1 February 2023

Dear PC Community

I would like to extend a warm welcome to you all for 2023. We have had a number of new enrolments in recent weeks and will this Thursday advise the Department of Education of our effective enrolment numbers.

The Creek has been buzzing with excitement, smiles and learning as connections are made for the new year. I encourage you to continue to communicate with your child's classroom teacher and to keep an eye out for all forms of communication (email, Facebook and signage at school) to keep abreast of the exciting events for Term 1.

Safety is Everyone's Business

As our numbers increase so too has the usage in the carpark and surrounding streets. There have been numerous complaints since school resumed about illegal parking at school pickup and drop off times.

Please be aware GCCC ParkSafe cars will be patrolling the streets around the school and infringement notices will be issued where safety is a concern.

Please model best practice when in and around the school so demonstrate safe practices to your children. The safety of our student is paramount.

The internal gates at front of the school and pedestrian gate on Amity Road are closed between 9.00am and 9.15am each day and reopened between 2pm and 2.15pm. Parents moving to classroom areas at the end of the day are asked to remain distant from the classroom door and windows to ensure students are not distracted by their loved ones prior to the end of the teaching time.

Yesterday afternoon we had a baby brown snake sighted on grounds. The snake catcher was called and attended site, however the snake had moved on.

At all times students were kept away from the area with the support of staff.

The snake catcher advised that he has been super busy in the last few days with calls to both homes and schools in the area. Please be vigilant around home and school and alert staff if you sight any concerns.

Please remind students that they should do the same without attempting to catch or interact with the wildlife.

Thanks to Helping Hands

You may have noticed how wonderful the Dot Zone looks this year. We appreciate the partnership from Helping Hands (OHSC provider) in refreshing the paint work in this area. THANK YOU

Respectful Relationships

As you may have seen on our Facebook page, Picnic Creek State School is committed to supporting students to build healthy, safe and respectful relationships. We are strengthening our respectful relationships education program using the department's new Respect program. Take a look at the Department of Education's new Respectful Relationships Education hub. It has practical information you can use to support your child's understanding of consent and the importance of establishing safe, healthy and respectful relationships.

By implementing the Respect program, we will give students opportunities for social and emotional learning in self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationships, ethics, values, social norms, stereotypes, human rights, risk and responsible decision-making. A growing body of evidence shows that social and emotional learning of this nature leads to:

- improved social and emotional skills, self-concept, bonding to school and classroom behaviour
- less disruptive classroom behaviour, aggression, bullying and delinquent acts
- reduced emotional distress such as depression, stress or social withdrawal.

(Prep to Year 2)

Students develop the capacity to understand and self-regulate their emotions in ways that account for their feelings and the feelings of others. They also develop skills to initiate social interactions.

The content explores the people who are important to these young students and develops their capacity to initiate and maintain respectful relationships in different contexts, including at school, at home and in the classroom. Students explore their own sense of self and the factors that contribute to and influence their identities. They learn about emotions and how to enhance their interactions with others as they grow older, including seeking, giving and denying permission (consent).

(Year 3 to Year 6)

The Respect program's focus broadens to include the knowledge, understanding and skills required to support students' wellbeing and that of their family and friends. Personal and social skills take on an increasing importance as they look to family, peers and the community for role models. Students begin to explore personal and social factors that support and contribute to their identities, and assist in the management of emotional responses in a range of situations over time. Students develop knowledge, understanding and skills that help them build and maintain respectful relationships, including seeking, giving and denying permission (consent).

Everyone has the right to be respected, to feel valued and to be treated equally. We all have a role to play in fostering respect.

Your 2023 active school travel map and calendar are coming soon!

As part of our school's participation in the City of Gold Coast's Active School Travel program, in coming weeks families will receive a newly designed active travel map to help make it easier to travel to and from school actively. The map includes useful references like bus stops and pathways around our school and approximate walking times. For more information about the Active School Travel program check out the City's website. www.goldcoast.qld.gov.au/Services/Roads-transport-parking/Active-travel/Active-School-Travel

Are you ready for a fun and active 2023? Keep track of the year in a creative way with the City of Gold Coast's Active School Travel program official ART-AST calendar. This interactive calendar showcases some of the year's submissions to the program's popular annual art competition ART-AST, showcasing what active travel means to primary school students across the Gold Coast. The calendar includes road safety tips and a sticker sheet so students can map out their active travel days throughout the year. Your family's calendar will be sent home this week. If you have any questions, please speak to your child's classroom teacher.

Lost Property Items

As you can imagine with over 900 students, we accumulate a significant amount of lost property items daily. If your child has lost an item you can check the lost property baskets which are located in two areas of the school – dot zone area and tuckshop area.

If a student is looking for an item they will be directed to these baskets to check.

A Message from the P&C

You are invited to the Picnic Creek State School P&C Association's inaugural Trivia Night on 25 February 2023.

Join us for a night of fun, laughter, and friendship. Meet new parents, make new friends, challenge your brain and help us raise money for the school. All funds raised will go towards providing outdoor seats and tables throughout the school for the children to utilise during play breaks.

Here's some of what you can expect on the night:

💥brain testers, laughter, games, trivia and prizes
💥lucky door prizes
💥prizes for best dressed and best table
💥raffle prizes
💥silent auction
💥and much more!

TICKETS - on sale on Monday (the event page on Facebook will be updated with the link for tickets):
- $25 per person, includes a drink on arrival (pot of tap beer, small glass of house wine, or a schooner of soft drink or juice)
- 10 people per table/team, with a maximum of 12 tables
- LIMITED SEATING, so get in quick

TIME:
- doors will open from 5pm for you to buy a meal
- there will be an Early Bird prize to be won for anyone that purchases a main meal from the Tavern
- trivia will kick off at 6.30pm

THEME:
- Summer Palooza
- come dressed in your best summer-themed outfit, the more creative you are the better your chances of winning best dressed!
- we also have a prize for the best-decorated table, so get creative!

P&C Annual General Meeting

We would like to invite you to **join the P&C** this year. The next meeting will be an **Annual General Meeting at 8.30am Thursday 2nd March**. At this time all executives will step down and voting will commence to elect the executive party for 2023. A general meeting will follow at its conclusion. For further information on P&C's and the executive roles and responsibilities please go to http://www.pandcsqld.com.au/

For those wishing to introduce themselves prior to becoming a part of the P&C or nominating for an executive role please email dgosl1@eq.edu.au and pandc@picniccreekss.eq.edu.au. Please submit by Friday 24th of February so these can be distributed prior to the AGM. We look forward to welcoming our new members and continuing to work in together to provide resources and opportunities for our children.

A Message from the Canteen

If your child is absent from school and lunch has been order for them, please either cancel the lunch order via your Munch Monitor account or advise the office that there was a lunch order placed when reporting their absence. On numerous occasions we have made lunches only to have them returned as the child is absent. We then have to discard this food as per Food Safety Standards. Due to this we are unable to refund any prepared lunches.

Thanks for those that are supporting our canteen, a reminder that Tuesday, Thursday and Friday are cashless days (Munch Monitor orders only accepted).

Leadership Team 2023

Introducing the Leadership team and their contact details:

Assistant Principal for Prep and Year 1 - Hannah Weinthal hwein5@eq.edu.au

Assistant Principal for Years 2 and 3 - Kristen Lennox klenn19@eq.edu.au

Assistant Principal for Years 4, 5 and 6 - Belinda O'Sullivan bosul15@eq.edu.au

Head of Personalised Education – Connie McLean cmcle38@eq.edu.au

Principal – Donna Gosling dgosl1@eq.edu.au

We look forward to sharing many exciting events and happenings with you over the course of the year.

Regards

Donna

Donna Gosling
Principal

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STATE SCHOOL

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BELIEVE STRIVE ACHIEVE

Staff and students of Picnic Creek State School acknowledge and pay respects to the Traditional Owners of the land on which we learn, teach and play.