



## Principal's News

### International Women's Day Breakfast

I know I seem to open our newsletter with this same comment, but where has this term gone!

Last Tuesday morning I had the privilege of hosting an International Women's Day Breakfast at the school. Year 6 female students attended with their mothers. School staff also attended. What a wonderful morning. Thank you so much to Sebastien and Cathy from 'Crust & Co Artisan Baking' at Newmarket for their fresh, french baked goods!

We had two guest speakers, Saskia, a past Morningside and Balmoral High student who has just graduated with First Class Honours in Mathematics from the Queensland University and Renee Ross, proprietor of 'Renee Loves Francis', an ethnically based fashion store located in Oxford Street. The key notes from these two inspiring speakers was to follow your dreams and believe in yourself. You are good enough and you deserve to be here.

### 'It's A Guy Thing!'

Check out the article in our newsletter from Mr Jamieson regarding, "It's a Guy Thing!"

## Parent Cafe

Parent Café was really well attended this morning with parents for hosting for today. Great food and conversation. Parent Café is about parents from many classes coming together for a chat. On occasions we also have special guests such as the Guidance Officer and Balmoral State High School Principal. I am always open to parent suggestions for any guests that they would like to see attend. Thank you to Carol, our Community Teacher Aide, for her ongoing coordination of the Cafes.

## Our New Chaplain

Our new Chaplain, Grant Lea, will commence next Monday. He comes with a wealth of experience with a number of programs. I know he will be a valuable asset to Morningside State School. Grant will be attending Parent Café next week!

## Deputy News

### Visual Art

After months of exciting discussions and planning with Debra Bryant, Tiny Art director, I'm delighted to inform you that Tiny Art is moving in to Morningside State School! Tiny Art will be operated from our Art studio located under B block.

Debra Bryant is delighted to be relocating her business to within our school. This will not only be convenient for our students but also other children, families and community members.



Tiny Art is an art school specialising in:

- Visual Art classes and workshops for children aged 2-5's, 5-7's and 6-12's
- Expanding to offer new classes before school like sensory art classes for 1-3 year olds, classes for teens 12-15's and 16-18 year olds
- Adult short courses
- One off workshops.
- Professional Development sessions.
- Day care/Kindy Art visits

All programs and booking see the Tiny Art website:

[www.tinyart.com.au](http://www.tinyart.com.au)

FB page: <https://www.facebook.com/tinyart/?ref=settings>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/tinyartdeb/>

For the Easter school holiday program click on this link below, view the program and book online - easy peasy!

<http://www.tinyart.com.au/brisbane-school-holiday-workshops/>

I'm sure you will join me in welcoming Debra Bryant and her team to our school. It's all very exciting!



## Japanese Study Tour

Thank you School Ambassadors and Host Families – our Japanese Study Program thrives because of your support and commitment. Thank you!

## Active School Travel

Check out the AST Evaluation document below. So many things to be proud and excited about. Well done Morningside! What fantastic results.

### **HIGHEST INCREASE IN ALL ACTIVE SCHOOL TRAVEL SCHOOLS**

National Ride2School Day 17th March

National Ride2School Day is the perfect opportunity for students and school communities to embrace a healthier start and to try walking and riding to school.

The purpose of National Ride2School Day is to show school communities that riding to school is an easy and fun activity. It is a chance to celebrate and prove it can be done.

It's a great way to get fit and healthy. Your child will also arrive alert, more attentive and ready to learn. Remember that when riding a bike you are required by law to wear an approved helmet securely fitted and fastened.

## National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence - Friday 17 March 2017

We have registered as a school to support the National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence. This day is on 17th March. Reminder that students are encouraged to wear orange in support of this day. Our Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) lessons will be linked to this event.

## Harmony Day

To continue to promote tolerance, respect and difference within our school community we will be inviting all students to wear cultural clothes from a country to which they are connected to, a country they admire or to simply wear orange on Monday 20th March. Although Harmony Day is officially on the Tuesday 21st March we will be dedicating our school assembly on Monday 20th March to acknowledge Harmony Day.

Have an amazing fortnight!

Warm regards

Samantha Lovegrove Deputy Principal

## Parent-Teacher Interviews

Parent-Teacher interviews will be held from **Monday 27 March to Friday 31 March (Week 10)**. Interviews will be of 15 minutes duration.

Parent-teacher interviews are scheduled through the internet-based booking system called Parent Teacher On-Line (PTO). The link to this booking system is available on our website [www.morningsss.eq.edu.au](http://www.morningsss.eq.edu.au) and will be open on Monday 20 March at 10am (Week 9).

Using this system you will be able to book the interview times that suit you best from any internet-connected computer. If you do not have internet access at home or elsewhere, please contact the office so that we can assist you.

Information to explain the online booking process will be sent home this week. Please read this information carefully as it will contain your child's EQ ID number which is required for booking.

### Supporting Reading at Home

This week's newsletter focus is on '**Chunky Monkey**' (Prep –Year 2). Chunking which involves breaking words into manageable chunks to sound out, rather than sounding out each individual letter.

Chunking is a strategy that we use even as adults. An example is '*shouted*' which could be broken down into parts 'sh—out—ed'. Model to your children how to look at the word to find letter combinations that they know. Once they have found one (or more), encourage the use of fingers to isolate the 'chunks'.

In more able readers the words become longer and more complex through the use of extended prefixes, suffixes and base words, for example '*disorganised*'. Think about how you 'attack' a word that you may not know. In developing readers, chunking reminds you to look for the little words inside the big word. Children should look for a chunk or part of the word they know.

For a demonstration of this strategy: [http://viewpure.com/4RAj\\_-n\\_HxY?start=0&end=0](http://viewpure.com/4RAj_-n_HxY?start=0&end=0)

### Reading: Why are those 20 minutes a day so important?

Reading aloud is widely recognised as the single most important activity leading to language development. Reading aloud to young children is not only one of the best activities to stimulate language and cognitive skills; it also builds motivation, curiosity and memory.

Children should be engaged in 20 minutes of reading a day – whether this is being read to or reading independently. But why are those 20 minutes of daily reading so important? Research by Nagy and Herman (1987), shows that students who read at least 20 minutes daily have a clear literacy advantage over students who read less or don't read at all.

Twenty minutes of reading per day may seem simple. However, be ever mindful that the busyness of life can easily creep in and rob our children of this valuable reading time. Here are four simple time saving reading tips to ensure that your kids are reading at least 20 minutes a day.

1. **Lots of sports or extracurricular activities?** Organise some mini books or kid magazines. These are quick, fun, and easy reads that your book kids can breeze through in a flash on the way to football training or netball games.
2. **Motivated by technology?** Incorporate technology into the reading process. Students participating in the Student Resource Scheme have access to Reading Eggs and Reading Eggspress. This fabulous resources has an online library with over 2 000 online books covering a range of genres and reading levels.
3. **Little interest or enthusiasm for reading?** Stock up on some educational board games. Playing a quick game of Scrabble, Trivia Pursuit, Boggle and others alike can easily expose your book kids to hundreds of words within minutes; and they actually get to have fun playing with words.
4. **Still time poor?** Whip out those sight words or new vocabulary words and put them on flash cards. Maximise time by having your kids read their flash cards or study their vocabulary words while on the go.

### Reading Eggs and Reading Eggspress

Students who are participating in the Student Resource Scheme have access to Reading Eggs and Reading Eggspress.

Reading Eggspress is aimed at students aged 7 and upwards. Whereas Reading Eggs is a learning to read program, **Reading Eggspress is a reading to learn program.** Reading Eggspress covering essential **comprehension, spelling, grammar, and vocabulary skills.** Children can progress at their own pace with highly interactive one-on-one reading lessons and a balance of literature and informational texts.

The Reading Eggspress Library consists of **over 2 000 online books.** These books cover a wide range of genres to suit children of all ages and reading levels.

Students can access Reading Eggs and Reading Eggspress via [www.readingeggs.com.au](http://www.readingeggs.com.au) or by downloading a FREE app for your device from iTunes.

### Mathletics

Wow! So far this term, we have had **1 257 logons to Mathletics!** That is 396 hours and 05 mins spent consolidating and extending mathematical learning online. Don't forget, parents can register at [www.mathletics.com.au/parent/](http://www.mathletics.com.au/parent/) Registration

enables parents to view their child's progress and receive reports by email. There is no cost to register

During this term, students have also earned 201 Connector Points. Connector Points are awarded in Live Mathletics when students challenge others in their class to Live Mathletics competitions. These points are part of Mathletics ongoing project with UNICEF to finance the building of schools for young people in need across the world. The more points earned, the more schools are built.

**Do you have a student in Year 3 or Year 5?** Consider using the 'Prepare for NAPLAN' section of Mathletics. This resource identifies what your child knows and then develops a program to fill the gaps. At the end of the program, students are re-tested to see how much they have improved.

Students can access Mathletics via <http://au.mathletics.com/> or by downloading the FREE app from iTunes. The app also has a great 'offline' mode – which as long as you have logged in online at least once, you can use Mathletics offline on your device. All the results and data will automatically sync to your child's account when the internet is next available.

**Shannon Henderson, Head of Curriculum**

## QParents

Morningside State School is proud to be launching QParents in **Term 2, 2017**.

The QParents web and mobile application provides a more convenient, easier way for parents and legal guardians of Queensland state school students to interact with their child's school. Parents will have secure, online access to their child's student information, anytime, anywhere, through a smartphone, tablet or computer.

QParents allows parents to connect instantly with their child's school to access and manage their child's student information, including:

- Attendance and absence details, as well as the ability to notify the school of an absence
- Behaviour information
- Academic report cards
- Specialist timetables
- Viewing unpaid invoice details, payment history, and making payments online
- Viewing and updating personal student details, including medical conditions and address
- Enrolment details

QParents will assist both staff and parents in sharing and responding to information in an efficient and effective way. It won't replace the traditional ways you communicate with our school, but it will provide another way to communicate with us.

### The benefits of QParents

- Convenience and time savings for parents
- Parents can view or update their child's details without having to contact the school
- Secure 24/7 online access.
- Available anytime, anywhere — access QParents on your smart phone, tablet or computer.
- Greater transparency of information
- Improves accountability between parents and schools by providing parents with timely access to their child's information online.
- Allows parents to engage more deeply in their child's schooling
- Improved administration efficiencies for schools
- Allows schools to streamline their administrative processes and cut down on printing

### What is a QParents Account Owner (QPAO)?

The school will nominate one parent or legal guardian for each student to be the QParents Account Owner (QPAO). The QPAO will be able to register for QParents to access and manage the student's information online. A student's QPAO will be able to view the student's information and submit requests to update some of the student's details.

The QPAO will also be able to invite other people (such as another parent or family member), to view the student's information. Once invited, these people can register for QParents as "delegated viewers". A delegated viewer can see the student's details, but cannot make updates.

More information about QParents can be found at <https://qparents.qld.edu.au/#/about>

## 'It's A Guy Thing!'

On Wednesday evening of the 22nd March, Morningside State School is proud to hold an event for its male students in Years 4, 5 and 6. These students are asked to invite their father or a significant male figure to participate in an evening of fun activities. It starts at 6:30pm with sausages on bread in the green space and followed by a scavenger hunt. Letters have already been sent home and class teachers have some more copies if needed. Please hand in your RSVP by Friday the 17th March at the latest. Thanks Mr Jamieson.

## P & C News

### Tree decorating reaps rewards

Morningside State School's superbly decorated Christmas tree won top spot in the Morningside Plaza shopping centre's tree decorating competition, with a first prize of \$1500 presented to the school.

Two members of the Morningside P&C Association and their families took on the task of covering the tree in a range of unique decorations, many of them made by the children from the school as part of their art activities in the classroom. Some of the festive embellishments included cardboard owls, reindeer baubles, stars, patterned balls and bows.

The competition was hosted by Morningside Plaza as part of its local Christmas promotion.

### Order your NEW 2017/2018 Entertainment Book or Entertainment Digital Membership now

Morningside State School P&C is raising funds. Here's how you can help...

We are raising as much as we can to support our school, and we need your help! Order your NEW 2017 | 2018 Entertainment Book or Entertainment Digital Membership now. You'll receive hundreds of valuable offers for everything you love to do, and help our fundraising at the same time!

## Environmental Club

### Environment Club Matters

A HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who came to our Clean Up Australia Day afternoon on Wed 1<sup>st</sup> March. We had a whopping 50 people at the ready with gloves, buckets and heaps of enthusiasm to give the school and surrounding streets a good old spruce up. Several staff also gave us a head start in the morning by asking students to pick up rubbish before they went to play. Great work team MSS, the school looked amazing afterwards!

We have received a boost to our operations, thanks to a grant from Brisbane City Council!

As a Sub-Committee of the P&C, the Environment Club was successful in obtaining a grant as part of its efforts to add to the sense of 'community' at our school, support ongoing landscape maintenance and increase educational opportunities within the school's gardens and environment.

The **\$2442** grant received through the Lord Mayor's Community Sustainability and Environmental Grants Program has helped to purchase a range of equipment including pots and potting mix, watering cans and gardening tools as well as seedlings to be cultivated by the children and the volunteer parents. Shelving has also been purchased to assist with establishing a base for a community garden within the school grounds. Special thanks to Mrs Hoskins, Ruth Durrant, Sharon Wetzig and Kym Geier for spending the time putting the grant application together.

All our hard work to clear the old chicken coop area has certainly paid off as we now have a wonderful re-purposed area for equipment storage and for growing delicious and nutritious veggies and herbs to share.

On **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March, 3-4pm**, Environment Club will host a Swap Shop.

Whether you're on the crusade against waste going to landfill, are an Op Shopper from way back or simply love a bargain, then this is the place for you!

Bring along any outgrown or unwanted **Kids Sports Wear, Sports Equipment or Kids Winter Clothing** and swap it for something that fits better or is of more use to you.

Or if you're decluttering and have these items to donate we will gladly take them off your hands at any time. Please contact Dom at [dominiquerunham@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:dominiquerunham@yahoo.co.uk) or on 0410 153 256 to arrange collection. Any leftovers will be given to charity.

Hope to see many of you there.

### Save the date! - Saturday June 3rd

We're very excited to announce that our school will be celebrating the United Nations **World Environment Day** this year with the **MSS Eco-Fair**, an event dedicated to learning how we can look after our environment in small ways to make a big difference.

We need your ideas and helping hands! If you would like to be involved in any way we will be forming a working group and meeting during week commencing 20<sup>th</sup> March (date & time tbc). For more info or to register your interest please get in touch with [Sharon.wetzig@morningsidesspandc.asn.au](mailto:Sharon.wetzig@morningsidesspandc.asn.au)

### School Disco

#### Friday 17 March School Disco 5.30-7.30pm

On Friday, March 17th we are holding our first disco of this school year between 5.30pm and 7.30pm. The disco is for all year groups and our theme is 'Get your glow on - dress in fluoro!'

The P&C welcome any volunteers on the night. If you'd like to go on the roster email [admin@morningsidesspandc.asn.au](mailto:admin@morningsidesspandc.asn.au) and indicate your availability for a shift between 4pm and 8pm.

### Dates To Remember

Dates to Remember	
Wednesday 15 March	7.00pm P & C Meeting
Friday 17 March	5.30 to 7.30 pm School Disco in Hall National Day of Action against Bullying & Violence
Monday 20 March	2.30pm Assembly to celebrate Harmony Day (21/03/2017)
Tuesday 21 March & Wednesday 22 March	School Photos
Wednesday 22 March	'It's A Guy Thing' 6.30pm for Years 4,5 & 6
Thursday 23 March	9.00am to 1.30pm Yr 3 - Yr 6 Cross Country
Friday 24 March	9.00am to 10.45am Prep - Yr 2 Fun Run

Monday 27 March to Friday 31 March	Parent/Teacher interviews
Monday 27 March & Tuesday 28 March	3.00-4.00pm Environ Club Swap Shop
Thursday 30 March	9am Prep to Yr 2 Easter Bonnet Parade
Friday 31 March	Last day of Term 1
Monday 3 April to Monday 17 April	School holidays
Tuesday 18 April	Term 2 commences

