From the Principal’s Desk

School Leaders

I had the pleasure of meeting with all year 5 and 6 students recently to discuss the school’s student leadership program. I am sure this has been a topic of much discussion in many homes as students decide whether to take on the leadership challenge. Leadership is not a rite of passage but rather a rehearsed and fine-tuned skill. By appointing leaders for the entire year we are able to invest in them and watch them grow into their roles. I am very much looking forward to reading the applications as they come in.

Strategic Plan

As an academically high performing school it is vital to ensure the strategic vision and focus will continue to yield great results. Simply continuing to do the same things and using the same methods will eventually result in stagnant performances. We take our role seriously and are passionate about ensuring every child is succeeding. Looking at our historical trends and our current student body our major focal points this year will be:

- Improving Student Outcomes in Writing and Spelling
- Improving Student Attendance
- Refining and Evaluating Signature Evidence Based Practice
- Maintaining Positive School Climate

P&C

Thank you to all that were able to attend the P&C meeting last Friday. I would like to thank and acknowledge the hard work for the previous executives and also those new and continuing executives and members. Being a part of the school P&C is a great way to partner with the school to ensure the best opportunities for all students.

Centenary

The school’s centenary celebration will take place on the 30th of July 2016. Please contact the school if you would like to be involved with the committee organizing the day. I am looking forward to be able to celebrate the school’s rich history and network with past students, staff and parents.

Kind regards,
Zan Branford
Principal
Welcome to music at Upper Brookfield SS! Our music teachers and their days have remained the same for 2016:

Ms Jen Hemmings – our strings teacher has lessons -middle session Tuesdays

Mrs Alison Pomerenke – class music teacher (all students Prep-6) on Fridays

Middle session for both classes, then choir in the last session

Prep-2 are off to a great start, working on pitch, dynamics (loud or soft sounds) and beat and rhythmic skills through singing, moving and... our favourite...singing games! It was so pleasing to see our Preps are so ready to join in all activities — even individual singing — especially in the context of a music game, like our favourite Aussie game “Kangaroo, Skippy roo”.

Years 3 - 6 students arrived all prepared and eager to play recorder this term - with enthusiasm! Thankfully we have Mrs Stanfield to help out by taking the beginners through the basics of learning recorder. This group was working on a good tone by the end of their first lesson! Well done!

Remember: LEFT hand on top, as you can’t buy a back-to-front flute, saxophone, clarinet etc, if you want to learn a woodwind instrument later on down the track!

I enjoyed taking the Year 6 group who quickly recalled notes: G A B, high C and high D and worked well on “Ode to Joy” from Beethoven’s 9th Symphony. (Sounds a little different without the whole orchestra….but a great effort in your first recorder session, thanks Year 6!)

Whole school CHOIR is a new addition to our Friday afternoon timetable this term. We have been singing and listening to Australian songs this term, which ties in nicely with the upcoming new Australian curriculum and will give us a repertoire of songs under our belt for upcoming performances this year.

Looking forward to more music making!

Alison Pomerenke (class music)

Instrumental String Lessons

Hello everyone, and for those who don't know me, my name is Jennifer Hemmings and I am the String Instrumental Teacher for Upper Brookfield SS.

Last week I sent home some Expression of Interest forms for students wanting to learn either the cello or the violin, but I then realised that there was no extra information about the program with the form! Sorry!

Lessons are once a week, on a Tuesday, during the middle session.

Students are able to hire a violin or a cello through the school and the cost is $80 per year. This money goes towards any repairs, new strings, tutor books, photocopying, and general upkeep of the instruments. The $80 will be invoiced through the school office within the next few weeks. The lessons themselves cost nothing as I am paid through the Education Department.

Students who commence lessons this year, will be invited to attend a Beginner Strings Workshop at Kenmore South SS. This usually occurs during term 2, but no date has been set yet. There will be plenty of information sent home about this when it gets closer. The students join with other beginners from Brookfield, Kenmore, Kenmore South and Fig Tree Pocket schools and it is a day of jam packed music making and fun. Mrs Pomerenke comes along to do craft/games and there is even a concert at the end of the workshop (2pm).

So hopefully this has answered some questions you may have had about the program. Please feel free to email me with any others concerns at jhemm15@eq.edu.au

I look forward to starting the Beginners next week. If you didn't receive an EOI form for the Strings Program but have now decided you would like to participate, please ask Mr Branford for a form.

Thanks!

Jennifer Hemmings (Instrumental Music Teacher)

Queensland Country Women’s Association—School Children’s International Competition—2016 ‘Greenland’

Students will be bringing home an entry for this competition. If they would like to enter please ensure that they read and understand the entry requirements for their Division/Year Group as these vary from year level to year level.

Entries need to be handed into Administration by Wednesday 13th April, which is the first Wednesday back at school after the Easter holidays. A member of the QCWA will be coming to collect the entries in that week. In previous years the students of Upper Brookfield State School have done extremely well in this competition. Good Luck to all those students who choose to take part.
There was an adult penguin and a baby penguin. The little penguin wanted to learn how to fly. The big one said angrily, “We can’t fly!” The little one disagreed and started flapping his little flippers furiously. After a while, of frantic flapping, his feet lifted off. “What?” the dad said in a shocked and confused way. After that the little one started to slow down his flapping and fell into the water and got eaten by a killer seal. “Nooo!” the dad screamed.

By Xavier in Year 6

*Sizzling Start – An elephant escaped from the zoo*

“An animal is on the loose!” cried the zoo keeper. I’m the only night shift employee here. I had to run. It kept running towards me, like a ferocious lion. I was running away as fast as I could. I was losing my breath. It was going to stop me with its humungous feet, like a dinosaur. It's got huge ears, if he dropped them on me I could die. I tripped, I looked up. I saw its foot, I tried to move as fast as I could, but then….

By Jacob in Year 4

*Science*

We are investigating some amazing things in Science this term. Below I have listed what each year group will be studying.

Years P-2 are investigating what living things need to survive; specifically we are looking at plants and animals, including us!

Years 3-4 are studying erosion. Examining it as a process that is happening to the environment with the students investigating about all types of weathering and erosion processes that occur in our environment. Question: Did you know Uluru was formed by weathering and erosion?

Years 5-6 are exploring reversible and irreversible changes. Question: There are so many changes that we use every day; can you identify some?

Keep on investigating!

Wendy Farren-Price (Science Teacher)

*Technology for Years 3 to 6*

Hopefully your child has been talking to you about our repurposing project. The aim of this project is to repurpose an item into another useful item.

In week 6-7, your child will start to assemble their ‘new’ item using recycled items.

There were so many interesting ideas that have come out of the classes’ mind, I will be very excited to see how the finished items turn out.

Happy Constructing,

Wendy Farren-Price (Technology Teacher)
Senior Class News:

Learning Goals
Learners that can articulate exactly what they are learning achieve greater success (Robert Marzano). This is why we begin each lesson with a specific learning intent as well as a criteria for success. Students also have established learning goals to determine their next most important steps for improvement.

English
Our short story study has provoked much conversation about what makes a good book and what is effective writing. By reading and deconstructing a range of work by published authors we have been able to begin producing high quality narrative texts. Our vocabulary studies have been really effective at lifting the sophistication of language used by the students. We are hearing words like garrulous and exasperated being used accurately and regularly in conversation and written work.

Maths
Students are being encouraged to explain and elaborate on how they arrive at solutions to problems. In our Number and Measurement studies this mathematical communication and explanation is the ultimate goal.

Nurture the Nest
Our current behavioural focus is on “trying your best”. There is a very clear purpose behind everything we do. Sometimes work may seem easy and we are focusing on cementing learning into long-term memory whereas other times we cognitively challenge students our programs are a delicate balance between.

Kind regards,
Zan Branford and Meredith Stanfield

Junior Class News:

Even though the nasty flu hit the P-2 class hard with lots of absences over the past few weeks, we have been working really hard and have finally settled into the routines of school life. Things are ordered and calm, finally!

Writing workshop continues to be a hit with the students as they are engaged and focused on their individual writing goals. The Preps are ‘kid writing’ by writing the sounds they hear. We spent last week writing notes for our ‘Affirmation Boxes’. I hope you enjoyed reading the affirmations with your child as much as we did! We drew names out of a box to see who we would write about each day and had to focus on positive things that we appreciated about our friends. The children were very excited to decorate their boxes as a celebration of Valentine’s Day! It was a valuable activity as we not only learnt how to structure and lay out a card but also to be ‘treasure’ hunters and look for the good in each other.

In our English Unit studies we have been looking at characters emotions in stories and writing text to self connections. We have been writing about our lives and how they relate to characters in the books.

In Maths the Preps have been learning to count collections, pointing to each object only once! This is a tricky skill for some of us. We have also been learning to form numbers correctly. The year 1’s and 2’s have been working on skip counting patterns as well addition and subtraction problems. Learning to understand how calendars work has also been a big focus.

Kind regards,
Kellie Mullane and Annette Jones

Date Claimers:
29th February—Monday—Junior Class Pullenvale Environmental Education Centre excursion
29th February—Monday—Parade
24th March—Thursday—Term Ends
25th March—Friday—Good Friday
13th April—Wednesday—QCWA ‘Greenland’ competition due

School Uniforms
We require that students wear the correct school uniform.

The uniform consists of a red polo shirt and a navy skirts, skirt or shorts. Girls may also wear a checked red dress. In winter students are permitted to also wear navy tracksuit pants and a navy jumper.

Students should wear black or white enclosed shoes that are suitable for physical activity.

A cloth school badge is available for purchase from Administration for $2.00. This may be stitched onto the student’s red polo shirt.

No Hat, No Play
We would like to remind students and parents that if a student does not have a wide-brim hat at school they are not permitted to play anywhere but in the undercover areas.

Upper Brookfield State School complies with the Queensland Government’s Sun Safe Policy which requires students to wear suitable sun-protection when playing at school.

Navy wide-brim hats are available for sale at Administration for $10. We sell these hats on behalf of the Parents’ and Citizens’ Association.

Important Reminder: The bus for the Pullenvale Environmental Education Centre will be departing the school grounds at 8.30am—PLEASE DO NOT BE LATE!
Do you want to have fun, party but also burn calories without even knowing?! Well look no further!
Join Mar-li’s Zumba Fiesta Fitness class!
Starting on the 1st of March
Tuesday nights from 6:00pm – 7:00pm at
Upper Brookfield community Hall
All is welcome, no fitness level required!
Entry
$10 per person
Requirements: please bring a water bottle and towel
LET’S ZUMBA!!