Hi Everyone,

**Parent Help needed for this Saturday:** The P&C was very lucky to book two sausage sizzle fundraiser events at Bunnings North side this year. The first is this Saturday the 5th of March commencing at 8am. We need at least another 3 parents to help out in the middle session from 10am till 1pm and then two parents for the 1pm till 3pm session. My staff and I will be assisting too along with the P&C executive team. This is an easy way to fundraise and not have to pull from our own community. All funds raised go to our P&C association to provide valuable resources and reward days for the children which you can vote by becoming a member. Can you please call the office on 49657333 tomorrow or come in and let us know the session that suits you. The first P&C meeting is on next Monday 7th March at 6pm too. Come and join it’s free.

**Schools Clean Up Day on the Friday the 4th of March:** Students and teachers will do their part to protect and care for our environment this Schools Clean Up Day by picking up rubbish around the school. Parents are very much invited to join us. I am hoping our local State Member Julie-Anne Gilbert along with some local councillors may be able to join us at 2pm with the older children cleaning our school community and waterways.

**Writing competition is on:** Students, with our school improvement priority focussed on writing I would like to remind you that writing should be fun. Therefore, I have placed writing competition posters around the school telling you about a free entry writing competition. You can win a thousand dollars and very cool prizes for a great poem or short story. The topic is your choice too. I would love to see you have a go so visit the library any break or before or after school to collect your entry form and writing paper. The competition can be done on line also at ‘www.write4fun.net’ as well but I need to see a copy of your finished piece. Competition closes at the end of this month. Best of luck.

**Last week’s attendance figures as ‘Every Day Counts!’** The past two weeks Mr McDowall reported to our parade we were above our weekly target of 50 total student absences. I asked Mrs Hodda in the office to look into this and she reported her findings to me that our increase has been grossly affected by two families being away for nearly two weeks. All the parents and staff work very hard to ensure children are at school every day. If you are thinking of being away for more than 10 days please come and see me with a parent or guardian as I am able to grant you temporary absence permission. However, I do expect students will continue to do some homework such as writing, spelling practice and number facts whilst not at school. Every term, we celebrate McSladie Attendance Lunch. To be invited to the special lunch children can only be absent for no more than three absences. This includes late or early departure notes or whole days during the first term. We will send out an invite to parents their child’s attendance has been exemplary.

**Value of the week - Responsibility:** Each week Chappy Lyn delivers a value on parade. The value chosen is based on the National Framework – Values For Australian Schooling. This week Chappy reminded the students what ‘responsibility means and what it looks like in a school setting. That is ‘to be accountable for one’s own actions, contribute to society, take care of the environment and resolve conflict in a non-violent way.

Rod Finney
Principal
PLAYGROUP

Playgroup is every Wednesday 9am until 11am in B Block classroom downstairs. Children age from 0 – 5 are welcome to attend. Grab an enrolment form from the office or at arrival. Hopefully we will see you next week!

ATSI HEALTH CHECK

Medical forms have been handed to the some Indigenous students only who need another check up and preps. The check up in on Friday 4th March 8:30am in the library. Please hand in the forms by Wednesday 2nd March.

DENTAL VAN NOTES

A Medical History/Consent form has been issued to your child/ren and must be fully completed with Medicare card details on the back and signed by a parent/legal guardian and returned to the school office in the box that is labelled “School Dental forms” by Friday 4th March 2016. (under the green box in the office) **If forms are returned late there is no guarantee your child can be seen by the dentist.** Dates to be advised when the dental van will arrive at school. Further enquires please phone 0409 064 344.

READING EGGS

Parents, we have an information session about Reading Eggs:

Where: Slade Point SS Library computer lab
When: Monday 8th March 3pm

We look forward to seeing you there!

SCHOOL BANKING

School Banking is every Thursday. You can drop in your bank book any day before or on Thursday morning in the green box in the office. **Any new customers would like an application form please come to the office to collect one or you can open up an account at the Commonwealth Bank.

BUNNING’S SAUSAGE SIZZLE P&C

The first P&C Bunnings BBQ is on Saturday March 5th. It will be held at Bunnings North Mackay. We require up to 8 parents to share the workload. 3 people minimum per shift. Setup 7:30am. Start 8am. Close 2:30-3pm. Shift 1: 7:30-10am. Shift 2: 10am-12:30pm. Shift 3: 12:30-3pm. Please contact Michael McGrath at mhmcgrath@bigpond.com with the time you are available to help. Thank you in advance for your support in 2016.

P & C NEWS

Welcome to 2016 Parents and caregivers. The P&C AGM will be held at the School Administration on Monday March 7th at 6pm. The AGM will be followed by the first monthly meeting for the year. All executive positions (President, Treasurer, Secretary) and support positions (Fundraising Co-ordinator) will be available. Nomination forms can be collected from the office if you wish to nominate a position. The P&C looks forward to getting your support for 2016.

STUDENT ABSENCE

It is an Education Qld requirement that all students are accounted for each and every school day. If your child/ren is going to be absent for any reason for any part of the day you must notify the school. Please ring the student absent line on 49657 360. Admin will be contacting parents/caregivers daily after 9:30am if you haven’t contacted the office if your child/ren are absent. If you got a missed call, please write a note to the class teacher for the next day explaining why they were absent.

If your child has an unexplained absence you will receive an unexplained absence letter from your child, please complete the form and return it to the office. Thank-you Admin.

CHAPLAIN NEWS

The Year 6 students are settling well into their role of helping present a value on Parade. The last 2 weeks we talked about Responsibility. We said that other words for being responsible are reliable, dependable, trustworthy, someone people can count on. When you are responsible you do what you say you are going to do. You don’t expect others to do your work. A responsible person owns up to his/her mistakes and doesn’t blame other people. Getting your homework and chores done before playing is being responsible. We can also demonstrate responsibility by caring about our environment. Everyone needs to learn to be responsible.

Here are a few words of advice that was in a recent Generation Next newsletter:

In a world where children are “growing up digital,” it’s important to help them learn healthy concepts of digital use and citizenship. Parents play an important role in teaching these skills. Here are a few tips from the AAP to help parents manage the digital landscape they’re exploring with their children.

Treat media as you would any other environment in your child’s life. The same parenting guidelines apply in both real and virtual environments. Set limits; kids need and expect them. Know your children’s friends, both online and off. Know what platforms, software, and apps your children are using, where they are going on the web, and what they are doing online.

Set limits and encourage playtime. Tech use, like all other activities, should have reasonable limits. Unstructured and offline play stimulates creativity. Make unplugged playtime a daily priority, especially for very young children. And—don’t forget to join your children in unplugged play whenever you’re able.

Chappy Lyn