As most parents would be aware, one of the most important skills we can give children is the ability to read and comprehend text, and the teaching of this skill certainly isn’t restricted to the early years as students progressing through the later years of their education need to continue developing skills to allow them to take on more challenging text. I have no doubt that most students will echo the words of Mr Wallace, “If you can read, you will succeed!” It is truly a critical foundation for every child to master what good readers do every time they read. On the student-free days before school commenced, our teachers reflected on what good readers do such as: decoding, skimming, predicting, summarising, making connections to prior learning, re-reading for meaning, reading ahead, comparing and contrasting, making inferences, distinguishing between fact and opinion, etc., etc. As adults and good readers, we do many of these with a great deal of automaticity, so it is essential that we explicitly, repetitively and systematically teach these reading strategies to all children on a weekly basis. The ultimate goal is to develop fluency and comprehension. A key teaching strategy we use is called Guided Reading, a process of careful text selection (i.e. not too hard and not too easy) for an individual or small group of similar needs followed by coaching of specific reading strategies. We always value every effort made on the home front whether it be learning sounds and sight words, reading with your child and asking questions, or assisting with research projects or homework. The partnership is critical!

“Reading Eggs” is an amazing resource for all ages aimed at improving reading skills and comprehension. Our school has a whole-school subscription for every student in Prep to Year 7. “Reading Eggs” is for 4-7 year old children whilst “Reading Eggspress” is for 7-13 year old students. The reading material and the reading activities for every year level are absolutely fantastic. Every child has a logon and password, which can be retrieved from the classroom teacher. Students can access the website (http://app.readingeggs.com/login) on their computer or on their iPad using the Reading Eggs Student App from iTunes. For more information, especially around tailoring a course for each individual student, please contact your child’s teacher.

Our school also runs the Lexile Reading program. Year 4 students are just beginning the Lexile reading program, starting with a reading test. This is a new experience for the students as they are still learning the skills of inferential reading and building up their vocabulary knowledge. Once the test is complete students can start the fun part of reading books and doing the book quizzes. This reading practice will help build up their vocabulary and comprehension in an enjoyable way.

Mathletics is another fabulous online resource and again, all students have access to this online resource. Teachers can provide a logon and password for every student in Prep to Year 7. The individual courses can be developed for each student based on their ability and needs. Apart from some excellent resources to enable students to learn all mathematical concepts, the students have a lot of fun learning. Again, access can be achieved at school and at home using a computer or iPad. For more information, contact your child’s teacher.

Parking continues to be a problem. No access is available to either carpark (next to Admin or the Pool) with the exception of staff, parents of students with a physical or vision impairment, or parents accessing the outside school hours care program. All members of our school community are expected and encouraged to support this rule as it is purely aimed at adding to ensure the safety of our children.

Our school continues to use the You Can Do It program as a basis for developing social skills and emotional resilience. We often refer to the Five Keys to Success and Happiness: Confidence, Resilience, Organisation, Persistence, and Getting Along. The positive habits of the mind are essential in promoting the way we think and approach our daily challenges in life and at times we see students flipping back into negative thought processes,
especially when confronted by challenging social or academic situations. As parents and teachers, we need to coach children through these times using a positive thinking regime rather than making excuses, and taking away their responsibilities and learning opportunities. A key word we often use is “YET”, a word we can quickly add to the end of a child’s sentence such as, “this is too hard, I can’t do it” (YET!!!) or “I don’t have any friends” (YET!!!)
Thank you for all the donations received thus far, it is greatly appreciated.

Children should be bringing in no more than $5 (seniors) and $2 (juniors) to spend at the tuckshop.

You can now order tuckshop online at www.flexischools.com.au

My name is Ashleigh Richardson and I am the Year 6 Student Council Captain. I would like to introduce you to something new to the tuckshop. This year instead of regular bottled water we are going to sell Thankyou Water. The difference is that Thankyou Water donates its profit to help people in needy countries have clean, safe drinking water. Everyone knows that we need to drink water but in some countries the water is so unbearable it can also result in very poor hygiene and sickness. It will only cost $2 from the tuckshop to buy a bottle of Thankyou Water. If you buy one bottle you are giving someone in need a whole month’s worth of clean water. I hope your child will buy a bottle of Thankyou Water and change a life.

Next P&C Meeting is Monday 17 February at 6:30pm in the staffroom. Everyone is welcome to join the meeting. We would love to see new faces and hear new ideas.

Uniform Shop is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings at 8:15 to 9:15am.

Bunnings BBQ
On Sunday 9th March, the P&C/Music Committee are hosting a BBQ at Bunnings, Oxley. This is a fantastic opportunity to raise a lot of money for your kids, as well as promote our school to the wider community. We will need a lot of helpers throughout the day, so if you can spare some time to help, please contact Linda Richardson at lindamr@ozemail.com.au. This is a great chance to meet some other parents, or get a group of your friends and help out together.

SCHOOL BANKING

You can get involved in the School Banking program by opening a Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account at any Commonwealth Bank branch, over the phone on 13 2221 or via NetBank if you are an existing customer with NetBank access. Remember to take in identification for you and your child (driver’s license and birth certificate). You will receive a Dollarmites wallet and deposit book that your child will use to participate in the program. When your child make’s their first deposit at school they will earn their first Dollarmites token and our school will also receive $5 commission.

Wednesday is School Banking day and students should bring in their weekly deposit to the office before 9.00am (or the previous day). For every deposit made at school, no matter how big or small, students will receive a cool Dollarmites token. Once students have individually collected 10 tokens they can redeem them for an exclusive School Banking reward item in recognition of their continued savings behaviour. Remember our school earns 5% commission on every deposit made (to a maximum of $10 per individual deposit). Thank you for supporting our school and helping teach your child the benefits of saving regularly.

If you have any questions, please email lindamr@ozemail.com.au

My name is Astrid Liebermann (newly married!). I am the School Chaplain at Jamboree Heights. I love working here as my passion for young people, building community and seeing students excel are often utilised. I am particularly strong at working with small groups, which is an important skill at a school this size as I can work effectively with several students at a time that may be experiencing similar challenges in their lives.

My role encompasses three areas. It covers social, emotional and spiritual support. I provide social and emotional support through; programs such as ‘Fun Friends’ (a program that focuses on resilience that is run across the Prep cohort); conflict management; one-on-one pastoral care meetings and; coaching and supporting students through inter-school sport. If a student desires to speak to me on a one-on-one ongoing basis, a note will be sent home that is to be returned before they continue to meet with me. Spiritual support is elective, if students participate in a program that contains spiritual content a signed permission form from their parents and/or carers must be returned.

Upcoming events:
26 February 7pm: Paula Barrett speaks on ‘21st Century Schools: Where Resilience Matters’ at Pallara State School. RSVP is required
26 February: ‘Fun Friends’ (developed by Paula Barrett) begins in Prep
19 March 3:15pm: Staff room: Local Chaplaincy Committee (if you are interested in supporting the chaplaincy program)
10 May: Mother-Daughter event: all special women invited
18-25 May: Chappy Week
August: Cup Cake Day (raising fund for the RSPCA and supporting social mindedness)
Term 4: World Vision ‘Give a Gift Campaign’
RECORDERS
NOW $9
Available at the School Office

GRAND OPENING
INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC ROOM
Wednesday 12 February
The MLC Hot Shots Tennis coaching program is back in Term 1, 2014 at Jamboree Heights State School! If you wish to enrol your child there are lessons available on Monday, Thursday and Friday mornings for ages 5-12 yrs.

The first lesson you can come and try for Free, all students that register via www.hotshotstennis.com.au get a Free Hot Shots T – Shirt and Sponge Bob Backpack. All tennis rackets and equipment is provided!

For enquiries: The Tennis Australia Master Club Professional is: Christie Hopgood 0433 674 520 or email: christie@ctennisandpt.com

WEST BRISBANE FALCONS BASKETBALL CLUB

If you missed our Sign On Day, you still have an opportunity to sign up to play junior basketball (U8-U18).

Please contact the club on 0450 105 252 252, or westbrisbanebasketball@hotmail.com or www.westbrisbane.basketball.net.au ASAP to become a basketballer at Falcons.

JOIN THE FALCONS NEST AND SOAR ABOVE THE REST!!!

RAIDERS NETBALL CLUB

Raiders Netball Club, playing in the Western Districts competition at Graceville, is looking for new players. Ages 6 (turning 7) and up.

Fixtures are on a Saturday from April to September, training on a Wednesday night. Great coaches, wonderful friendly club, successful track record of developing our players.

Go to www.raidersnetball.com for more info and to register. Act fast, deadline of