Dear Parents/Careers

A Welcome Visitor
Cheryl Therkelsen visited our school last week and spent some time with students during breaks. Cheryl has indicated that for health reasons she will not continue as Principal. Cheryl was very clear that she did not want any special consideration or event for her departure and simply wanted to farewell the wonderful students of our school, which she has done. Metropolitan Region will undertake steps to determine the future deployment of a Principal to the school. We wish Cheryl the very best for her future and appreciate all she has done in setting the school up during the National Partnership process.

District Athletics Carnival
Our students who were successful in nominating for the District Athletics Carnival at Glenala State High School have been competing over Wednesday and Thursday this week. Thank you to parents who have been supporting their children in getting them to and from events.

Ekka Excursion
The Ekka Excursion is this Friday, with around 80 students from Years 5 - 7 attending. The Ekka, or RNA, or Exhibition, as the event has been known as in the past, has a long history in Brisbane, and is amongst the largest in Australia of such events in terms of rural industry participation. We anticipate students attending will return with enriched language and understandings from the experiences they had during the day at the Ekka.
Please note that Wednesday 13 August is now the ONLY other non-school week day set aside for students to not be at school and to go to the Ekka. The second day for Ekka we have had in the past was combined with Easter to contribute to a two week mid-semester one break with minimal change to total teaching time. This year, Thursday 14 August is a school day.

NAIDOC
Our NAIDOC day of commemoration is scheduled for Monday 11 August. On this day we have a range of events organised to allow our students a number of experiences presented by Aboriginal representatives that celebrate the rich culture of our ‘First Australians’. Thank you to the community members who helped put this together.
This day is expected to be followed over the next five weeks with sixty nominated students from years 4 - 7 participating in weekly lunchtime sessions learning a series of Aboriginal games culminating in an interschool competition day at Durack State School on Friday 12 September.

Starlab
As part of boosting our student’s interest, language and understanding of science, on Thursday 14 August, the school will have an incursion with a Starlab event for years 5 - 7 and will be in the hall. This is a school-funded event supporting curriculum learning. (Continued on page 2)
The focus on science continues on Wednesday 27 August with a further incursion, *Science on the Go*, for students. This is also a school-funded event supporting curriculum learning.

**Year 6 & 7 Camp**
For students in Years 6 & 7, please note the total cost has now been confirmed at $105, a reduction of $45 from that originally estimated. Parents who have already paid over $105 may choose to either carry the funds over to other payments for their children, or a refund. Please advise our administration staff of your intention.

**Year 6 & 7 Graduation**
After investigating various options, the most viable option for 2014, with our large numbers of students, is for a combined Graduation Ceremony at the venue being used by many local schools. We have booked *Lions* at Richlands for Monday 8 December. We will consult further with families regarding options and costs.

**Encouraging Responsible Behaviour**
Our School-wide positive behaviour plan is continuing to roll out with a very active committee coordinating development. We are working to create clear and consistent expectations to set a school culture that supports the expectations of “We learn, we care, we are team players” and for all students to be ‘super sapphires’ as exemplary students with behaviours that allow a focus on learning.
In line with this, to assist encouragement and reinforce students choosing behaviours to fit these expectations, extra-curricula excursions are part of this process.

Students who have behaviours that have incurred a suspension in the current term are precluded from attending such events. Any variations to this would have to be considered as exceptional situations and require special consideration. Unless there are particular issues relating to an individual student, such exceptions would generally only be applied to students to fit the circumstances for any particular event. Parents are asked to consider this issue in working with their children, in helping ensure we have maximum participation through students encouraged to display appropriate behaviours in school programs.

**Changes To The School Day**
Currently our P & C is considering the option of changing our school day to commence at 8:45am and finish at 2:45pm. This is a 15 minute change to our start and finish times and a response to some parents’ concerns over the time some students spend waiting before getting into school in the mornings. Please consider your own family circumstances and be ready to respond when we explore this further.

**Attendance Award**
This term the class with the best attendance will win a session away to have “Pizza in the Park” at Rocks Riverside. Classes can track their attendance at the front of the office. If students are absent due to illness please contact the office, as these absences take away from class attendance scores. If your child receives a note regarding absences and you have any questions please contact Miss Amanda in the office. Thank you for your support.

**P & C News**
Thank you to those parents who attended our last meeting, it’s always great to see new faces. Our next meeting will be held on Monday August 18th at 9.10am.
Thanks to those families that supported the family portrait day hope you enjoy your photos. We will be holding a Father’s Day stall towards the end of August with cool gift ideas for Dad at cheap prices.

**School Banking**
School banking is every Tuesday.

**Uniform Shop News**
Please note the Uniform Shop will be closed this **Friday 8th August**. The Uniform Shop is currently running a super special on hoodie jumpers all sizes are $16. That’s a saving of over $5 so be quick to get your bargain.
The Uniform Shop is located in the Parent Room and is open; Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 8.15am - 9.15am. Sorry no credit can be offered however we do have 12 week Lay By.
The uniform policy was reviewed and ratified earlier this year. A new brochure is coming out to give parents information on our school uniform and the Uniform Policy is available at the Uniform Shop.

Teena Zeitsch
Uniform Shop Manager

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**Canteen News**
A big thank you to students, teachers and parents for their lovely messages during Canteen Week, you are all loving the new menu and our friendly volunteers so thanks for the positive feedback! Linda and her dedicated team of volunteers are currently managing our Canteen.
Please be patient with the new team in the Canteen without their assistance we would not be able to operate a Canteen at Serviceton South. Sorry there is no credit available at the Canteen.

We are asking for applications from those interested in applying for the position of Canteen Convenor. The position is partially paid 12hrs per week @ $23.21 per/hour, applicants must hold a blue card and must have a food handling certificate and/or equivalent. Applications can be emailed to pc_executives.ssss@gmail.com to apply you will need to address the below five points in a cover letter and attach to your resume and email or drop off to Parent Room.

Desirable demonstrated skills/knowledge:
- Food Handlers Certificate and/or equivalent
- Understanding of Smart Choices Healthy Food & Drink Strategy for Qld Schools
- High level organisational, interpersonal and communication skills
- Demonstrated Team player
- Understanding of Workplace Health and Safety Standards

**2014 WEST BRISBANE FALCONS BASKETBALL CLUB DTP SEASON**
**TERM 4, 2014- Development, Training, Play**

If you are interested in playing with West Brisbane Falcons in the last season (Term 4) for 2014, please visit our website and download & complete the Player Nomination Form.
West Brisbane Falcons will run our own in-house competitions in all junior age groups. This will mean we will conduct 90 minute age group sessions on a selected night that will involve a 45 minute training sessions followed by organised matches on the two courts available at Centenary High School. Each Gender Age Group will be capped at 32 players so that every player gets the most out of their Falcons experience so make sure you get in early.

A Player Nomination Form & Further Information can be found on our website.

www.westbrisbane.basketball.net.au
westbrisbanebasketball@hotmail.com

**Canteen News (Continued from page 1)**

Uniform Shop Manager

(Continued on page 3)