Hello everyone,

I hope that you are feeling rejuvenated and fell easily back into the swing of things after the summer holidays. The children have certainly settled into the routine of school extremely well; focused; happy and eager to do their 'Booyal Best.'

We 'hit the deck running' on Day 1; with a week of pre-assessments and activities that clearly outlined the expected standards of work, behaviour and presentation for this year. The same assessments will be done at the end of the year to see how much the students have learnt. It is always exciting to see the improvement.

It was a pleasure to welcome several new students and their families into our Booyal community. Two more students, Tiah and Peter, paid us a visit yesterday and are due to start next Tuesday.
Welcome to our new students.
What a happy bunch they look! 😊

Jessica & Haley (Prep)                                        Leelyn (Grade 4)
Rachel (Grade 4)                                               Daniel (Grade 5)

I hope that all of our new families will find their time at Booyal very happy and rewarding. As always, all families are warmly encouraged to support school initiatives and take part in both school and P&C activities. There is always a welcome in the classroom!

Educating our children is a real team effort; with students, staff, parents and a supportive community all heading towards the same goal. Perhaps this little poem I stumbled across can sum things up better than I.

I dreamed I stood in a studio
And watched two sculptors there,
The clay they used was a young child’s mind
And they fashioned it with care.
One was a teacher:
the tools s/he used were books and music and art;
One was a parent
With a guiding hand and gentle loving heart.
And when at last their work was done,
They were proud of what they had wrought.
For the things they had worked into the child
Could never be sold or bought!
And each agreed she would have failed
if they had worked alone.
For behind the parent stood the school,
and behind the teacher stood the home!
This year we will offer a P/1 Junior class with Mrs Dyer and Mrs D’s 2/6 class. Mrs Vaughan and Mrs Kovacs will predominantly work in the same rooms as last year. Mrs Kovacs is no longer employed on a Thursday but will be at school full-time on Tuesday instead. For the next month (and perhaps longer) Mrs Vellacott and Mrs Bendell are also likely to be in class on some days. Aunty Linda has kindly volunteered to continue working on Fridays as well.

We are fortunate to have the following staff returning and Mr Green starting as our new P.E. teacher:

Mrs Horner (L.O.T.E. Years 5 & 6) Wednesday and Friday
Mr Green (P.E) Thursday
Mr Horner (Music) Thursday
Mrs Savage (Learning Support) alternate Fridays
Mrs Turner (Religion) Thursdays

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**Communication**

Both Mrs Dyer and I believe that communication is the key to success in our school. The ‘heads up’ about something, chatting about a concern or giving you timely feedback is vitally important if your child is to be well supported. Communication is definitely a two way street and we encourage all feedback, positive and otherwise.

The relationship between home and school is always integral to your child’s success; working together for the best outcomes for your children is what we are about. You can be assured that every decision we make at school is with your child’s best interest at heart.

‘Thank you’ in advance for timely, respectful, open communication and also for the prompt return of permission notes and the like.

**Comprehension Strategies**

This year, we have a focus on Comprehension; teaching the students various skills that will help them not only read words correctly but accurately understand what they are reading.

In two week blocks, across the whole school, we will concentrate on a particular strategy. Some information about each strategy will be included in the Waffles so that you can know and learn about them as well. **Predicting** is our current strategy. More details next week.

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**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** Can you help please? We would greatly appreciate it if anyone was willing to hear students read in the mornings or help in the classroom at other times, even if only for a little while. If you are able to assist, please speak to either Mrs Dyer or myself. The children particularly benefit greatly from reading on a 1:1 basis. 😊 Thank you.

- *Ms Day* will continue to be in the office on Thursdays and Fridays.
- *My office day* is still on a Thursday.
- *Homework resumes next week.* This year the homework load has been reduced; only nightly reading and maths will be set. Whilst spelling lists will still be sent home for the Year 2-6 students, children are not required to write them out each night, (although some have expressed the wish to do so and are to be commended for such dedication. 😊). Extra work will be done in class to ensure that the children learn their new words.
Children who often miss school struggle in class and do not reach their potential.

We monitor student attendance very carefully and take absenteeism seriously. Frequent absenteeism is considered as a form of neglect. Every child deserves the right to learn so we work with parents and, if needed, relevant authorities to ensure that every child regularly attends school. Every day really does count!

In the lead up to Christmas the students worked on a special project, painting some beautiful plates which were delivered to many drought-stricken graziers in the Muttaburra & Longreach areas.

There were over 40, each packaged in a standard pizza box. It’s not every day that you walk into Pizza Hut asking for “One pizza and 43 boxes, please!”

The children felt very proud of themselves, hoping that the plates would bring a bit of extra happiness to the droughted, outback graziers. Since coming back to school it has been fabulous for them to receive so many lovely ‘Thank You’ notes, cards, calls and photos.

- A 2015 Education Queensland calendar is attached, showing school terms and public holidays.
- The News Mail will publish their annual photographic Preps’ feature on Wednesday, March 25, 2015. This is a wonderful keepsake for parents and grandparents. Max, the photographer will be here at 1 pm Wednesday, February 18th.

Does your Grade 2 – 6 student know the strategies they should use to help improve their spelling?

Learn what letters make each sound
Learn the spelling rules
Say the word slowly and enunciate clearly
Fist the word out carefully
Last year in our newsletter we used to have P/1 News as regular part of our newsletter. Watch out for 'Junior Jottings' in our next newsletter. Another section we will see occasionally is 'Arty Facts'. Mrs Dyer will teach Art right across our school, Prep - Grade 6, on a Friday afternoon. I imagine that we could have some colourful creations appear from time to time and news of 'crazy' projects. Who knows, perhaps a Booyal Bunyip might even emerge this year???:)

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Friday is our banking and library day.

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P&C NEWS

The next P&C meeting will be on Tuesday 17th February. A warm welcome will be extended to all parents, old and new. Let’s work and have some fun together for the benefit of all our children!

Uniforms are now available $25 each. If you ordered shirts last year could you please organise payment & pick-up.

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Please note that the Queensland Government extended a smoking ban to 5m around school grounds from 1 January 2015.

The use of cigarettes, other tobacco products and electronic cigarettes within five metres of school land is now prohibited. This applies before, during and after school hours, and on school holidays and weekends. The ban doesn’t extend over neighbouring residences or businesses.

AND FINALLY.....
Watch out... the Booyal Bunyip Entrepreneurs are ready for action! 😊

Today we were proud and excited to launch our Booyal Bunyip entrepreneurial program, which is supported by the Academy Of Young Entrepreneurs (A.Y.E) and St George Bank. Keep an eye out for more details next week.

DIARY DATES

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<tr>
<th>2.40 pm Mondays</th>
<th>Parade</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 18th February</td>
<td>NewsMail Prep Photo, 1 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 22nd February</td>
<td>Photography Workshop, Booyal Hall</td>
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<td>26th - 27th February</td>
<td>Mrs D: Principals’ Conference; Brisbane</td>
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Keep smiling!
Dawn 😊

If you, or any of your friends or relations, would enjoy receiving The Waffle via e-mail each week please send me their details so that they can be added to the mailing list. My e-mail address is ddoli4@eq.edu.au

We always do our ‘Booyal Best’.....and nothing less! 😊