Dear Parents

S&P
Charlotte – for her beautiful, welcoming smile every morning

LLs
Lauchlan – for a terrific effort during sentence writing

PJs
Chanel – for being an outstanding role model. Congratulations!
Kysen – for his lovely manners and responsible attitude

MACS
Alex – for the pride he takes in his work and being so easy to get along with
Emily – for her fabulous attitude and being such a pleasure to have in the room

February
21 – Connor, Hayley
23 – Noah, Zai dee, Ruby, Jenna

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SAUSAGE SIZZLE IS ON EVERY FRIDAY with sausages and Home Brand ice blocks.
Sausage and bread $1.20
Ice block $1.00
Sausage and ice block deal $2.00

Volunteer BBQ chefs needed from 10.35am-12:00 pm. Kaz Field has kindly offered to organise a roster for volunteer sausage sizzle cooks. The sausage sizzle has made an enormous difference to the cost of our camps over the years. I have no doubt that we’ve had children able to attend camp because of the reduction in costs provided by sausage sizzle funds.
If you can find time to roll some sausages around a hotplate on the odd Friday, please contact Kaz on 41559999 so that a roster can be drawn up.

TUCKSHOP IS CANCELLED NEXT TUESDAY DUE TO POWER SUPPLY BEING CUT TO THE SCHOOL

MAKE EVERY DAY COUNT IN 2014
Research shows that students who have good patterns of attendance are more likely to achieve at school. If students aren’t at school or don’t stay the whole day, they are missing valuable lessons. Check out the new Every Day Counts videos live on DETE TV. http://www.youtube.com/DETEQueensland

NEW ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND
Construction of our new adventure playground is due to start this coming Monday, 24 February. Yahoo!
It’s been a long journey to get this playground. It all began in 2012 when we discovered the safety specifications had changed for the old playground which had to be removed. A huge thankyou to Michelle Lester who made a submission that year to the Gaming Fund, on behalf of our P&C Association, for funding to allow us to purchase the playground. A big thanks also to Leon Spencer. His input and advice on suppliers, smallprint in contracts and equipment selection has been invaluable. Both Michelle and Leon have given up a large chunk of their own time to ensure we have a quality playground for our kids for years to come.

Now all we need to do is to wait patiently for Monday when the contractors arrive to start work. I think I’m more excited than the children!
ANAPHYLAXIS – FOOD ALLERGIES

Research indicates that 1 in 10 babies born in Australia today will develop a food allergy.

Anaphylaxis is the most severe form of allergic reaction and is potentially life threatening. It must be treated as a medical emergency, requiring immediate treatment and urgent medical attention.

Anaphylaxis is a generalised allergic reaction, which often involves more than one body system (e.g. skin, respiratory, gastro-intestinal and cardiovascular).

Parents have advised us of children at our school who suffer from allergic reactions to different foods. In some cases, the level of reaction has been classified as anaphylaxis.

We’ve also been advised of cases, in other schools, where parents discover that their child suffers from a food allergy from an incident at school. The biggest contributor to these incidents is food sharing.

As a school, we’ve sought advice on the most effective way to keep children, (including those who don’t yet know they have an allergy), safe at school. The message has been clear, simple and consistent from different sources.

1. Don’t Share Food Sharing food can expose known and unknown food allergy sufferers to foods they might have a reaction to. Food that their parents have assumed they did not touch – let alone eat. Children, fearing they might “get into trouble”, are sometimes reluctant to inform teachers, parents and/or medical help that they have shared food with the sufferer after the reaction takes place.

2. Wash Hands After Eating Minute particles of food can remain on hands after eating time. Physical contact with a food allergy sufferer is enough to cause a reaction. Washing hands will significantly reduce this risk.

Can’t you just ban all foods that cause a reaction?
No, we can’t. It simply isn’t practical. Eggs and nuts are but two examples of the many foods that can cause allergic reactions.

“Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia” encourage people with young children to minimise the allergen as part of an overall management plan. However they also advise us to:

“Beware of ‘banning’ of food from a school environment. Implementing this may not be realistic. Can we say peanut is ‘banned’ if so much food ‘May contain traces of peanut’? Some schools state they have ‘banned’ egg. Is this real? Or is it creating a false sense of security? Can we ever really completely remove nuts or egg or wheat from a school or childcare environment? There is no such thing as ‘allergen free’. How often do places that have a ban find the allergen has inadvertently ‘slipped’ in?

We certainly promote minimisation of allergens in primary schools and childcare facilities but we must not assume that a food has ever really been eradicated.”

Thus, the advice is not to share food and to wash hands after eating. Please help us by taking the time to discuss and explain these rules with your children.

MATHLETICS

Sharon State School pays for full membership of the “Mathletics” website (www.mathletics.com.au) for all of our students. A 12 month membership normally costs $99 per student. Teachers are currently in the process of sorting activities to best suit the ability of individual students. Setting this up at the start of the year is quite time consuming. Please be patient while we organise this.

Every year we have some students who say they “can’t do Mathletics” because they don’t have the internet at home. Computers at school are made available before and after school for students who might not have access at home.

If you have the internet at home, please take the time to sit with your child so that you can see the type of activities they are experiencing with “Mathletics”.

Mathletics also offers free comprehensive reports for parents every 7 days by email.

To see your child’s progress and receive weekly reports visit www.mathletics.com.au/parent and follow the prompts. You will need your child’s username and password.

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BUNDABERG NEWSMAIL VISITING FOR PREP PHOTOS

A photographer from the Bundaberg Newsmail is visiting the school this coming Thursday, 20 February to take a photo of our Prep students.

INTERSCHOOL SPORT

Sport this term is Cricket and Softball. We hope to tell children on Thursdays if they are playing in a team on the Friday. However, this can be surprisingly difficult due to absences, illnesses, injuries only emerging on Friday mornings. Students in the Mks classroom are expected to hand in completed homework on Thursdays to allow us a little more time to finalise teams.

If it is an away game, I need permission from a parent for a child to leave our grounds. To save heartbreak, I’m more than comfortable if you send a note saying that you give permission for all of the trips. You still have the option of letting me know if your child can’t travel on a particular day.

Each child needs to bring $3 for the bus in an envelope if they travel on the bus. Permission can be written on this envelope and put it in the classroom collection box. You do not need permission or money for home games.
We've received two reports of head lice in the past week. Headlice, while not life-threatening, are a problem in any community. Unfortunately they are not always easy to detect. Because schools are a gathering point in a community, inevitably we will notice a case at the school or a parent will let us know that they've found lice on their child. Responses from parents on being advised of their child having head lice has ranged from embarrassment and apologies to outright "fury" at why we're not doing something to stop the problem. Neither response is necessary.

The school does NOT think you are dirty or negligent if your child has lice. It can happen to anyone at anytime. If anything, we consider you to be just plain unlucky! Headlike seem to have preferences for individuals in much the same way as mosquitoes will bother some people more than others.

At the same time, Sharon School is NOT responsible for the presence of head lice anymore than we're responsible for the presence of the common cold. It is a society problem – NOT a school one. It's just that the head lice are more likely to be noticed at school. We do what we reasonably can but cannot be expected to eliminate lice from the world. (N.B. If I could, I wouldn't be working here. I'd be relaxing in one of my coastal residences waiting for the royalty cheques to be deposited into a fat bank account!)

Over the years we've come to believe that the "Conditioner Comb Out Method" is the best method for checking for the presence of lice. In turn, it is also very effective at eliminating the lice if it is carried out weekly. Please don't assume that because your child doesn't scratch, they won't have lice. Research has indicated that up to 50% of people who have lice do not itch.

**"Conditioner Comb Out Method"**

1. Apply conditioner to dry (or towel dried) hair and comb through with a regular comb to remove tangles.
2. Allow to "set" for a few minutes, then comb through with a special metal fine-tooth comb (available from chemists approx $20) working through the hair in sections.
3. Wipe comb off onto tissue continually as you go. If lice are present, they will be visible on the tissue – but also check the teeth of the comb. (The conditioner "stuns" the lice)
4. Repeat the process in around 7 days as this will then pick up any new "hatchlings".

Those that have used the method over a longer time stress that the method is wonderful provided it is done once a week every week. These families also claim that:

1. It's more effective than chemical treatments.
2. It's cheaper than chemical treatments.
3. Can be quite good for the hair (look at mine!)
4. It should be done even if you don't think your child has lice.

Head Lice Repellent

Unless you believe that:

1. **Everyone** at our school checks and treats their family for head lice. **AND**
2. They are checked/treated on a regular basis **AND**
3. The treatment is 100% effective **AND**
4. None of the children from Sharon come into contact with people outside our school community, then we have to assume that head lice will inevitably appear in our school and an effective REPELLENT is the best protection for your child from lice infestation.

I've had two repellent recipes recommended to me by school families in the past.
Recipe One
Into a Spray Bottle put 120 mL of water. Then add
- 1 tablespoon of hair conditioner (this must go in first)
- 20 drops of tea tree oil
- 20 drops of lavender oil
- 20 drops of rosemary oil
- 1 small teaspoon of white vinegar
Shake this together really well. You will also need to shake the bottle before each use. Spray into wet or dry hair – particularly around the ears and nape of the neck.

Recipe Two
In a spray bottle mix
- 30 drops of tea tree oil
- 20 mL of vinegar
- 1 tablespoon of conditioner
- 500 mL of water
Spray on hair daily as a preventative.

If you have had success with any other repellent recipes, or commercial repellents, please pass them on to me. I’m not supposed to promote specific commercial brands (but I can start a rumour!). I’m more than happy to publish recipes in the newsletter.

.. A dentist and a manicurist married. They fought tooth and nail.

.. With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.

.. A boiled egg is hard to beat.

.. When you’ve seen one shopping centre, you’ve seen a mall.

.. Police were called to a day care centre where a three-year-old was resisting a rest.

. Did you hear about the fellow whose whole left side was cut off in an accident? He's all right now.

.. When a clock is hungry it goes back four seconds.

.. The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine is now fully recovered.

.. When she saw her first strands of grey hair she thought she’d dye.

Kind regards,

P & C News

Next Meeting: 13 March – 7:00pm - Library

Thank you to those who attended the AGM and General Meeting it is always great to see more parents attending and sharing their views.

Congratulations to the new P&C Committee Members for 2014:
President: Megan Williams
Vice President: Hayley Lerch
Treasurer: Jocelyn Wondrock
Secretary: Sharon Stapleton
Tuckshop Convenor: Natalie Calder

We look forward to another successful year.

PLEASE NOTE: Electricity to the school will be temporarily disconnected for the morning next Tuesday, 25 February. Because of this, tuckshop is cancelled next Tuesday only. Apologies for any inconvenience this might cause.

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SMILE AWHILE
A “Lexophile” is a lover of words, especially in word games, puzzles, anagrams, palindromes and puns such as “you can tune a piano, but you can’t tuna fish” or “to write with a broken pencil is pointless.”
A competition held between lexophiles came up with the following entries:

.. When fish are in schools, they sometimes take debate.

.. A thief who stole a calendar was given twelve months.

.. The batteries were given out free of charge.

Louse in relation to finger nail. Look carefully!