or visit www.education.qld.gov.au/nationalpartnerships/teach-learn-audits.html

Mums and dads (and aunties and uncles and grandmas and grandpas and carers and friends and neighbours and miners and tourists). If you’re not sure of the what, why or wherefore of the Staffroom for Improvement competition, a minute or two reading here will make everything clear for you.

We all understand the idea behind giving a teacher an apple. Some of us may have even wanted to do it when we were students, but we might have been too shy or even scared of being branded a ‘Teacher’s pet’. The thing is, it’s hard to imagine just how much it means to teachers to know that people are doing something (anything) to let them know that we value what an amazing job they do every day.

Yes, there are monetary prizes available – a grand prize of a $20,000 Staffroom makeover and up to $5,000 worth of consolation prizes – but beyond that, the real benefit of the Staffroom for Improvement is how powerfully it works to bring teachers, school staff, students, parents and the broader school community together.

So while giving an apple may seem like such a little thing, believe us, it means so much to teachers. Go to www.staffroomforimprovement.com.au so that you can give an apple to staff at Ravenswood State School...tell your friends and relatives to as well.

Regards,
Cameron Warne
Principal
Catering Order Form

Please write the number of children and adults from your family participating in the following activities/meals. Each meal will be $5 per person, with the exception of the take away Afternoon Tea package which will be $2.

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In addition, please write the names of the school students who will be attending, along with their year of birth.

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Meals

Dinner       BBQ with hot sides
Breakfast    Bacon and Eggs, Toast and Spreads, Cereal, Tea and Coffee and Juice
Morning Tea  Cakes, sandwiches and savouries
Lunch        BBQ snags with cold sides including salad
Afternoon Tea Packed pair of biscuits with a popper

Please return this page to your principal by the 19th October.
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.

PUBLISHED AUTHORS & Ravenswood State School Parents & Citizens Association present -

A new approach to fundraising cookbooks

We’re publishing our own cookbook!

To encourage healthy eating and to raise much needed funds, we’re publishing our very own premium quality cookbook.

To be involved, the process is so simple:

1. Go to the Published Authors website & submit your favourite recipe using their easy to use on-line template.
   - (www.PublishedAuthors.com.au)
   - Don’t have access to a computer? Just give us your recipe & we’ll try to find a volunteer to enter it for you.

2. Fill in the cookbook order form and return with payment.

Discounts apply for orders of 3 or more books, so why not order multiple copies as beautiful gifts for friends & family.

Price per book:  $20
Price for 3 or more:  3 for $50
Submit your recipes & return your order form by:  FRIDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER
For more info contact:  Shea Hughes on 0747702184 or email sheahughes@gmail.com

www.PublishedAuthors.com.au  Tel: 1300 112 770
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.

New Tupperware Demonstrator

Available for parties from 7th October

Hello,

My name is Shea Hughes and I am the Ravenswood and surrounding areas new Tupperware Demonstrator.

I will be available for parties from the 7th October 2012, just in time for you to take advantage of the lovely warm weather and host Spring and Summer themed Tupperware parties. Tupperware also makes a great gift, so please keep me in mind for parties over the December festive season.

I am also available for parties outside the Ravenswood area. Areas I can travel to include Charters Towers, Ayr and most suburbs of Townsville. If you know of somebody in these areas who would love to host a Tupperware party, please feel free to pass my contact details on.

You can host a party for as few as 3 people, or as many as 33 (or more!) and as the host at your own Tupperware party, you may be eligible for Tupperware’s host thank-you gift and even some amazing host rewards.

Even if you’re unable to host a party over the coming months, you can still place an order with me from out of the latest Tupperware catalogues—call me to request a catalogue be posted to you or go online to www.tupperware.com.au to view the latest catalogues.

I look forward to hearing from you!

Shea Hughes

PO BOX 39
Ravenswood, QLD 4816

Call Shea on 07 47702 184 or email sheahughes@gmail.com