From the Principal’s Desk:

Class Structures
As mentioned in last week’s newsletter, all state schools across Queensland await ‘Day 8’, when enrolment numbers determine the number of teachers, aide time and admin time that each school receives. Our ‘Day 8’ figures were submitted today and our numbers have declined slightly this year. We are awaiting confirmation from Regional Office, however, we are hopeful that our numbers will allow us to maintain our current 16 teachers. We are not anticipating any class changes at this point in time, however, if this is required we will notify the affected parents and students as soon as possible.

Prep Photos
Each year the Fraser Coast Chronicle takes a class photo of all prep students across the Fraser Coast and publishes the image in a special edition of the Chronicle. Our Prep class photos will be taken on Wednesday the 10th of February. It is important that all students have their media consent form submitted to the office before that date so that they can be included in the photo.

Students of the Week
Student of the Week certificates are presented at Friday’s parade. Parents and Carers will be notified via a letter on Thursdays that their child will be receiving an award and invited to attend our Friday morning parade. Congratulations to our Week 2 Students of the Week who received their certificates on parade today.

Weather Events
With the recent wet weather and high humidity, I would like to remind all our students of the importance of staying safe around flooded waters when walking to or from school. It is important that all students keep clear of flood waters and despite the temptation to cool off, they should never swim or play near drains.

Leadership Induction
On Friday the 12th of February, we will be formally inducting our Student Leaders for 2016. The parade will begin at 9am with all our leaders taking the ‘Oath of Office’. We will also be starting a new tradition this year by inviting a family member of each of our leaders to present their child with the leadership badge. Family and friends are most welcome to attend this parade and join our leaders for a special morning tea at 9.30am.

Prep to Year 6 Home Reading
This week every child at Torbanlea started home reading. It is our expectation that every child will read on a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday night. We also strongly encourage our students to read their own books or a book borrowed from the library over the weekend. Teaching your child to read at school is a complex and rewarding job! The teachers at Torbanlea focus on two main areas when they are teaching your child to read.
**The first area is WORD ATTACK.** Word attack skills are taught from Prep to Year 4. These skills help your child to work out how to READ a word that they don’t know. The Word Attack skills taught at Torbanlea are:

1. **Wide Mouth Frog** – This is where you tell your child to get their mouth ready to say the first sound in a word.
2. **Skippy the Kangaroo** – This is where you tell your child to ‘skip’ the unknown word and read on to the end of the sentence to try and work out what the word could be.
3. **Stretchy Snake** – This is where you encourage your child to stretch out all of the sounds in the word.
4. **Eagle Eye** – Being an Eagle Eye helps you to remember to look at the picture as well as the first letter (phonogram) of the word to help you to say the word.
5. **Monty the Lace Monitor** - Monty helps your child to remember that their reading must make sense. If it doesn’t make sense, then you need to encourage your child to reread the sentence.
6. **Syllable Shark** – When you use ‘Syllable Shark’ to work out an unknown word, you encourage your child to look for the base word. e.g. for ‘looked’, the base word is ‘look’. Syllable Shark also reminds your child to ‘chunk’ longer words into smaller parts.

**The second area that teachers focus on when teaching your child to read is COMPREHENSION.** Our homework booklets that have been developed for our students focus on these strategies. Thank you so much for helping your child with home reading. Current research shows that by using these comprehension strategies while reading, your child will become a more confident and able reader.

*Kind regards*

Dave Hillhouse  (Principal)

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**From the Deputy’s Desk**

**Welcome Back**

Welcome back to all of our old families and a warm and friendly welcome to our many new families at Torbanlea. I’d also like to extend a warm welcome to our new staff members Mrs Hayward, Mr Dakin, Mr Hutchinson, Mrs Harper, Mr Fisher & Mrs Jones.

Our Prep students are off to a flying start this year. It has not taken long for them to settle in and they are already learning many of our school routines. A very big welcome to all of our new Prep families, I hope you enjoy your first year with us at Torbanlea.

**Expectations Parade**

This year we continue with our School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) program. In the classrooms this week teachers have been establishing rules and routines for the year to ensure that all children are happy, safe and able to learn here at Torbanlea.

We will continue to present ‘Good Choice’ tickets to students spotted following our expectations and each week one lucky student from both the upper and lower school will win a tuckshop voucher or movie pass.

Each Monday our Student Leaders will present the expectations for the weekly focus at parade. Next week we will be focussing on Effort. Students will be reminded to put their best effort into their classwork, and ensure they aim to develop and maintain a high standard of bookwork this year. In the playground we will be discussing making the effort to follow routines at eating times.

**Swimming**

Swimming begins on Thursday 18th February for students in Years 4-6. Please send notes and money back into school prior to this date. Students will have lessons for 5 weeks and will finish the term with the upper school Swimming Carnival on Thursday 24th March.

Swimming is part of the HPE curriculum and all children are expected to participate. Swimming instruction will be provided by our PE teacher, Mr Dakin and another qualified swimming instructor.

All children will be required to wear a swim shirt or t-shirt for sun safety. Children will also need thongs to wear to and from the pool. Children swimming in the morning session need to come to school dressed in their swimwear underneath their uniform. Other classes will have time to change at school before going to the pool. Please make sure all belongings are clearly labelled with your child’s name.
Uniforms
It was lovely to see our students looking so smart in their uniforms this week. If you still need to purchase uniforms, they are available from the tuckshop before school and on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. All students need to have a broad brimmed hat for school and these can also be purchased for $10 at the tuckshop. Just a reminder that the only jewellery permitted at school is a watch and stud or sleeper earrings. Please note that our tuckshop doesn’t have Eftpos so cash or cheque only please.

Names on Property
Please ensure that all of your child’s belongings are clearly labelled with their name. It can be very time consuming for teachers to sort through belongings and return these to students when items are not labelled. In particular, ensure that hats, drink bottles and lunch boxes are clearly labelled.

Library News
Mrs Morris has been busy updating class lists on the computer system, so that children are able to borrow books. Class teachers will let students know when their library borrowing day is. Please remember children need to bring a library bag to borrow books. Our new library/homework bags are available from the office for $9.00.

Tips to Help Your Child Learn
Make sure your child is organised for school with their lunch, hat, home reader and equipment. Get them into the habit of packing their bag the night before.

Until next week.
Kim Burns (Deputy Principal)

Chappy Chat by Neil Folling (School Chaplain)

Persistence (Desforges from the University of Exeter in the UK)
Desforges found that the greatest individual characteristic that determined children’s success at school was persistence. It was number one by far.
In fact, persistence was a staggering seven times more significant than intelligence as a determinant of a child’s achievement.
SEVEN TIMES!! THAT’S HUGE!!
Now the good news is that persistence is not merely an inborn Virtue. It is the one aspect of a child’s temperament that can be impacted by people.
Desforges found that parents, rather than teachers, are the people most likely to impact on a child’s persistence. This is consistent with many other studies in the area.
What does a persistent child do?
Persistent kids do some or all of the following:
✔ They stick at tasks until the end.
✔ They set goals and work toward them.
✔ They are not easily distracted.
✔ They don’t let failure stop them.
✔ They are more likely to take risks as learners.
✔ They can sometimes be seen as stubborn or unwilling to bend.
There are heaps of ways you can encourage your child to persist. But the BIG strategies all revolve around MODELLING, ENCOURAGEMENT and VOCABULARY.

Student Banking
Don’t forget that Wednesday is School Banking day! Students should bring in their yellow bank book folders and put it into the grey classroom banking bags in the morning.
Our school also earns a 5% commission on every deposit made which goes to our school hall building fund.
If your children are not currently involved in the School Banking program and you would like to know more, please ask for a 2015 School Banking Information Pack from the Tuckshop or Chantal on Wednesdays.

Forthcoming Events
Feb 08.........P&C Fundraising Meeting – 9am
Feb 11..........P&C Meeting – 3.15pm in the ALC
Feb 12.........Student Leaders Induction – 9am
Feb 18.........Years 4-6 swimming commences
Mar 04.........Clean Up Australia Day
Mar 12.........Trivia Night

Youth in Community
Be Yourself! No one is more qualified!
Let’s have fun
56 Stalley St Howard
Burrum District Community Centre
Youth Group
Ages 8-15
3:30pm –5pm every Thursday
STARTS 18th FEBRUARY