Hat parade

I would like to give K-2 parents advance warning of our Easter Hat Parade held later this month on Thursday 24 March at 9am. It is still some time away but now would be a good time to keep an eye out for a hat that could form the base for your creative talents. Several classes are making hats, others are allowing parents to showcase their creative talents. The $2 shops often have some cheap products that parents can use. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Bullying and how we respond

Last week a kindergarten boy came up to me in our playground with a very sad face and the weight of the world on his shoulders. “Mr Downward, two kindergarten girls are teasing me” he said in a very serious tone. I crouched down and asked what they were doing, “Well they’re calling me sweetie.” I provided an appropriate amount of verbal comfort and sent him on his way.

I have spoken to parents on numerous occasions about what happens at Centaur with bullying. Whilst this example probably falls outside the guidelines it’s great to see that this little chap has learnt the first lesson – pass the information incident on to an adult or teacher. If we don’t know about it, we cannot act on it. Our school policy defines bullying this way: A repeated and unjustifiable behaviour, intended to cause fear, distress and/or harm to another. It may be physical, verbal or indirect/relational, conducted by a more powerful individual or group, against a less powerful individual who is unable to effectively resist.

Parents often make contact with our school to question me about an incident or action that has taken place. We apply two fundamental principles to incidents that we investigate – natural justice and procedural fairness. Child A makes an accusation against child B and the teacher needs to investigate the matter using these two guiding principles. Once we have confirmed or come to an understanding of what happened an appropriate response is required. This is where adults are influenced by our own personal beliefs, morals and philosophy around raising children.

For school teachers and particularly our school’s five Assistant Principals we are able to draw on over 120 years combined teaching experience with these matters. Parents can draw great comfort that once the merit of the incident is decided we work at putting in place a response that the child will learn from.

‘Tell them from me’ survey

I recently told you about the Tell them from me survey, an initiative of the Department of Education. We have yet to receive access to the survey at this stage. I will keep you informed as to when this is granted and when students will be completing the survey.

Mark Downward
R/Principal
**Baha’i scripture lessons**

Baha’i classes aim to nurture the hearts and minds of children. The emphasis is on helping them learn to reflect on and apply spiritual principles, such as love, unity and justice, to their own lives and to the lives of those around them. Based on the teachings of Baha’u’llah, the Founder of the Baha’i Faith, the classes seek to inspire in children a love of God and His Messengers, and of humanity in all its diversity.

The classes include short lessons, activities to build friendship, games, stories, art and music. All students are welcome to attend with their parents’ permission.

The classes are taught by volunteer local teachers each Tuesday. They are certified under the Baha’i Child Protection Policy, which includes a mandatory police check. Parents are welcome to sit in on the classes or to meet with the teachers at any time.

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**Donation of clothes**

The school appreciates the donation of unwanted/outgrown shorts, shirts and skorts for those times when “little accidents” happen.

If you have any items your child no longer needs please drop them into the office.

Also ensure that if you child has needed to make use of these spare clothes that they should be promptly returned once washed.

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**Bunnings BBQ:**

Coming up on Saturday 19 March. We need more helpers please to share the load. There is a roster up in the front office if you could kindly put your name down for a 2 hour shift. This is one of our best fundraisers for the year as it draws on the wider community.

**High school**

Tweed River High has an information evening for Year 6 going into Year 7 on Monday 14 March 2016 at 7pm.

Banora High Year 7 Supernova test will be held Monday 14 March at 9am. More information is being sent home with students today.

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**Meeting**

Next P&C Meeting Tuesday 15 March at 6.30pm in the staff room. We have free babysitting. All are welcome to attend.

**Canteen**

Helpers this week are requested from SAILS class SY.

Next week’s helpers are requested from class 1/2S.

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**Lucky Rego**

One lucky family who has been spotted in the community this week with the Centaur bumper sticker on their vehicle is rego LM 319. If this is you your child can collect a $5 canteen voucher from the office.

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**Canteen**

We urgently need helpers in the canteen. If you can spare two hours for a shift on either Wednesday, Thursday or Friday of any week please see Kelly or contact her on 0439 824 227.

The “Centaur Primary School Canteen” Facebook page is now up and running.

Please like this page to keep updated with what’s happening in the canteen.

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**Apologies**

Apologies for the misspelling of 1/2S SRC rep Grace Norgate in last week’s Log Book.

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**P&C NEWS**

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For our community

Tweed United Football Club
Looking for players for the under 12’s girls team. We have 2 senior female players who will coach this team. We are committed to the development of our junior players, whilst having a fun time.

We are a family friend club. If you would like to come to the club and have a kick around to see if you like it, please contact our club President Nathan Giovanni on 0473 178 281. Competition kicks off 18 March, 2016.