Principal's News

Principal Conference Update
Last week every state school principal converged on Brisbane to attend the State Principals' Conference "United in our Pursuit of Excellence" at the Convention Centre. I was honoured to share the work of our wonderful Frenchville staff members at this event by presenting two workshop sessions for fellow principal delegates. The theme of the presentation was our school-wide pedagogical models, such as the work we have been sharing through the newsletter about maths strategies. These strategies have been deliberately chosen by us, based on research and student performance data, to further enhance student improvements. By having common models across the school, children are able to build on their knowledge from year to year, with teachers confident that students are coming in using similar language and being familiar with models used in all classrooms. We also heard from key note speakers Ben Levin from Canada, an expert in school reform and Dr George Otero from New Mexico who talked about the importance of home, community and school connections. Once again, it was great to share Frenchville's work with others and to take time to reflect on our next steps in our school improvement journey. As a Frenchville captain recently said at the induction ceremony, "Why settle for good, when you can go for great?"

Star Problem Solving Model
This week I'd like to share the STAR problem solving model from Ann Baker’s Natural Maths approach. STAR is an acronym for solving mathematical problems. Often word problems confuse students because they have extra details which are not important and details which need to be deliberately selected to solve problems effectively. In addition, students need to choose strategies which work with the problem. For example, they might need to draw a diagram, put information into a table, make an equation, look for a pattern, use concrete materials, work backwards or make a list. Problem solving is a higher order skill and often involves multiple steps. The STAR problem solver model gives students steps to follow to make sense of the problem so they can make a plan to achieve a solution.

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Our P&C meets the 2nd Thursday of each month. All welcome. P & C Email: pandc@frenchviss.eq.edu.au
What is SCORE? A reading comprehension strategy
Score is what good readers do to help them understand texts. You should see a SCORE poster in every classroom. What do the letters stand for? We’ll cover S and C today.

S is for ‘skim and scan’.
- All good readers skim & scan before they read a text more closely.
- Good readers skim when they want a general idea of what a text is about. It’s like skimming over the surface, like a rock on the water.
- Good readers scan to quickly locate important information in a text. Scanning is looking in more detail for key features and explicit information. It is still done quickly.
- Remember TV. T is for title, V is for visuals. Always read the title and important text like headings and the first sentence. Always read the visuals.
- Look at the layout. How a text is put together gives the reader clues about the text type.
- Scan the text for key words. Notice punctuation. Mark up the text, ‘link Your Thinking’ by highlighting some key words.
- Key words lead to main ideas. Key words (like conjunctions) lead to the identification of the Top Level Structures.
- Skimming & scanning doesn’t take long, but it leads to a lot of sound predictions about a text. It helps a reader get ready to read.

C is for ‘connect and question’. Good readers predict the topic and content of the text by doing this.
- Good readers are active readers. Good readers connect with the text. Good readers mark up a text, that’s ‘link Your Thinking’.
- Good readers predict whether or not they’ll like a text, if it will be tricky or easy to read. 😊😊
- They use all of their senses to draw on prior knowledge that will help them to make connections with the text.
- The more that is known about a topic and a text type, the easier it is to read.
- Connect Text-to-Self. These connections are personal, it happened to you, or your family. You’ve been there.
- State Connect-Text-To-Text. You’ve read about this, you’ve read a text like this, or you’ve seen it on TV, on video or in a game.
- Connect Text-to-World. Making world connections takes practise, because they are deeper. World connections go beyond, but always back to the text. They show that the text has a theme or issue that is important in the real world.
- Good readers question and make predictions, before, during and after reading.
- Predict the topic of this text. Think about the subject that you’d study this topic at school.
- Predict the genre of this text. The genres are: narrative, report, procedure and exposition. Predicting the genre helps your mind get ready to read in a certain way. Genre is all about the author’s purpose for writing a text.

We’ll have more about SCORE in next week’s newsletter.
Maths Session for Parents NEXT MONDAY

On Monday 18/3/13 at 1.30pm we will be conducting a maths workshop for parents in the TWIST. Feel free to come along and learn about mental computation strategies, problem solving tasks and how to set your child up to be a great maths learner. We would encourage parents of all aged students to attend.

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 Frenchvillies.

Easter Raffle

The year sevens are once again conducting an ‘Easter Raffle’ in an effort to raise funds for the Canberra trip later in the year. This year there are 18 fantastic Easter prizes ranging in value from $200 (including a BBQ) to $15. Tickets will be sold home with year seven students this week but are also available from the office at $1 each. The raffle will be drawn on Monday 25 March.

Anti - Bullying

Friday 15 March is National Day of Action against Anti-Bullying and Violence. Here’s a helpful website which might provide supportive information about bullying and how to address these issues with students. http://www.bullyingnoway.com.au/

These days it is not only bullying but cyber bullying with which we need to arm ourselves with information about to deal with these issues. Frenchville has signed the Queensland Declaration Against Bullying and Violence and a copy is hanging in our office. We have anti-cyber bullying materials in our virtual classrooms and we actively revise content with students at special assemblies. Our five finger strategy was shared recently in the newsletter and a copy of our responsible behaviour plan is included on our school website. These resources support the way we address bullying behaviours in our school.

Every Day Counts

This week is the sixth week of the school term and we have had 29 school days by the end of this week. As we move towards the end of Term 1, parents are reminded of the importance of sending children to school on every school day unless there is a reasonable excuse for the student to be away, such as illness. Research shows that students who have a good attendance record are more likely to achieve high results. Going shopping, visiting family, staying up late, being tired or extending school holidays are not acceptable reasons to be away from school. Visit the Department of Education and Training website for more information: www.education.qld.gov.au/everydaycounts

Year 7 Camp Fundraiser Idea

Tracey Bartlem, parent, has been working on some great year 7 camp fundraising ideas.

Parent Drop In – donate a gold coin and come and meet other Frenchville parents and members of the admin team (when available) on Wednesday’s before school. Meet at the TWIST deck near E block. Call Tracey on 400360089 for further details or to offer assistance.

Tuckshop Roster

Roster commencing Monday 11 March:
Monday: J Connolly
Tuesday: P Simpson
Wednesday: K Smith
Thursday: C Wood
Friday: K Boyland, J Connolly

TUCKSHOP HELPERS REQUIRED URGENTLY
C Hills (Convenor)

Book Club Orders to be returned by 8 March 2013

Cross Country Training

The Inter-house Cross Country is on Thursday 28 March 2013. Training will start on Monday 11 March for those who are interested. Training will be every Monday with Miss Wright, Wednesday with Mrs McLeod and Friday with Mr Girdler starting at 8.00am. Meet the teacher at the bottom of the stairs with your hat and water bottle. Cross Country training won’t be on if it is raining.

SPORT FIXTURES
SPECIAL CANCELLED

Greater Rockhampton Primary School Sport
Boys Rugby League 10yrs, 11yrs and 12yrs
Selection Trial #1 (Muster) Rockhampton State High School
Sunday 17 March 9am-12pm

Touch Trials – Rockhampton District

Any 10, 11 or 12 year old GIRLS who were unable to attend the Greater Rockhampton District Primary Schools’ Touch Trials last Saturday 2 March, due to the inclement weather, are invited to trial again on a squad selected this coming Friday 8 March, at Rockhampton Girls’ Grammar School oval 4pm to 5:30pm.

This session will go ahead whether or not it is raining, as undercover facilities are available. Please bring both touch shoes & runners. This will be the only session offered.
Contact Ms Lisa Dean - The Caves State School 49126111 idea36@eq.edu.au

Community Notices

Futsal sign all ages on 12 and 19 March from 6pm - 7.30pm @ Berserker State School or anytime @ Allbooks4less City Centre Plaza.
Jnr Futsal Academy commencing 21 April hosted by Brazilian coaches contact Gail 0408780612 for more information - gail@australianfutsal.com

Bluebirds Netball Club has an opening for players born 2004 to 2007 to play in their midgets and minis teams. For information call Debbie 49262243.

Southside United Hockey Club is looking for interested players for the 2013 season. If you think you may like to play or just want to come along and try first, please register your interest with Julie 49225453 / 0417841182 email southsideunitedhockey@ymail.com.

Hook Into Hockey Want a chance to become Rockhampton’s next Olympian and experience hockey? Coaching Sessions held at Kalka Shades, Water Street, 9 March from 9am to 10am. For further information contact Clark McKay 0437364403.

Junior players required Frenchville Rovers Hockey Club invites Junior Players to join our Under 7 (Mixed), Under 9 (Mixed), Under 12 Boys & Girls and Under 15 Boys & Girls teams for the current season. Junior games are played on Saturday mornings at Kalka Shades (Birdwood Park) off Water Street in North Rockhampton. Games are played on both grass fields and the synthetic turf field. Frenchville Rovers supply all playing shirts. Junior training is on Friday afternoons 4.00pm - 5.30pm at Frenchville Rovers’ Clubhouse, Cnr Mason and Rustic Streets, North Rockhampton.

Girl Guides Open Day 9/3/13 3pm - 5pm

Leamington Street, North Rockhampton. Contact Selina Woodholme – Leader 0401 582 603 for details.

 Nerimbera Football Club (Soccer) We are still accepting registrations for 2013. All ages from 3 to adult. Horner Street, Rockhampton. Please see our website www.nerimberacfc.com.au or call Angela 0408738476 for more details.

North Rockhampton High Fete has been cancelled due to weather.