Dear Parents,

Salt and Preppers
Molly – for consistent neat work

Lester’s Learners
Mia - for her outstanding results every week in mad minute

Double Js
Tahlia - for her enthusiastic attitude to our SOSE lessons

Macs
Lane – improved organisational skills and a strong commitment to completing work tasks.

November
7th - Madison

DATES TO REMEMBER FOR TERM 4
Thursday, 21 November  9 -11am Prep Morning
Monday, 2 December  Year 7 Graduation Dinner
Wednesday, 11 December End of Year Concert
Thursday, 12 December Break Up Day (Movie at Reading Cinema)
Friday, 13 December Clean Up Day

Next Sausage Sizzle
Friday, 8 November
Thank you to the parents who have volunteered. Please contact Kaz on 0423 338 253 if you can help.

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

Roster Term 4
8th November – Carmel Heal  15th November – Hayley Lerch
22nd November – Kaz Field  29th November – Karyn Dixon
6th December – Denise Reidy

CONCERT NIGHT – WEDNESDAY 11 DECEMBER
Our concert night is being held on Wednesday, 11 December with a sausage sizzle operating from 6:00pm until 6:45 pm. Please aim to arrive by 6:30 pm if you are planning to have a sausage sizzle. Last year, we had a massive queue at 6:45 pm and simply couldn’t get everyone served by 7:00 pm. Please remember that our servers are volunteers who are keen to watch all the performances as well.

Cold soft drinks will also be on sale. Concert items are due to start at 7:00pm. Small concert items will be performed by the children as well as presentations. Our P&C Association will be selling raffle tickets on the night so bring your money!

It’s also a good idea to bring your own chair and insect repellent.

A space will be left at the front for children to sit. Although students are mainly under the care of their parents on the night, I’d ask that parents help us by encouraging their children to sit in this group at the front. This allows teachers to quickly organise the performance groups as well as giving the children a good spot from which to view other performances. We have tried having the children sitting in amongst the main audience in the past. However, this has resulted in delays “searching” for kids along with children occasionally missing out on their performance.

I do need to remind everyone that Education Queensland has a No Smoking Policy which applies anywhere within the school boundary at any time. Please understand that this is a legally enforceable policy.

Being a night for the kids, I’d also request that alcohol be left at home.

REPORT CARD RATINGS
Last week, I mentioned the change in approach to allocating ratings on student report cards. I explained that our ratings must be based on assessment tasks only. I also mentioned that the standards teachers use to rate assessment tasks in National Curriculum subjects have a “C” as meeting year level requirements. I want to clarify that point a bit further.

In the past, if a Year 5 child scored something like 95% to 100% on a maths test with Year 5 content, we’d give him an “A”. Now, if a child can do all of their year level requirements (i.e. all of the standards from the National Curriculum crossed off), he earns a “C”. Why? Because they are meeting year level requirements.

ABSENT STUDENTS
If your child is going to be absent from school, please phone the school or you can email admin@sharonss.eq.edu.au.

If your child is in Macs’ class, please email Mrs Mac direct at bigmac@eq.edu.au.

If your child is going to be absent for more than 10 consecutive days you will need to fill out an Exemption form available from your child’s teacher or the office.
If he masters all of his year level standards and also achieves some of the next year level standards, he gets a “B”.
If he has achieved all of his year level standards and most, (or all), of the next year level, he gets an “A”.

As I said last week, it is now more difficult for students to receive an “A” or a “B”.
This is not only challenging for parents and students to adjust to, I can assure you it’s also confronting for teachers.

**VACCINATION RECORD - MEASLES**
Queensland Health is concerned about the number of measles outbreaks in Queensland this year. There have been 24 cases reported of measles so far this year, three of whom were school-aged and one toddler.

Measles is a highly infectious disease that causes people to feel very unwell. It can cause complications such as middle ear infections and more serious complications such as pneumonia (lung infection) and encephalitis (inflammation of the brain). Complications are more common and more severe in people with a chronic illness and very young children. Approximately 60% of deaths from measles are severe in people with a chronic illness and very young children.

The virus is spread from an infectious person during coughing and sneezing or through direct contact with secretions from the nose or mouth. Because measles is so infectious it can spread rapidly in schools and early childhood education and care services where non-vaccinated children and or adults attend.

Schools are “advised” to keep a list of any unvaccinated children and staff. Could parents please fill out the form being sent home this week notifying us if your child has or has not been vaccinated and return it to the locked boxes in your child’s classroom. I understand that some parents might object to this request. However, knowing which children are not vaccinated allows us the opportunity to contact those families as soon as we’re aware of a measles outbreak.


**UNEXPLAINED ABSENCES**
There will be a report sent home to parents this week listing any unexplained absences for students. Could parents please take note of the dates listed and advise if the child was away sick etc. and return it to the locked boxes in the child’s classroom.

**END OF YEAR DATA COLLECTION**
There will also be a form sent out to all parents this week listing current details for parents, emergency contacts and medical details. Could parents please check the details the school holds and make any necessary changes. If there are no changes to be made please note this on the form and return it also. Please place in the locked boxes in the child’s classroom.

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**BREAK UP DAY – THURSDAY 12 DECEMBER**
Our Break Up Day at school for 2013 is Thursday, 12 December (not Friday). This day usually involves some games and a final tidy up.

This year, we’ve organised a movie morning at the Reading Cinema for students who wish to go
1. have written permission (preferably school envelopes) and
2. pay their money on time.

**The Movie is “Cloudy With A Chance of Meatballs - 2”. It has a “G” rating.**

[Image of Cloudy With A Chance of Meatballs - 2]

Cost, after subsidy from sausage sizzle funds and our P&C Association, will be $6 per student. This is great value as it includes:
1. admission to the movie (actual cost is $8.00 per child)
2. morning tea and
3. transport to and from the Reading Cinema.

Please pay money in school envelope with permission section completed by Monday 9 December. If you can get your money and permission in sooner, that’s even better.

Children who do not have permission, or have not paid, will remain at school with teacher supervision. Our P&C will provide the morning tea (which can be consumed during the movie) of a popper, packet of chips and a packet of lollies. Lunch will also be provided back at school which will be a hot dog, watermelon and an ice block. If your child doesn’t eat these foods, or you wish them to have something else, you will need to provide this for them. Please remember this is fun day for our students.

**High school students, ex-students and students from other schools are not invited to attend.**

What do the students wear on Thursday?
Being “break-up day”, the children do not have to wear school uniform – even if they are going in to see the movie.
However, the sun’s damaging rays do not take a break on this day. With this in mind, our students are still expected to wear sunsafe clothing, i.e. shirts/tops that protect the shoulders and upper arms along with legionnaire or broad brimmed hats. Wearing singlets or caps to school is a waste of time. In previous years, we supplied students with spare uniform shirts to wear.

Parents are welcome (encouraged – urged) to collect their children early after lunch on break up day as the afternoon will be tidying up.

Please understand, however, that we’re legally obliged to supervise children until 3:00 pm unless they are taken under the care of THEIR OWN PARENTS.

We cannot, (and will not!), let a child go with another family or leave for home early simply because of a “Mum said I could” coming from the student. If students are to leave early, (which most do by the way!), they must have a signed note or be picked up by THEIR OWN PARENTS.

CLEAN UP DAY – FRIDAY 13 DECEMBER
Sharon is having a “Clean-up” Day again this year. While most families will choose to finish their year on Thursday, we are still on duty, and will have jobs for students to help us with on the Friday. Old clothes, (not uniforms) and hats are needed on this day.

Please note: As for break up day, children will need to be picked up from school by THEIR OWN PARENTS or have a signed note from their parents if they wish to leave early.

2nd HAND BOOK SALE
Our sale of second hand books in the Library will continue before school tomorrow, Thursday, 7 November to Friday, 8 November. Books are priced to sell - 10 Books for $1. Come and grab some books and get reading.

WANT OUR NEWSLETTER EMAILED?
If you’d like our newsletter emailed to you, please email me with “newsletter email” in the subject heading. By emailing newsletters, we save lots of paper and can be sure the newsletter will make it home.

Please keep in mind that, if I email a newsletter to you, I won’t be handing a newsletter out to your child at school.

QSCHOOLS SMARTPHONE APP
Queensland school communities can interact with their favourite state schools using the QSchools smartphone app.

The QSchools app is a convenient way to receive up-to-the-minute information from and about schools.

While all schools are searchable using the app, the full app features are designed to integrate with the department’s preferred school website platform, to allow users to see when news, events and newsletters are posted to their selected school website. Users can also see other useful information provided by the school, such as tuckshop menus, uniform shop information, class times and the school’s and the department’s social media feeds.

The school community can also receive emergency announcements such as natural disasters and school closures through the app.

The QSchools app is particularly useful to parents who have students in different schools, as the app manages updates from multiple schools.

SCHOOL PARKING AREAS
I’m getting feedback that we’re, once again, experiencing a growing problem of cars parking, (and waiting to park), in the “2 Minute Maximum Loading Zone” and the “Bus Zone”.

The “2 Minute Maximum Loading Zone”, otherwise known as a “drop-off zone”, is an extra 3 car section which is intended to be used as a quick and safe place to drop kids off before school when cars come in dribs and drabs.

While not “illegal”, using this “drop-off zone” is not as safe an option after school when we have many cars arriving and leaving at the same time.

Leaving any legalities aside, (I’m not about to “book” anyone), please understand that, by parking there any longer than 2 minutes, you are contributing to a chain reaction which makes our after school collection more dangerous for the children. I’d like the bus zone left vacant for buses and emergency vehicles if and when needed.

SMILE AWHILE
Kind regards,

TUCKSHOP - Tuckshop will be operating every Tuesday through until the second last week of Term 4 – last day Tuesday 3rd December.

Our next meeting will be held in the library on Thursday, 14 November at 7:00 pm. Everyone is very welcome.
Then to Now: Celebrating 100 Years of Bundaberg City

Take a step back in time at the Centenary Fair on Sunday 17 November from 9am til 1pm in Anzac Park, Quay Street (next to the pool). Bring back memories of yesteryear as you ride the carousel or enjoy panoramic views of Bundaberg and the Burnett River from the ferris wheel, especially brought in for this event. Themed as an old time country fair there will be music, vintage cars & machinery, activities and stalls for the whole family. The ferris wheel and carousel will also be operating on Saturday 16 November between 3pm and 9pm.