Principal's News

We are blessed with an outstanding teaching team at Boonah State School. Every teacher is caring, professional and committed to the learning and wellbeing of their students. So it is no surprise to me that we had 11 teachers nominated by members of our school community for a National Excellence in Teaching Award. Congratulations to: Charlie Moncada, Simon Francis, Betty Szymanski, Juley Nilon, Geraldine Stephan, Nic Comino, Christine Campbell, Anne Reardon, Alyssa Hogan, Sharolyn Johnson and myself. Thank you to those who took the time to nominate.

Write Right!

Last Thursday we were very proud to host the inaugural Write Right! Fassifern conference for gifted writers. Over 50 year 4-8 students from schools throughout our district ascended on our school to hear a keynote speaker and participate in interactive workshops with local writers. The feedback from our students, about the conference was almost as positive as the feedback from our guests about the behaviour and enthusiasm shown by the children. It was a successful event that we look forward to hosting every year.

Athletics

I was so impressed with our athletics team who competed at the District Athletics carnival. They each competed with enthusiasm and respect, with many achieving personal bests. Congratulations especially to Jack Elliott and Jacob Waters who won their respective Age Championships at the district carnival. Congratulations to those students who were selected to represent the Fassifern district at the regional trials this week. From the school, we wish you all the best.

Ritchies Boonah Arts Festival

I know that many of our students are heavily involved in this significant event next week. Students have entered stories in the Writing Awards and artwork in the Art Awards, while some are involved in the Youth Showcase and others in Calico in the Catwalk. I would like to encourage the members of our community to support this festival by attending some or all of the events.

Staffing News

As many are aware, our Head of Curriculum, Anne Reardon, has been away on sick leave. Unfortunately, while her illness is not serious, she has decided to make the difficult but important decision to take extended leave to ensure a full recovery. Therefore, Anne will not be returning to school this year. I know the community wish her a full recovery. A suitable replacement is yet to be found but I will notify the community as soon as a teacher is appointed.

Head lice

This pest is the bugbear (pardon the pun) of many families worldwide. It is present in every school to varying degrees and can require significant investment in time and treatments to eradicate. One of the biggest issues with head lice are the many myths which surround them. Therefore, enclosed with this newsletter are some fact sheets about head lice and how to treat them. The only successful treatment of head lice is regular treatment and the best prevention is to keep long hair tied up (preferably plaited).

It is important to note that while every attempt is made to control the spread of head lice at our school the Department’s policy clearly states that we cannot actively look for head lice, we cannot treat head lice and we cannot exclude a child from school or class because of head lice. Essentially, we can only contact families to alert them of the presence of head lice. If you receive a notice or phone call from the school, please know that we are not making any judgements but are simply encouraging you to treat your child. Children cannot concentrate when they are being bothered by head lice. Thank you in anticipation of your cooperation.

CyberSafety

Parents are once again strongly urged to regularly check their children’s online profile. A growing number of children are using social networking apps which are meant to be used by older citizens (many have age restrictions which are ignored). Police around the world are providing regular warnings of these apps being used by predators and cyberbullies. Apps like KiK, Tumblr, Instagram, Snapchat and Omegle have been reported many times as the pathway for grooming and cyberbullying. If your child is using any of these apps or others please discuss the dangers with them, or better still, enforce the age restriction.

Respect for Staff

It hurts me deeply to report that in recent weeks there have been incidents where parents have not treated our staff with the respect that they not only deserve, but also give to parents and kids unconditionally. Our staff always have your children’s best interests at the forefront of their minds and make all of their decisions accordingly. This does not mean that they don’t make mistakes. We are all human and will make mistakes and decisions that not everyone will agree with. However, the appropriate and constructive way to deal with this is to have a respectful conversation with the teacher involved. Give them a chance to explain and provide all the details. If you are unhappy with the resolution then please take the time to speak with me. We are all very approachable and reasonable people willing to resolve issues. It is never helpful to discuss the situation with other parents and kids, post the issue on facebook or confront the staff member aggressively. These actions will not resolve the issue and will only result in action being taken against the parent involved to protect the staff who work so hard for your children.

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Mark Winrow
Principal

SAFETY, RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY AND ACTIVE LEARNING.
Beaucare will be providing a Family Support Worker to attend Boonah State School weekly on a Monday from 8:00am until 4:00pm. This is a free and confidential service and will begin on Monday the 18th of August. Please call or email for enquiries or feel free to drop in. PH: 5541 4216 Mobile: 0419 021 867 Email fsw@beaucare.org.au.

**CHAPLAIN’S NEWS**

Hello again!!

**Parenting pearls from Michael Grose**

For the whole article, visit [www.parentingideas.com.au](http://www.parentingideas.com.au)

1. **Develop a large family mindset.** This will help you give each of your kids the space they need to become independent problem-solvers and develop the resourcefulness to be resilient.

2. **Aim for redundancy.** Independence and self-help skills form the basis of self-confidence so start handing over personal responsibilities to kids from a young age. Adapt this principle to suit individual needs to kids.

3. **Mix challenge with compassion.** The authoritative parenting style where there’s a mixture of firmness and warmth produces the best outcomes for kids. Two parents tend to share the good cop/bad cop roles, while a sole parent needs to do both, which is hard work – but doable!

**SU Spring Camps**

Each school holidays SU QLD hosts a number of camps for both primary and high school students. This September there is a camp especially for us! ‘South Side Spring’ is for years 5, 6 & 7 from the South Side of Brisbane (Boonah to the Redlands). Interested students can grab a flyer with all the details from me.

There is also a ‘Gents Ignition’ boy’s camp and a ‘Musical Adventure’ creative arts camp open to everyone in grades 5-7.

For all the details and to register online go to [www.sucamps.org.au](http://www.sucamps.org.au)

As always, if you see me around, be sure to stop for a chat.

Renee Lumley

**P&C**

**P&C GENERAL MEETING**

Wednesday 17th September 7pm

Venue: Uniform Shop

All Welcome

**FUNDRAISING UPDATE**

Term three has been a busy time with fundraising. I am looking for some assistance with the pie drive and Father’s Day stall. Please see below for details.

**Trivia night**

Even though it was a little cold in the hall a great night was had by all. Special thanks to Mr C for comparing the evening, as well as Melissa Henderson, Katrina Henderson, Sandra Grimsey and Helen Turnbull for your assistance in organising this event while I was unwell. This night raised just over $700 for our school. We look forward to running another similar event next year.

**Pie Drive**

Thank you to everyone collecting orders. A reminder that orders and payment are due back at school this Friday 29th August. This is a great fundraiser as the school earns $1...
per pie sold. I am however looking for a few volunteers to help pack orders when they arrive on Friday 12th September. If you can spare a couple of hours on this day, please contact me on 0418 844 280 or debandpetek@bigpond.com. A yummy morning tea will be supplied for those who assist courtesy of Homestyle Bake. Orders may be collected between 2-4pm on Friday 12th September.

**Father’s Day Stall**
A Father’s day stall will be held on Thursday 4th September. Gifts will be available for purchase with prices ranging from $1 to $10. If you could please restrict the amount you send to school with your children to $10. This will enable all children the opportunity to purchase something special for their dads.
Again, I am putting the call out for volunteers to help on this day. The stall will run for most of the day. I am looking for approximately 3 helpers for the day. If you can assist either before lunch, after lunch or for the whole day please contact me.

Kind regards

Deb Kerkin
Fundraising Co-ordinator
0418 844 280
debandpetek@bigpond.com

**UNIFORM SHOP OPENING HOURS**
Tuesday 2:45pm to 3:15pm
Thursday 8:30am to 9:00am
Alternatively please feel free to contact me 0408 071 007 to arrange a time that suits.
Gemma Gordon, Uniform Convenor

**COMMUNITY NEWS**
Boonah State High School
For Parents/Caregivers of 2015 enrolments

Enrolment night: Wednesday 27 August only
Where: BSHS library
When: from 3:30pm to 6:30pm
What will happen: Please bring your completed enrolment forms to the library & you will be directed to a table manned by our staff to have a short conversation about your forms.

If you are unable to attend on the night, you could hand them in to the main office between the hours of 7:30am to 4pm daily or phone us on 54606111.

We look forward to assisting you & your child make a smooth transition to Boonah High.