Book Week Excitement
Next week I have invited Lisa Driscoll, our teacher librarian and head of curriculum, to tell us about Book Week 2014 in our newsletter.  It is shaping up to be a wonderful Book Week and there was much excitement as preps dressed up on Wednesday and were keen to tell us about their characters. Year 1 to 7 were also getting set for their Book Week dress up activities at the time of publication.  More about this wonderful celebration and pictures will feature in next week’s edition.

Best Wishes Optiminds Teams
Mrs Pitman and Frenchville’s Optiminds Teams compete this weekend out at the University. Best wishes to these students who have worked hard after school to prepare their items for this event, in what is proving to be a very busy term.

Best Wishes to our Sporting Teams
This Friday marks the end of the term three sporting competition. We wish all of our Frenchville teams well as they head into the finals and hope that the positive experience of competing in a final, regardless of the outcome, makes for a memorable and encouraging experience.

NAPLAN Results are Back
We are really pleased that these results are back earlier than in previous years. We have not yet received the student reports but once these have arrived we will be distributing them to individual students in year 3, 5 and 7. Admin members and teachers are currently analysing trend data. The five strands of NAPLAN are reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation and numeracy. A short summary is that Frenchville year three students have again performed very well, improving every mean scale score in every strand when compared with 2013 results. Year five results show that reading results and grammar and punctuation results are again positive, with Frenchville being flagged as above the nation’s performance. All other strands show results similar to the nation’s performance. Year seven results show Frenchville’s performance as similar to the nation in two of the five strands. The gain from year five to seven in reading and numeracy in year seven was greater than the gain made by the nation’s students. As with every NAPLAN year, there are things to celebrate and things to work on. Writing results are an area of focus for future work. The staff team is looking forward to working with Louise Dempsey (author of The Writing Book) in October to sharpen our skills even further in this area. Teachers have been using some of the strategies from this resource this term. I will provide graphs and further information related to NAPLAN next week when our analysis has been completed. However, we should remember that NAPLAN is one piece of information in the achievement puzzle and that classroom data is also an important part of your child’s learning story.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>August</th>
<th>September</th>
<th>Senior Choir Date Claimer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20-21 BOOK WEEK BASH</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>SPOTLIGHT CONCERT</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Free Dress</td>
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<tr>
<td>Opti-Minds Regional Final</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting</td>
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<td>Term 3 Last Day</td>
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Congratulations to the students that performed in the the Combined School music concert Tuesday night! We have had wonderful feedback. Well done!
Prep 2015
Don’t forget about these important dates for new prep enrolments for 2015.

Information and Enrolment Evening – Wednesday 27/08/14 6pm to 7pm in the School Activity Centre, on Frenchville Road. Meet our prep staff; hear about the prep curriculum, routines, uniform and booklist items. Please do not bring children to this event. Even parents with current students enrolled at Frenchville are encouraged to attend this event as details change slightly each year.

Parent Interviews – This is your opportunity to share any particular needs/interests of your child. Contact the office to book an appointment and collect an interview form to complete – the completion of this form is best to be undertaken as close to the interview time as possible. Interviews are being conducted throughout September.

Please, if you have a child who is prep age eligible in 2015, you need to complete the enrolment paperwork and submit to the office. This helps us form classes and assign teachers. The earlier, the better.

Frenchville 1:1 laptop program
Admin team members are currently researching other options for our 1:1 laptop program which we have typically offered to all year 5,6,7 students. Year 4 students also have current access to XO laptop devices, funded by our school and our P&C for every child. This year we were disappointed with the lack of responsiveness to our purchase order through the purchasing system. The devices we ended up with in year five were heavier and larger than we had ordered. In addition, the bulk procurement of these devices did not seem to offer as much of a saving as in previous years. Currently we are exploring other alternatives. A new system called ‘Bring your own device’ (BYOD) is starting to take hold across schools. We do not feel we are ready to move to this model in 2015 currently. We will continue our research into what is possible and conduct a meeting at some stage this year with parents of current year four students to present the information we find and offer possible options. Currently there are three options:
- remain with the current system
- offer no 1:1 laptop program for year five in 2015 while we continue to research possibilities
- look at alternative options to our current program, such as a BYOD program, which would require a significant amount of investigation before proceeding. If we move to this option, parents would purchase a device outright directly with a supplier but the device would be specified by the school to limit technical issues and confusion. Much work needs to be done on this option if we decide to go this way because issues such as repairs to devices, software and virus protection, in-school technical support and the capacity of the device to suit classroom needs must be considered. There are also issues associated with joining to the network, printing and saving to the server.

Student absence line
Absences can be called through to the student absence line directly on 49315366. This number is only for student absences. If you dial directly to this number, you will be able to leave a message on our answering machine, without going through the office switch message.

Please leave your child’s name, class, and a reason for absence. This information is entered into departmental records to track attendance. If you do not leave a reason for the absence, we will need to make further contact with you to ensure your child’s attendance records are accurate and meet departmental requirements.

If you take your child to the doctor and then realise he/she may need a longer period away from school than just one school day, please ring again to keep us informed. Thanks.

P&C news
- P&C has decided to use Master School Portraits for our 2015 photo packs. Factors considered included products on offer, pricing, administrative processes, incentives offered and availability of dates to suit school requirements.
- A digital school sign purchase is likely. P&C will obtain three quotes. This will replace our older winch type sign on the corner of Frenchville Road and Geordie Street.
- P&C is pleased with the response to and feedback about fun run.
- There will be no September general meeting due to absences of admin team members at school camp.
- Further oval quotes are being sought. It is likely this project will need to go out to tender.
- Quotes are being sought to replace the sand in the prep/year 3 play area with rubberised softfall and to improve access and grassed areas. This will be an expensive project.

Staff Leave
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<th>From</th>
<th>To</th>
<th>Replacement</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bill Smith</td>
<td>DP</td>
<td>27/08/14</td>
<td>02/09/14</td>
<td>Lisa Driscoll</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lisa Driscoll</td>
<td>TWIST</td>
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Fun Run sponsorship forms and money due now to the office please.

Congratulations to 3L and Prep WH who won best dressed at the Fun Run. Impressive costumes! Please send sponsorship forms and money back this week. Money raised through fun run will support P&C to further improve school facilities. Recent projects have included shade sails and handball courts near senior toilets and 6/7 modular.

Scabies Alert
It has been brought to our attention that some students in the school have been identified with scabies and are currently receiving medical attention.

Scabies are mites which burrow into the skin, particularly between the fingers, around the wrists and elbows, the armpit and other sensitive areas of the body. Sometimes the only symptom is an itch, without a rash. Usually the itch is worse at night and after a hot bath or shower. There may be raised red lumps. Scratching can remove the tops of these lumps causing open sores, which can become infected.

It would be appreciated if all parents check their children to see if they have any indications of scabies. If so please see a doctor as soon as possible. A doctor may need to make a diagnosis and prescribe medication. Infected children can return to school after treatment. It is also recommended that all members of the family are checked and that bedding is thoroughly washed and dried.

Opti-Minds Best of Luck to our Frenchville Teams
This Sunday, 24 August, our Opti-Minds teams will compete in the regional final competition. The long term challenge presentations will be held at the CQ University during their open day from 9am till 2:30pm. The awards presentation will be held at 3pm in Building 32, room G16.
Fathers’ Day Stall – Time to send in gifts

FATHERS’ DAY STALL
FRIDAY 5 SEPTEMBER
BRING & BUY

Only children who donate a gift may buy one. Children are asked to donate a gift valued at approximately $2.00.

If your child does not wish to purchase a gift from our stall, you may still wish to donate one in support. Please do not send dangerous items such as lighters, razors, pocket/craft knives or unsealed food (ie loose lollies).

Please wrap gifts in clear (non-coloured) cellophane

If you have any spare plastic shopping bags at home please send them into the office for the Fathers’ Day stall.

• Assistance is required to help run the stall on Friday 5 September anytime between 8.00am and 1.00pm. Any period of time that you can assist would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for supporting this successful fund-raiser and special activity provided for the children.

Managing asthma during Spring

For many people with asthma Spring can be a difficult time of year due to the increased amount of pollen in the air. Pollen from flowers, grasses and trees is a common trigger for asthma and hay fever, particularly on windy days or during thunderstorms.

Hay fever (or allergic rhinitis) is a commonly reported problem during Spring, and there is a strong link between hay fever and asthma. It is estimated that 80% of people with asthma will also experience hay fever. Symptoms associated with hay fever, such as sneezing, runny or blocked nose and irritated eyes, occur when certain allergens are inhaled and this triggers an immune response in the lining of the nose.

Hay fever can have a significant impact on student’s achieving and maintaining good asthma control, and as such, it is important that we are prepared.

This involves:
— Keeping written asthma action plans up-to-date
— Making sure students’ labelled blue reliever medication and spacer are readily accessible
— Keeping regular communication between schools and parents regarding asthma and hay fever management

Communication between parents and school staff about a student’s asthma is crucial to effective asthma monitoring and management. The asthma care plan is the perfect tool for this purpose.

The asthma care plan provides schools with a summary of a student’s asthma management. It describes a student’s asthma symptoms, and lists the corresponding doses of medication required to respond to those symptoms. The plan also includes the 4 step asthma first aid procedure as the emergency response. However, some plans may describe an individual response for an asthma emergency.

An asthma care plan is developed in conjunction with a student’s doctor. Asthma care plans are completed, signed and dated by a doctor rather than a parent or a carer. It is advisable that parents provide updated plans if there is a change to a student’s asthma management.