Dear Parents,

Salt and Preppers
Dermott – for achieving 100 sight words

Lester’s Learners
Talitha – for consistently applying herself to all tasks and striving to improve.

Double Js
Fletcher – for working well in Maths lessons to complete set tasks
Jake – for always giving his best effort in class and for his good manners

Macs
Maverick – for his positive attitude and always striving for high standards

December 10th - Brooke

DATES TO REMEMBER FOR TERM 4
Thursday, 5 December   Thank You Morning Tea
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, 6 December
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
6th December – Denise Riedy

THANK YOU MORNING TEA FOR SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS & HELPERS
THURSDAY, 5 DECEMBER 9.00AM
Resource Centre

CHRISTMAS APPROACHING
The “oldies” amongst us are amazed that we’re already closing in on Christmas for another year. It’s an exciting time of year but can also interfere with behaviour and learning at our school. Can I ask parents to help us with the following to ensure a productive and happy end to our school year?

1/. Candy canes. They look sweet and harmless but don’t go well at school. We’ve already noticed students shovelling the sugar-laden sweets into their mouths before school. The sugar hit does little for their concentration or behaviour during the first teaching session. Other students save them for lunch and, surprise surprise, concentrate on enjoying the candy canes first before starting on their “real” lunch. Please help us by not allowing candy canes to come to school.

2/. Shirt Signing Some Year 7s like to get one of their uniform shirts signed by friends and teachers as a memento of their time at Sharon. A few points to remember here.
1. T-shirt signing is not compulsory. While I’m happy to allow it to happen, it’s your decision as to whether or not your child brings a shirt in to be signed.
2. The only day for signing is Thursday, 12 December, break-up day.
3. If your child wishes to get their shirt signed, they need to bring their own felt pens or marker pens. In the past, we’ve had some people amazed when we didn’t hand out school markers. The school markers are only to be used for school work.

3/. Christmas Clothing We sometimes get requests about “Christmas clothing” from students and parents. While not meaning to sound like Ebenezer Scrooge, I’d ask that you hold off until Wednesday of the last week of school. Believe it or not, we are working on learning tasks right through to, (and including!), the last week of school. The Christmas clothing can be “distracting” and, at times, even competitive rather than festive.
If you do decide to send your child along in Christmas clothing on the last couple of days, please be aware of the following:
• No matter what your children might say, wearing Christmas clothing is not compulsory.
The sun’s harmful rays do not take a break because of the festive season. We will still be enforcing our sunsafe policy with regards to broad brimmed or legionnaire hats and shirts covering shoulders, upper arms and “bellies”.

LONG SERVICE LEAVE FOR MR GALEA NEXT YEAR
Mr Galea will be on Long Service Leave for all of Semester One next year. We trust he’ll have a restful break and we’re all looking forward to hearing about his exciting adventures and travels on his return.
Miss Shona Philp will be replacing Mr Galea for 1st semester. Miss Philp has worked at Sharon in the past as a student teacher and we’re very excited about having her return while Mr Galea is away.

**POLICE LIAISON OFFICER VISITING**

Bundaberg Police Liaison Officer, Kyrra Wilson will be visiting the Macs class this Friday at 12:30 pm to talk with students about the dangers of cyber threats and wise use of the internet.

**KEEP A WATCH ON OUR SCHOOL THESE HOLIDAYS**

Parents and students can help take care of our school by reporting any suspicious after-hours activity to School Watch on 13 17 88. By keeping an eye out we can work together to create a safer school community and help to reduce vandalism, theft and arson in our school.

If you see something suspicious, please don’t intervene. Call the School Watch number and let the local police or State Government Protective Security Service deal with the matter.

**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, no alcohol is to be brought in.

**BREAK UP DAY – THURSDAY 12 DECEMBER**

Our Break Up Day at school for 2013 is **Thursday, 12 December (not Friday)**. This day usually involves a movie trip, lunch and a final tidy up. This year, we’ve organised a movie morning at the Reading Cinema for students who

1. wish to go
2. have written permission (preferably school envelopes) and
3. pay their money on time.

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

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 pizza, watermelon and an icy cup. 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 sun-safe 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
(Hmmm! Black Friday. Might be safer to stay home?!?)
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 that can get wet, (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.

Bundaberg Life Education
The Life Education van will be visiting Sharon School on Monday 9 December and Tuesday 10 December. The cost is $5.00 per child. However, sausage sizzle and school funds will cover the cost of participation for every child. Thus, do NOT send any money. Unless you tell us otherwise, we will assume your child has your permission to attend the Life Education session.

Life Education presents health and drug education modules with different learning outcomes relevant to early, middle & upper primary years. Drug knowledge focuses on medications, caffeine, tobacco and alcohol (relevant to year levels). It is important for your child’s benefit to attend each year from Prep to Year 7.

Children and teachers are also given resources to allow for pre and post work in the classroom.

The Bundaberg Life Education Van does NOT receive any state government funding so donations are welcome. Receipts will be issued by Life Ed if $2 or over.

Our program, subject to change, looks like this:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Monday, 9 December</th>
<th>Tuesday, 10 December</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:10 to 11:00</td>
<td>5/6/7s</td>
<td>5/6/7s</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00 to 1:30</td>
<td>3/4s</td>
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<td>1:50 to 3:00</td>
<td>P-2s</td>
<td>P-2s</td>
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NAPLAN JOURNEY 2009 to 2013
Below, you’ll see graphs showing the journey, (in NAPLAN results), for our Year 3s from 2009 through to their performance as Year 5s in 2011 and, finally, as Year 7s this year. Of course it’s not a perfect guide. For one thing, NAPLAN is a one-off test held in May every year and primary school children don’t necessarily put down what they know in tests – for a variety of reasons. Another reason is that we don’t have exactly the same students in year 7 this year as were with us in Year 3 in 2009. Some have left us, others have arrived at various times.

However, by looking at the “trends” over a long time, we can get messages that are worth looking at. For example, spelling is clearly our worst result for this group. That part is easy. The “why” is a harder question that we need to look at as a staff. We don’t want to completely throw out what we’re doing now as spelling has not always been our weakest area. In fact, for several years, it used to be our strongest.
Q: What do you get if you cross an iPad with a Christmas tree?
A: A pineapple!

Q: What has a jolly laugh, brings you presents and scratches up your furniture?
A: Santa “Claws”

Q. What does a cat on the beach have in common with Christmas?
A. Sandy claws!

Q: What’s the difference between Santa’s reindeer and a knight?
A: One slays the dragon, and the other’s draggin’ the sleigh.

Darth Vader: I know what you’re getting for Christmas.
Luke: How do you know?
Darth Vader: I can feel your . . . presents.

One night a Viking named Rudolph the Red was looking out the window when he said, “It’s going to rain.”

His wife asked, “How do you know?”

“Because Rudolph the Red knows rain, dear.”

Kind regards,

Tuckshop Volunteers and the P&C would like to thank students, parents and staff for their generous support during 2013 and look forward to a fantastic 2014.

If you are able to assist with cooking or helping out on Concert Night and Break-Up Day (Thurs) please contact Hayley Lerch 0407 652 056.