How is my Child Performing at School?
The end of this week will mark the halfway point of Term 1. That’s right, the school year is almost one eighth over. The classes should be settled, and the children should be actively engaged in the learning program. It won’t be long before teachers start gathering assessment materials.

As a parent of school aged children I have two main expectations of the school:
• That my kids feel safe and supported;
• That my kids are performing to the best of their academic ability.

The first one is fairly easy to judge, even though I don’t have any hard data to support it. As a parent, I have an instinctive feel for whether my kids are happy. On the second point, however, despite the fact that I have plethora data and assessment information, it is harder to judge.

Why is it harder to judge? We have NAPLAN, reading benchmarks, report cards twice per year and since the introduction of the national curriculum quite rigorous and consistent assessment tasks. However, what this tells me is how my kids are performing in an absolute sense. It compares my child’s performance to the group. This information is useful and important, but it does not tell me whether my child is performing to the best of his ability. A gifted mathematician getting a B may not be performing to their potential, whereas a student with a learning impairment who achieves a C may be working right to their potential.

So how do we measure whether a child is working to their potential? I don’t really have the answer and if I did it would be a subjective assessment. This is where our collaborative judgements as parents and educators play a part. You may have heard the term “differentiation” used when discussing how we cater for individual needs within the learning program. We differentiate for all the students in the class. And yes, in some cases that means expecting a different standard or outcome for different students. We will be targeting B students who could be getting an A alongside the D students we are trying to lift to a C!

2015 Principals’ Conference
I will be attending the biennial Queensland State Schools Principals’ Conference at the Convention Centre on Thursday and Friday this week. This is the only time that all Queensland Principals are brought together at the one location and it only occurs every second year. The conference will focus on building the capacity of Principals to collaborate with one another to respond to challenges, question and support each other, and share and scale up new and effective practices.

An indication the school is operating effectively is how things go when the Principal isn’t there. I have often attended seminars and events where Principals spend half the time on their mobile phone responding to crises back at the workplace. In that regard I am fortunate to have the confidence and knowledge to know that the school can operate effectively if any of the leadership team or staff are absent for a short time.

Peter
**STUDENT ABDENCES**

If your child is going to be away from school whether it is due to illness or some other matter, please notify the office. If we do not know the reason we will have to note it as an unexplained absence on the class roll which will show up as such on your child’s report card.

**AFL - MT SAMSON TEAMS**

Training for the Mt Samson AFL Teams will commence Friday 27 February 2015 at 2.45pm. Players please meet in the tuckshop area. If anyone is still deciding whether to join the teams, feel free to come along and have a try out - no obligation just fun with friends. If you have any additional enquiries please call Di 0417 794314 or email at moestavern@bigpond.com

**A BIG THANK YOU TO THE TUCKSHOP LADIES WHO BRAVED THE VERY WET WEATHER ON FRIDAY TO MAKE SURE OUR STUDENTS WHO DID MANAGE TO ATTEND ON THE DAY WERE FED AND CONTENT.**

**Tuckshop News**

Hi Everyone,

What a crazy Friday last week. We had only a small number of children at school but we all managed to stay dry and enjoy lunch and a dance together. Just a reminder that all money raised at tuckshop goes back to the P and C and therefore benefits the school and all of our children, so please support us. Keep the homebake coming - it is really appreciated and the children love it. The roster is on the tuckshop door so even if you can only help for an hour or so every now and then it all helps. We hope to see you at the tuckshop.

Cheers
Sue and Di

**Parent Notices cont’**

**UNIFORM OPENING HOURS**

WEDNESDAY MORNINGS 8.15 TO 8.45

AND NOW ALSO

THURSDAY AFTERNOONS 2.45 TO 3.15

**Instrumental Music**

The senior music camp will be held on 16th – 18th June at Ferny Hills State School. There will be a number of our senior music students who will be assessed in week 9 of this term who may be given an invitation to attend this camp. I spoke to particular students about this yesterday. They are to play for their assessment two major scales and 1 minor scale as well as either No.91 on page 24 in Tradition of Excellence book 1 or No.104 on page 26 in Tradition of Excellence as well as a piece of their own choice from the book after page 19.

We wish the following students all the very best for their assessments: Lucy Chapman, Lily Weaver, Callista Duncan, Georgia Dooley, Lachlan Hanwright, Chris Lunnis, Liana Arkell, Rhiannon Jones and Maddy Murray.

Woodwind assessments at our school will take place on Monday 23rd March and Thursday 26th March.

Brass assessments at our school will take place on Wednesday 25th March

For any further information regarding the senior music camp please contact Tracey Young at tyoung87@eq.edu.au or Fenny for further information.

For inclusions in the Newsletter please email wrobi16@eq.edu.au Tuesdays by 10
CONGRATULATIONS TO CAMBELL HARROP AND ETHAN CLOSE ON THEIR SELECTION TO REPRESENT PINE RIVERS DISTRICT AT THE MET NORTH REGIONAL SWIMMINGS CHAMPIONSHIPS TODAY.

FROM THIS CARNIVAL A METROPOLITAN NORTH TEAM WILL BE SELECTED TO COMPETE AT THE STATE TITLES IN MARCH.

GOOD LUCK BOYS!!

MORNING TRAINING
7:30 Monday - Thursday on the oval

Students of all ages and ability are welcome to join our “Mount Samson Super Stars” Squad on the oval at 7:30am on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Our focus for this term is preparing for our Interhouse Cross Country to be held on April 2nd and the remaining triathlon events.

TERM 1 PROGRAM -
NEXT WEEK’S PROGRAM
MONDAY ENDURANCE - DISTANCE RUN OR RECOVERY RUN
TUESDAY MIDDLE DISTANCE
WEDNESDAY SPRINTS -
THURSDAY HILLS AND BIKES FOR TRIATHLETES (no helmet - no ride)
FRIDAY SWIM/TRANSITION TRAINING FOR TRIATHLETES AT DAYBORO POOL (pool entry to be paid at pool office)

Please do not wear your school uniform to training. Well-fitting shoes must be worn to all sessions.

To replace lost energy, a small piece of cut up fruit or a snack that is easily and quickly eaten after training is advisable.

Please remember to bring a spare pair of socks and shoes (if possible) and also a small towel as the oval is often quite wet.

Your uniform, change of clothes, snack and water bottle are to be placed in a plastic bag and hung on hooks on the amenities wall.

For more information please contact Anne White in the office.

PINE RIVERS DISTRICT SPORT SELECTION TRIALS

AFL - THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26 - - NOTE DATE CHANGE
GOOD LUCK TO MATT BISHOP, CAMBELL HARROP, JOSH MILES AND LACHIE HANWRIGHT

TENNIS - Thursday March 5 - Open to students born 2003, 2004, 2005 - nominations close 2nd March
Please collect nomination forms from office and return by closing date

CROSS COUNTRY

Cross Country Season is already here.

There are only 5 weeks until our Interhouse Cross Country Championships.

It’s great to see so many of our Mount Samson Super Stars coming to morning training.

Students turning 10 this year are eligible to represent Mount Samson at the Pine Rivers District Cross Country Championships on May 1st.

Six boys and six girls from each age group will be selected from our Interhouse Championships on April 2nd, providing qualifying times are reached.

LET’S SEE IF WE CAN BRING HOME THE PINE RIVERS DISTRICT TROPHY AGAIN THIS YEAR.

CROSS COUNTRY - QUEENSLAND RUNNING - 1ST RACE TRELBA PARK MITCHELTON - MARCH 7

Queensland Running is a non-profit organisation whose members volunteer their services each Saturday afternoon during the Cross Country Season.

The events provide great training opportunities for our kids in preparation for the school cross country season.

Each week distances from 500m to 8k are offered thus providing competitors the opportunity to run in the distance of their choice.

There is a trophy for the most successful school at the end of the season so make sure you register as Mount Samson School.

A Season program is on the back of this newsletter.

For more info please see Anne White in the office or at morning training.

For full info visit the website - queenslandrunning.com.au

TRIATHLON NEWS

March 1 Queensland Tri Series race 6 Raby Bay - this Sunday
March 7 & 8 Bribie Island Series race 4
March 21 Samford Kids Triathlon - Samford Pool - this is the final race for the season
March 29 Queensland Sprint Dist C’ships Redcliffe *part of state series
April 19 Queensland Tri Series race 7 Raby Bay
May 2 & 3 TreX - Queensland Champs - Ewan Maddock Dam www.tre-x.com.au *part of state series
May 17 Weet Bix Kids Tryathlon - sleeman sports centre
May 24 Weet Bix Kids Tryathlon - Kawana

Unfortunately due to the weather conditions last weekend, both the All Schools State C’ships and the Tri Qld Aquathlon C’ships were both cancelled.

GOOD LUCK FOR RABY BAY ON SUNDAY

RACE HARD EVERYONE