Principal's News

I think after the events of the past week we are all feeling a little exhausted. Rockhampton, Yeppoon and surrounding areas have been severely affected by Cyclone Marcia. As we proceed towards recovery from this natural disaster I would like to assure the Frenchville community that we are here for you. The staff team at Frenchville is here for you and your children as I know you are here for us. ‘Together We Shape Tomorrow’ has never meant more. From the helping and willing hands with raking, stick pick up, dragging tree limbs and taking cold drinks to the contractors employed to clear our grounds of debris, through to the reassuring touch of a hand on a shoulder and caring word, we truly appreciate everything you have done to get us back up and running so quickly. We’ve even had parents bringing in a few little treats for the staff team which have been very appreciated.

I’d like to pay tribute to the staff team too. They were at the ready on Sunday in the stinking heat, before power was restored, clearing up and getting ready to resume duty. When it became clear late Sunday that the school was still unsafe, I made the call on the advice of tree loppers and in conjunction with the P&C President Matt Sleaford to close on Monday to allow us to get the school running again and to reduce the chances of accidents or further stress on the student and staff body. For us, this was a good decision. Staff members turned up in droves to assist contractors and worked tirelessly to transform our grounds and classrooms, making them safe. When the Director General Jim Watterston, visited on Tuesday he was very impressed with how the grounds had been transformed in just a few days after the event. This Friday, the Minister for Education Kate Jones will also be visiting our school to recognise the work we have done and to pass on her thanks. Our school captains will be sharing some of the great work students have done in the aftermath of the cyclone to help relieve their anxiety and worry.

Could I also pass on my apologies to the community for the difficulties in communicating during the cyclone event. We will be reviewing systems to see what can be done to improve the situation in the days ahead. Thank goodness for social media. More details soon about how we can make things even better.

Leisa Neaton, Principal
Parent Reading Helper Workshops – New Dates

If you would like to volunteer in classrooms to assist readers during reading groups and to support your child at home we are running a parent workshop next week. This workshop was rescheduled due to Cyclone Marcia.

The workshops will be suitable for parents of readers of all ages:

Venue: TWiST Science Room

Dates: Tuesday 3/3/15 – 4pm to 5pm

or

Wednesday 4/3/15 – 8am to 9am

(choose one session that suits – it is a repeated session)

Spellathon – Our first fundraiser for the year

We are having another Spellathon this year! Previous spellathons have shown that these events are a great way of improving school work and raising funds for our school at the same time. The Parents and Citizens’ Association is keen to continue to support our school with improvement to school accesses and support for more classroom resources. A successful spellathon will definitely put us on the path towards our priorities.

Dates for spellathon are as follows:
- spellathon tests will be conducted in rooms in week 6 (2-6 March)
- forms and $ back by week 6 (no later than 13/3)

Details of how you can help were included in the forms sent home last week. The Spellathon packs were prepared by our senior students. If you have any problems with lists, or items left out, please see the office.

No sport this Friday due to the Cyclone

School Captain Investiture

The 2015 Investiture of School Captains, Student Councillors, House Captains and Cultural Captains will occur in the School Activity Centre on Tuesday 3/3/15 at 9.00am. This event has been rescheduled due to the cyclone.

PREP PARENTS:
Oral Language Information Sessions - 2, 4 March

During the Prep year, teachers will be focussing on developing the oral language skills of their students as a prerequisite skill for later literacy success. Part of this will include the introduction of the Read It Again - Foundation Q program, supported by the school’s Speech and Oral Language Specialist, Kylie Hull.

To find out more about the program and how you can support oral language development and assist with literacy success at home, you’re invited to one of two information sessions. See below for details.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session 1</th>
<th>Session 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Time/Date</td>
<td>3pm Monday 2/3/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venue</td>
<td>TWiST Centre</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For those unable to find alternative arrangements for your children on Monday afternoon, minimal supervision will be provided by a teacher aide. A note will also be distributed to all Prep parents detailing this information.

Prep Photos in the Morning Bulletin

We had to delay the Morning Bulletin photo feature due to Cyclone Marcia. A new date will be communicated once it has been negotiated.

Student Absence Line 49315366

Do you know somebody who isn’t getting the newsletter?

This is our fourth newsletter for the year. The Frenchville Focus is now only being distributed electronically either via email directly to you, or via the QSchools App. A few hardcopies are available for collection at the office in the event of internet issues at home. Please, if you know somebody who isn’t receiving the Frenchville Focus, ask them to pop into the school office or email admin@frenchviss.eq.edu.au, to raise this issue with the admin officers. We need everybody to be receiving this important weekly communiqué.

Please follow us on Twitter

Our school has a Twitter address. We try to pop in updates and reminders to assist with communication and promotion of up and coming events. Please follow us @Frenchvillless.

Parent Switch 10 Session

The following session will be a very basic introduction to Windows 8.1 and the Switch 10 device.

When: 6.30pm Thursday 5 March 2015
Where: TWiST
Who: students with their own Switch 10 device and their parent/s

A Swag of Tales

Performance for Prep – Year 6 students
Wednesday 11 March
$4.00 per child

Payment due by 10am Monday 9 March

No late payments will be accepted

Classroom Makeover

Help our school win a $5000 room makeover. Simply collect the tokens which appear daily in The Morning Bulletin until 16 March. Send the tokens into the office to give Frenchville State School a great chance of winning the $5000 makeover.

Tuckshop

We are expected tuckshop operations to be back to normal on Thursday this week. We disposed of all food items in the tuckshop on Sunday and have reordered new stock. Thanks to Chris in the tuckshop for her efforts in returning things to normal so quickly.

Death of Patron Paul Andersen

We were very sad to learn of the passing of Paul Andersen, Frenchville patron and retired teacher. Even though Paul’s health has been failing in recent years he always attended school events and spoke fondly and proudly of Frenchville. We will miss seeing him in our school.

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