stage four priorities for the next four years. They are:

1. Implementing the Australian Curriculum encompassing reading, writing (including spelling and grammar and punctuation) numeracy, science, History and Geography.

2. Consistent classroom pedagogy practices including a focus on higher order thinking and to continue quality teaching focused on the achievement of every student.

3. Instructional Leadership focussing on student achievement and improvement through the collection of data and student individual goal setting.

4. Productive Partnerships with school and community stakeholders.

We are currently using these priorities to form a vision statement for the school. Feedback on the core priorities or contribution to the vision statement is very welcome.

Please call me to make an appointment or come to the next P&C meeting where this will be discussed.

I would like to congratulate all of our athletes for a very successful District Athletics Carnival. Special mention goes to Jiri, Preston and Oscar for making the District team. They will compete in the Metropolitan East carnival later this year. Good Luck.

Lastly, our school community celebrates and applauds everyone involved in the EKKA excursion on Tuesday. It was a pleasure to see the students and the 30 accompanying adults coming off the water taxi with beaming smiles. The students will remember this excursion for many years to come. Well done to all.

Jenny Wilson
**Kids Speak**

*The Pepper Pig Show because you get to relax on the seats. (Chevelle)*

*The puppies, the ferris wheel and the fairy floss. (Addison)*

*The ferris wheel because it goes so high! (Seth)*

*The show bags because they have heaps of lollies in them and I got the Bertie Beatle. (James)*

*Watching the motorbikes do back flips and front flips. (Lawrence)*

*The motor bikes because they did mad tricks and back flips. (Eugene)*

*The animals because there is a baby black goat. (Dash)*

*The big wolf. I touched the wolf. (Olivia)*

*The slippery slide because it is so slippery and so high and so bumpy. (Lochlain)*

*The Bertie Beatle bag with chocolate in it. (Bodhi)*

*Patting the cute, sweet and lovely baby goats that are called ‘kids’. (Jasmin)*

*Feeding the dodgy, cool, crazy, cute, mad and nice goats. (Jazmyn)*

*My show bag because it has a bow and arrow and a sword and heaps of gum. (Stirling)*

**WHAT'S COOL AT THE BRISBANE EKKA?**

*The ferris wheel because it is so high and it has cages. (Shanti)*

*Milking the cows because the udders are big then they get smaller and smaller. (Ashlyn)*

*The motor bikes because they did awesome flips and they did not fall. (Ollie)*

*The ferris wheel and the whole ekka! (Jetson)*

*Going for an awesome ride on the Giant Wheel. You can see the whole Ekka! (Kalah)*

*Looking at the wonderful and amazing wedding cakes. (Jai)*

*Crashing into people on the amazing, awesome dodgem cars. (Harlan)*

*Buying a curious show bag and going on the Giant Wheel. (Druin)*

*Looking at the giant vegetables and the pig shape made from the vegetables. (Heidi)*

*Playing in the real aeroplane and pretending that you’re in the army. (Belleny)*

*Feeding the cute, funny pigs and the hungry, fluffy dogs. (Lucy)*

*Looking at the hundreds of exciting and awesome show bags and prizes. (Charlie)*

*My show bag because it has a bow and arrow and a sword and heaps of gum. (Stirling)*

**Ekka Year 1 & 2**

*Feeding the dodgy, cool, crazy, cute, mad and nice goats. (Jazmyn)*

*Looking at the hundreds of exciting and awesome show bags and prizes. (Charlie)*

*Feeding the cute, funny pigs and the hungry, fluffy dogs. (Lucy)*
*The baby dolls because they are cute. (Georgina)

*Watching the mad, crazy teenagers doing backflips on their motorbikes. (Grace)

*The baby animals because they are so cute and soft and fluffy. (Sophia)

*The slippery slide because I won both times. (Will)

Thanks to the many parents and caregivers who joined us for the day...you’re a wonderful, supportive lot! Thanks also to the wider community for supporting our fundraising ‘Walkathon’. Without having to pay, every student in Year One and Two travelled to the Ekka, had a ride on the ferris wheel, bought one $2 Bertie Beatle show bag and experienced many ‘country coming to the city’ Ekka thrills. They’ll treasure the memories.

Mrs Gregory & Ms VanLeeuwen

District Athletics Carnival

Our school athletics team recently performed with distinction at the Redlands School Athletics Carnival at Capalaba State College. Although small, our team achieved 4th place overall, which is an outstanding result. Some of the highlights are shown in the pictures below. Of particular note was the performances of Preston Cockatoo-Collins who achieved 1st place in the Boys 10yr 100m and was a finalist in the 200m, Oscar Brewster made the Boys 100m final and 200m semi-final, and Jiri Gray place 4th in the Girls 11yr high jump. The whole team performed creditably and should be congratulated.

The three mentioned are now moving on to the Metropolitan East Athletics Competition.

Science Week

It is Science Week this week and we are celebrating with our FINALE MAD SCIENCE CLUB on Monday 19th August from 3pm-5pm at the high school. All parents welcome!
Talking to your child about alcohol and drugs
Tips for parents Part 2
When it comes to talking about alcohol and drugs young people will appreciate your advice and look to you for your views, but they will expect you to be informed, up front and honest, and, if you show you are listening to them, they are more likely to listen to you.

Here are 5 more ways to encourage young people to talk with you about issues such as drugs and alcohol.

Be calm
Being calm and rational is also important and don’t overreact. You should keep the lines of communication open and don’t ridicule or lecture. Remember that getting angry will just close the door on further discussion.

Avoid conflict
It is difficult to solve a problem when there is conflict. Try to see their point of view and encourage them to understand yours. If a confrontation develops, stop the conversation and return to it as soon as both of you are calmer.

Keep on talking
Once you’ve had a discussion, it’s important to have another. Ensure that you are always willing to speak to your children about drugs and start early.

Set clear boundaries
Most young people expect and appreciate some ground rules. Allowing them to take part in setting the rules encourages them to take more responsibility for sticking to them. Once you have rules, enforce them and ensure young people know of the consequences of breaking them. Find and agree to ways young people can act should they find themselves in a situation that exposes them to potential danger. For example, let them know that you will always collect them if they need you to, even if it is late at night. However, make it absolutely clear that you would rather they didn’t put themselves in a situation where they are likely to be exposed to illicit drugs.

Focus on the positive
Reward your children’s good behaviour and emphasise those things they do well. Encourage them to feel good about themselves and let them know that they deserve respect.


A MESSAGE FROM THE DEPT. OF SOCIAL SECURITY
Information about the Baby Bonus Claim that was available to all Australians parents for children born between 1 July 2001 and 30 June 2004.
Parents who did not make the claim with the Australian Taxation Office either;

as part of their annual tax returns between 2001 - 2007
or
(if you were not required to lodge a return) – via the special Baby Bonus Claim Forms
issued by the Australian Taxation Office during the years from 2001 – 2007

-may still be eligible to claim.
Payments of up to $500 per child, per year, may still be available for you to claim.
You should also check if you were entitled to claim the Education Tax Refund during the period prior to the payment being changed to the Schoolkids Bonus in 2012.
You should contact the Australian Taxation Office as soon as possible to check whether your claims have been processed for this period. If they have not, the ATO will mail the claim forms corresponding to the claimable years to you to return by the March 2014 deadline.

Australian Tax Office 13 28 61 or ATO Indigenous Help Line 13 10 30

Jenny
Human Services Agent Dunwich
North Stradbroke Island

The school would like to thank Jenny Aberdeen for her conscientious involvement in the school community.

AFTER HOURS SCHOOL ABSENCE LINE
Phone 3409 6320
(it will ring 5 times)

Please say your students name and their year level and why they are absent.
During school hours this phone will be answered by office staff

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