6 February 2014

Executive Principal’s Message

“Accomplishment can prove to be a journey not a destination.”
Dwight D Eisenhower

An enormous welcome to 2014 at Stretton College! A special welcome to all new students and families to our College. We hope that the time you and your child/children spend at our extraordinary school is both memorable and rewarding.

2014 has seen a steady increase in our enrolments, with figures close to 1950 students. We are a large school which can offer ‘big school’ opportunities, but at the same time we also provide ‘small school’ care and attention so that every student feels valued. I believe that our appeal as a College rests in our strong sense of community, the SPIRIT values which we celebrate and live by, our commitment to realising the potential of our young students, and providing a balanced education that addresses the academic, social, emotional, cultural and physical aspects of our students’ lives.

Websites, Facebook and online Newsletters are rarely able to capture the true magic of any school. As a lover of words, I am only too aware that the way in which we communicate, the language we choose, has great power and purpose. You will read many words during your time at Stretton. Our College words will help us progress, share and celebrate our thoughts, moods, passions, hopes and beliefs; they will give considered form to our reflections on what we do and how we’re progressing with your child’s education and learning; they will help us rationalise, delve, cajole, create and invent. In so doing, our Stretton communication will empower us to connect with you from the heart and soul of our Stretton ‘skin’. I hope that you gain much from our communication in its various forms during your time as part of the Stretton family of happy learners.

The relationship between words and action is one I find particularly interesting. It is vital that what we say we do is reflected in what we actually do here at Stretton. All too often, words and lofty academic jargon become an end in themselves and can alienate many people – myself included! We want our Stretton common language to focus on the reality of learning P-12. We don’t want skillfully crafted language used to abrogate our responsibility for student outcomes. Achievement, action, and successful performance is what characterizes our College. As parents and caregivers, I hope you witness this throughout your child’s learning journey. I hope that our Stretton ‘words’ have real impact in the lives of the students in our care, and I hope that you see our strategic intent reflected through your child’s successful experience in our College.

“My task, which I am trying to achieve is, by the power of the written word, to make you hear, to make you feel--it is, before all, to make you see.”
— Joseph Conrad, Lord Jim

Of course, we also will be hosting Tea and Talk tours again this year, and we would invite you to participate in one of these mornings so that you can see for yourself why it is that Stretton State College has become so well known and respected in the wider community as a place of quality education.

This year we have welcomed many new staff to our College. The strength of our College lies undoubtedly in the fact that we have an amazing staff who are dedicated to the development of each young person’s talents and abilities. 2014 is going to be a year of groundbreaking initiatives with our first ever Musical and Stretton Football Academy to name a few. Our staff are the pillar of strength for our College, and their excitement about providing your children with a challenging, enriching and supportive learning environment is invigorating! On a daily basis, as I walk around the College, I witness teachers instilling a passion for learning within a culture of respect. Everything we do from the first day at Stretton to the final day of Year 12, is done with your child in mind. Our goal is to inspire your children; to encourage them to dream; take control of their lives and create their own bright futures.

May 2014 be the best year yet!

Until next time,

Jan Maresca
Executive Principal

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THIS YEAR’S AGM OF THE P & C @ STRETTON!

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

You are cordially invited to attend this year’s P & C Annual General Meeting to be held Wednesday 19th February, in the Bean Scene coffee shop (adjacent to Illaweena Canteen) from 4.00 pm – 5.00 pm.

At this meeting, elections for the following office bearers for the P & C will occur: President/Vice-President/Treasurer/Secretary.
If you would like to be a valued member of our P & C Executive, please come along and nominate for one of these positions. The way we work together in the Stretton College Community, and the nature of our relationships with each other, has a profound impact on the education of your child.

Research has shown that parent involvement in a child’s education makes a significant contribution to a child’s success at school. Becoming a member of the P & C, and in particular on the P & C Executive is one way in which you can become more involved in your child’s educational journey as well as help the development and improvement of our wonderful College. Much work has already been done to ensure positive community support exists at Stretton, but there is always more to achieve!

**How do I nominate?** You can fill in the form on the link below – and return it in a sealed envelope to:

Mrs Jan Maresca, Executive Principal;
or you can nominate in person on the night.

If there is more than 1 nomination for each position, a secret ballot will be held for the position, and results announced immediately.

I look forward to a harmonious relationship with our P & C which works closely with the College Leadership Team, Parents, Students and all Staff by promoting positive community support in 2014.

Hoping to see new and returning parents on Wednesday 19th February.

**Warm regards,**

Jan Maresca
Executive Principal

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**Associate Principal News**

**Meet and Greet**

The annual meet and greet is a great opportunity for parents and staff to build or strengthen the links between the College and home. Thank you to everyone on both campuses who were able to make the time come along and put faces to the names. This was an informal meeting and we are always happy to discuss the learning program and opportunities with parents. There will be formal Parent Teacher evenings held to support the report cards issued at the end of the first term and first semester. We look forward to increased involvement in our P&C, and your attendance at College events like our Musical and Awards ceremonies throughout the year.

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**Student Leader Induction Ceremony**

On Tuesday 18 February the student leaders across the College will be presented with their badges in front of their Parents, Community Representatives and selected Year levels. This is our first formal ceremony of the year and will also include Honours Award presentations to our Scholarship Recipients and Year 12 Graduates who achieved an OP from 1 to 5. The College looks forward to an inspired year of leadership from this wonderful group of students.

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**Gowan Principal News**

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the various members of our Stretton State College Community for making the beginning of the 2014 school year a great success. We now have over 1035 students on our Gowan Campus which is an absolute testament to the great school that Stretton is. We look forward to forging even stronger partnerships with each of you over the coming months and years. To the new families to our College, welcome! Rest assured that you have made the very best decision for the education of your son and/or daughter.

On our Gowan Campus we welcome over 15 new staff to our team. We are very excited that these experienced and highly qualified staff members have joined our successful team. They have all expressed to me how proud and grateful they are to be part of our College community and how they have been made to feel very welcome in their new school.

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**CAR PARK SAFETY**

I would like to thank Parents/Carers for your patience over the past days when dropping your children to school and picking them up in the afternoons. With over 1000 students on our campus, we are aware that these times are very busy in our car parks and drop off areas. To ensure the safety of our students and to show due consideration to our fellow school community members we ask you to adhere to the following protocols.

- Park only in the designated car parking places
• Do not enter the staff car park between the hours of 7.30 a.m and 4.30 p.m
• Do not park or leave your car unattended in the drop off lanes
• To access the drop off lanes, please use the left hand lane of the school driveway
• To access the car park, please use the right lane of the driveway
• Please continue to move your car as far forward as possible when in the drop off lanes
• Please follow the direction of the Stretton State College staff member
• Encourage your child to be looking out for your car.

Our first priority is always the safety of our students and their families, so we ask you to please support us with this. We are currently in discussions with Brisbane City Council in relation to our car park and hope to have some further solutions in the near future. We will keep you updated.

BEFORE SCHOOL

Our school opens at 8.15am each school day and students are supervised by members of Administration in one of the two Undercover Areas between 8.15am and 8.30am each morning. Classes begin at 8.45am and students are expected to be lined up at their designated class location at this time.

We remind parents that students are not permitted to be on the school grounds before 8.00am, unless they are involved in a supervised extra curricular activity or are registered with the Before School Care Service – Helping Hands.

I wish you the very best for the exciting term ahead here at Stretton State College. Please feel free to introduce yourself to me and to the members of our Administration Team. We look forward to seeing many of you at our weekly Gowan Assembly.

Kym Amor
Principal - Gowan Campus

Illaweena Principal News

Welcome back! I hope everyone had an enjoyable and relaxing break and feel rested and energised for the year ahead. A very special welcome to all of our new families. We are delighted you have chosen our College and assure you we will do everything in our power to ensure your children settle in quickly and happily.

GREAT START TO 2014!

It was wonderful to walk around our College on the first morning and see how smoothly and calmly the year had started for all of our students. Everyone from our little Preppies to our Year 12 Seniors were happy and ready for school. Of course, this is largely due to all the work our wonderful staff has put into preparing for the new term but it is also thanks to the great job all of you have done in making sure your children have everything they need and were looking forward to the start of school.

OUTSTANDING YEAR 12 RESULTS!

We were absolutely thrilled and very proud when the results for Year 12 were published during the holidays! While OP results are only one measure of academic success, I am delighted to report on the excellent results of the 2013 Year 12 students.

A statistical analysis of our 2013 Year 12 results reveals:

- 17.5% of students achieved an OP 1 – 5
- 42.5% of students achieved an OP 1 – 10
- 80% of students achieved an OP 1 – 15
- 98% Queensland Certificate of Education
- Well over 100 VET Certificates awarded.

These are truly exceptional results for Stretton State College. It is truly hard to explain how excited we are as a College to achieve this level of success. We have now been informed that all of our OP students have been offered a university course of their choice. Thank you to all of our College Staff for their efforts in ensuring that our students achieved these amazing results.

NEW ILLAWEENA STAFF

We are delighted to welcome a number of new staff members to the Illaweena Campus this year including: Ms Lyndal Murray (HOSEs), Mr Tony O’Keefe, Ms Anna Galbraith, Mr Pitou Leng, Ms Samantha Ouch, Mrs Julie Stewart, Mr Ben Niland-Rowe, Mr Jason Tobin, Mr Stephen Buttigieg, Ms Sonia Veitch, Ms Nicole Horne and Mrs Debbie Dunstan. They bring a wealth of talent and experience to our staff and we are fortunate to continue to attract such quality people to our College. Welcome, all!

UNIFORM

As part of our improvement agenda for 2014 we will be continuing to focus on pride in our College. We have had some huge successes in learning in 2013 and will continue to build on these in 2014. But a school community is a complex organism which is made up of many facets. A major component of a positive learning environment is school culture.

In 2014 we will continue our high profile focus on our uniform. On enrolment, all students and families sign an agreement to comply with the uniform standards set by the College community and this is endorsed by the P&C.

ATTENDANCE BOOSTS ACHIEVEMENT

A number of research studies “consistently indicate positive and statistically significant relationships between student attendance and academic achievement” (Gottfried: 2009). We stress with our students the importance of being responsible for their learning and being part of the strong learning culture at the College.

A 95% attendance rate means a student is away from school an average 2.5 days per term or 2 weeks per year. What looks like a reasonable attendance rate still has the potential to impact negatively on a student’s results. A 90% attendance rate means the student is away 1 day per fortnight or 4 weeks per school year and this is likely to have a clear effect on results.

While we recognise that students will become ill and be unable to attend on some days I am drawing your attention to the need
to be present at every opportunity. This includes being on time for the beginning of the day and each lesson. Please do not allow your student to remain home to complete assignments or when they could attend school.

I would like to challenge all students in 2014 to aim for 100% attendance!

Michael West
Principal – Illaweena Campus

Illaweena Deputy Principal News

College Photo Day

Queensland School Photography will be taking our College photographs (Illaweena Campus) on Monday the 10th February, 2014.

Family Photos will be taken on Friday the 28th February, 2014. (Gowan Sports Hall)

Students must wear their full school (formal) uniform on the day; regardless of whether they have HPE on this day. Students in the incorrect uniform will not be permitted in the photo.

To ensure a smooth running day, please note that all photographs will be supplied on a pre-paid basis only. Payment envelopes must be returned ON PHOTOGRAPHY DAY ONLY – NO EXCEPTIONS.

Parent letters and envelopes have been received by all students to deliver to you. Follow these steps to order:

1. Complete student details on the order envelope – one envelope for each child.
2. You may pay by cash, cheque, money order or credit card. If you have two or more children attending you may include the payment in one envelope, please note clearly on the outside of all envelopes that you have paid in one envelope.
3. Cheques are to be made payable to Queensland School Photography PTY LTD with your name, address and phone number written on the back.
4. Tick the box for the package required.
5. Enclose the correct payment (change cannot be given).
6. Each student is to hand their individual envelope directly to the photography staff on the day of the photos when they arrive at the school hall.
7. Parents wanting to have their children photographed together, please collect a family envelope from the College administration.

If for any reason you are not satisfied with the photos taken of your child Queensland School Photography will provide a full refund.

Queensland School Photography will accept late orders for individual and group photographs, however a late fee to cover postage and handling will apply.

If you have any questions, or wish to place a late group order please feel free to contact Queensland School Photography’s customer service department on 07 3807 9601.

Uniform Policy

It’s great to see so many students in sparkling new uniforms and having our colours worn with such obvious pride. The senior school boys have taken to the new Stretton ties really well and although they are not compulsory until Term 2 a great many of the boys have been practicing their knot-tying and wearing the tie.

Year 7 and 10 girls are the two year levels to start phasing in the panama hat to ease the burden on large families. The students have until the 18th of February to purchase the hats and we have plenty in stock.

Many thanks from the administration team for the efforts made by families to have our students looking so smart.

Please follow the link below to view our uniform policy.

Drew Jell
Deputy Principal - Illaweena

Immunisation Program for Year 8 and Year 10 students

Our school is participating in Queensland Health’s annual School Based Vaccination Program. For Year 8 and Year 10 students, the program provides free chickenpox vaccinations. Male and Female students will also be offered vaccination for Human Papillomavirus (HPV) as protection against cervical cancer.

Chickenpox

Our Year 8 students are eligible to receive one dose of chickenpox vaccine if they have not previously had chickenpox or been vaccinated against it. If you do not have a reliable history of your child having had chickenpox or you are unsure, then it is advisable to have the vaccination. If your child is aged 14 years and in Year 8, please read the consent form for further information.

Human Papillomavirus (HPV)

Male and Female students in Year 8 are being offered immunisation against HPV. This involves three doses of vaccine given over six months. It is important that you read the information in the consent forms. The vaccinations will be conducted by a team of specially trained registered nurses and/or a medical practitioner. The vaccination team will be visiting the school to give the free vaccinations on the following dates:

FIRST VISIT Tuesday 04 March 2014 Time: 12:00pm (HPV 1/Boostrix)

SECOND VISIT Tuesday 13 May 2014 Time: 12:00pm (HPV 2/Cpox)

THIRD VISIT Tuesday 28 October 2014 Time: 12:00pm (HPV 3)
Year 10 male and female students will be offered a Diphtheria Tetanus and Whooping Cough Booster. The Year 10 male students will also be offered the Human Papillomavirus vaccine.

Only students who have a completed and signed consent form/s (ticked yes) will be vaccinated. If you would like your child to be vaccinated, please fill in the consent form/s and return the form/s to the school.

Booklets requiring completion will be coming home on Monday 10 February – to be returned to the office by 3:00pm Thursday 13 February.

NAPLAN Date Claimer

Wednesday 12 and 13 February lessons 1 and 2; NAPLAN practice test Years 7 and 9

Tuesday APRIL 1, TUESDAY APRIL 29 AND FRIDAY MAY 9: Turbo Days (Targeted literacy, numeracy and problem solving days)

Tuesday 13 May to Friday 16 May: NAPLAN test dates

Gowan Deputy Principal News

Prep’s First Week

Welcome back to the 2014 school year. I would like to give a very special welcome to our 145 new prep students and wish them all the very best for their future education here at Stretton State College.

We have had a fantastic start to the new year with students settling well into classrooms and displaying the SPIRIT of respect and responsibility well by wearing their uniform correctly.

I look forward to working with each of your students and getting to know you over the year.

Yours in the SPIRIT

Tam Dimech
Deputy Principal

Gowan Deputy Principal News

Welcome to 2014

Gowan Campus is once again humming with the sound of students rekindling friendships, teachers establishing relationships and families enjoying a warm Stretton SPIRIT welcome.

Congratulations to our students who have represented their families and the College with pride during the first few weeks of the 2014 school year. I have been fortunate enough to spend time in our classrooms and have been impressed with the culture of learning being established by our teachers and students.

The Stretton SPIRIT Values have set the positive tone for our campus establishing a strong foundation for the year ahead. I must extend a special mention to all the boys from Year 4 to Year 6 who have demonstrated ‘Respect and Responsibility’ when wearing their new formal uniforms. The positive comments about their appearance have been overwhelming from both students and families.

As educators we pride ourselves on meeting the needs of all our students and strive for excellence in everything we do. We aim, along with our families to be wonderful role models for your children, because we will be the window through which many children will see their future. (Thomas McKinnon)

Around the grounds photos of our students enjoying the start to 2014.

From the P & C Association

Throughout the Stretton State College Parent’s & Citizen’s Association hosts various events that your children can participate in. Our regular events are: Easter Raffle, Mothers’ & Father’s Day Stalls, Holiday Raffles, Gowan Campus Disco, to name just a few. There are also various departmental fundraising events going on throughout the year, Sports Day BBQ’s, Instrumental Music Raffles on Showcase Evenings and Concerts, the annual HPV Racing event, and many more.

Funds raised are utilised for the betterment of your children’s education and enjoyment of their College surrounds. This could be for repair or upgrade of playgrounds and shade covers, new instruments for music group, funding for Sports equipment and HPV events, new books for the Library and other resources that assist your child’s learning and mental growth.

Stretton Volunteers is an ever-growing group of parents, grandparents, and friends within our College Community who are able to help out with the above fundraising projects during the course of the year. On Facebook, Stretton Volunteers is a “closed group” and is used as a central communication hub for anyone within the Stretton State College Community who may...
be able to volunteer their time at various fundraising events, in the Canteens or Uniform Shop throughout the year!

If you are a non-Facebook user, we also communicate via email through: www.strettonvolunteers@gmail.com

It’s easy to join - either send a Friend Request via Facebook, or email Wendy at the gmail address above to be added to the recipient list. Even if you still have children at home, you are welcome to bring them along, we can always find plenty for them to do as well. We hope you can join our ever-growing Stretton Volunteers Group and look forward to meeting you soon.

Our Motto: “Volunteers don’t just DO the work, they MAKE it work…..TOGETHER”. The College can always use a hand from you at some point throughout the year, you just need to get on board! and Everyone is welcome.

Reminder: The P&C meets on the third Wednesday of every month (except during School Holidays) from 4pm on the Illaweena Campus, see the Newsletter throughout the year for details and updates.

Next Meeting is our AGM: Wednesday, 19th February 2014 from 4pm on Illaweena Campus

From the Business Service Manager

Student Resource Scheme

Thank you to the families that have participated in the scheme so early in the school year. We appreciate the time you have taken from your schedules to ensure your student has access to the resources for the beginning of the year. This includes the student diary/planner, textbooks and library resources.

For those families that have not yet participated in the scheme, please click on the link attached and complete the final page of the document, return it with your payment to either Gowan or Illaweena Administration, to ensure that your student has access to the resources that assist in the learning of the curriculum.

Purpose of the Resource Scheme

In accordance with the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006, the cost of instruction, administration and facilities for the education of students enrolled at State Schools, who are Australian citizens or permanent residents or children of Australian citizens or Australian residents, is met by the state.

Parents/carers are directly responsible for providing textbooks and other personal resources for their children while attending school. In recognition that these costs can be high, the College operates a Student Resource Scheme (SRS) that enables a Parent/Carer to enter into an agreement with the College, that, for a specified annual participation fee, provides for the temporary use by the student, prescribed textbooks and/or other resources, and/or the purchase of many consumables and materials for the student.

The scheme is not used to raise funds for any other purpose that to provide resources for your student. Participation fees are directly applied to fund the service delivered by the scheme. The scheme provides the entire package for the specified participation fee and is not available in parts unless specifically discussed and signed by the College Principal.

The Student Resource Scheme includes workbooks and/or educational resources that, in the absence of the scheme, would normally be purchased by the parent for the student to use at school. The scheme may also include printed material such as workbooks and worksheets, produced by the College in lieu of prescribed texts.

Benefits of the Scheme

- Students have the required resources for their education while at school.
- The benefits form the savings that the College can secure through bulk purchases and discounts are passed onto families.
- The Scheme saves parent/carers time and money in sourcing the appropriate textbooks, e-learning resources and other material supplied under the scheme.

Student Resource Scheme (SRS) – Terms and Conditions

Participation in the scheme is voluntary. A parent’s decision to participate is based on the consideration of the value afforded by the scheme. If a parent chooses to participate in the scheme and completes the Participation Agreement Form, a fee will be due and payable.

On lodgement of the completed Participation Agreement Form with the College and payment of the participation fee in accordance with the agreed payment arrangement, the College will provide the items to the student for use as they are required.

Payment of the participation fee by the parent is a requirement for continued participation in the scheme. An unpaid fee will be subject to the College’s debt recovery processes and withdrawal of resources included in the scheme.

A parent who does not wish to join the scheme is responsible for providing the student with the items that would otherwise have been provided to the student by the scheme to enable them to engage with the curriculum. Detailed lists are available in the Subject Selection Booklets and Administration.

All items provided for temporary student use by the scheme remain the property of the College and shall be returned at the end of the education program or school year or when the student leaves the school, whichever is the earlier. Items provided for temporary student use shall be kept in good condition by the student. Where an issued item is lost or negligently damaged or not returned, the parent may be invoiced and required to pay the replacement cost of the item.

The Student Resource Scheme does not include:
Before a student can be considered for participation in an optional school activity, a parent is expected to have:

- Fully paid all outstanding fees or
- Paid the Student Resource Scheme and other outstanding fees up to and including the week in which the school activity takes place or
- Made regular on-going payments towards these fees, as previously arranged with the Business Services Manager or
- Been exempted by the College Principal from paying all or part of these fees.

A student, whose parent has joined the Student Resource Scheme but not paid the participation fee, will continue to be provided with instruction, administration and facilities for their education, however the student will have workbooks and resources withheld and will not be considered to participate in optional school activities, camps, excursions, senior jerseys, the formal etc.

Parents experiencing financial hardship are encouraged to contact the Business Services Manager to discuss payment resourcing options that may be available to accommodate their circumstances. Onus of proof of being so affected is on the parent.

College policy endorsed by the P&C is that prior to any school activities, excursions, camps, Senior Jerseys, Senior Formal etc. All SRS and subject fees should be finalised, or if on an agreed Payment Plan – payments are up to date. Exceptions are approved by the College Principal only. Should you be experiencing financial difficulties, please contact the Business Services Manager to arrange a payment plan.

Parents will be charged a pro rata participation fee for a student who enrols after the first week of school, calculated on a 40-week school year basis.

**Liberal News**

**Literacy at Stretton**

**TIPS TO HELP YOUR CHILD WITH THEIR HOME READING**

**BEFORE READING:**

- Talk about the title of the story and what they think might happen in the book.
- Talk about who the characters may be.
- Go through the book and talk about each page. What can you see? What is happening?
- Find any sight words they already know and discuss any very tricky words that come up.

**READING THE BOOK:**

- Let your child read the book the whole way through without interrupting. If your child stops and looks at you, ask them to have a go at using one of the reading star strategies to help them through.
- Use reading star prompts to help them if they get stuck.
- For lower readers, encourage your child to point to the words while they are reading.

**AFTER READING:**

- Discuss what happened in the book and ask them to retell the events in order.
- Tell them something they did really well (e.g. I like when you made that mistake on this page and then you fixed it and said ….. How did you know to fix it?)
- Go back and find a mistake they made and discuss it with your child (e.g. On this page you said….. Did that make sense? Why not?)
- Ask various levels of questions about the book to help with comprehension (Where does the story take place? Which is your favourite part of the story and why? Predict what you think is going to happen next. Why do you think this? Why did the author choose this title? What genre is the story and how do you know this? Have you ever been in a similar situation to a character in the book? What happened?)

**MOST IMPORTANTLY, HAVE FUN!**

Reading is fun and we want the children to LOVE reading! If your child is getting upset or frustrated, put it away and come back to it later.

If the book is too difficult or too easy, make an appointment with your child’s teacher to ensure the appropriate level and text is sent home.

There is often a reason why your child’s teacher is giving texts that are easier to read or texts that are a little challenging.
Praise your child for their fantastic effort!

What does a successful reader look like?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FLUENT</th>
<th>WIDE VOCABULARY</th>
<th>COMPREHEND</th>
<th>KNOWLEDGE OF TEXTS AND TEXTUAL FEATURES</th>
<th>KNOWLEDGE OF THE WORLD</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• solve words easily, efficiently and rapidly</td>
<td>• knows a variety of words</td>
<td>• retrieve information explicitly stated in text</td>
<td>• can identify what type of text they are reading</td>
<td>• can make connections between new and previously learned content</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• use expression in voice to convey meaning</td>
<td>• not only knows the meaning, but also the context the word can be used in</td>
<td>• can make inferences based on ideas and information in text</td>
<td>• can explain the purpose of a particular type of text and genre</td>
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<tr>
<td>• notice punctuation and use it to guide phrasing</td>
<td></td>
<td>• interpret and evaluate texts by reflecting on and assessing the content, structure and language used</td>
<td></td>
<td>• can make connections between new and previously learned content</td>
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<tr>
<td>• slow down to problem solve if needed</td>
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<tr>
<td>• return to the text to find evidence to support their opinions and answers</td>
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Books for Babies

Welcome to our new school year, my name is Karen Jeffrey and I am the BOOKS for BABIES Co-ordinator. My role is to welcome our new babies born into our school community.

If you have had a baby recently please contact the Gowan school office so that we can get your details and arrange a parade time to present you and your baby a book pack.

Each new school community member receives a book pack containing a story book for the newest member and a fantastic book for Mum and Dad – Mem Fox “Reading Magic - How to teach your child how to read before they start school.”

The Stretton State College P and C are extremely supportive of this project and have again funded the program to run this year. The value of reading to and with your children is of enormous value to your child’s education.

Happy reading.

Karen Jeffrey
Books for Babies Co-ordinator

Canteen News

Welcome to all our new and existing parents at Stretton. Due to the overwhelming response to Flexi School Fridays in 2013 on the Gowan Campus we have gone with Flexi School Ordering on a fulltime bases for our Gowan Students. If you have not already registered for flexi schools, please log onto the website www.flexischools.com.au to register your child/children. For those families who are already registered for Flexi Schools please remember to update your child/children’s classes for 2014.
This year we will be running our ever popular Meal Deals Days of a Wednesday for our Gowan Students. Look out for information coming home with your student.

If you have some time and wish to volunteer in our Canteen, please contact Sharon Lau on 3723 0222 to register your interest in our Volunteer Loyalty Program.

Sports News

2014 is going to be a massive year for sport! We kick it off immediately with our Inter-house Swimming Carnival for Illaweena Campus; Interschool Sport selections for Year 4-12; the Stretton State College Football Academy; Girlsport Academy and the Australian Sports commission After School Care. Please read on or look at the links below for more information!

Exciting happenings at Stretton State College in 2014!!!

Stretton State College After School Sport Program!

On Tuesday and Thursday afternoons next year from 3:15pm to 4:15pm we will be running the Active After-school Communities (AASC) program. This Australian Government program is run by the Australian Sports Commission and provides opportunities for primary school children to participate in free sport and other structured physical activity, after school.

This term a diverse and dynamic AASC program has been put together for children to enjoy including Soccer and AFL. The activities focus on increasing physical activity and improving skills in a fun, safe and inclusive environment.

To ensure children can take advantage of this excellent opportunity, we encourage parents to allow them to participate for the full hour and to pick them up after the program concludes.

If you would like further information on the AASC program please contact Kristen Jansen.

Girlsport Academy

Girlsport Academy is an initiative to increase involvement for girls in Sport. It aims to create opportunities to increase participation, skill and enjoyment at all levels, while providing state of the art nutrition, sport psychology and fitness testing. The sports currently in focus are netball, football (soccer) and volleyball. Girlsport Academy is currently running in NSW and Victoria and beginning in Schools through Queensland this year.

Stretton State College has secured a partnership with Girlsport Academy and intends to offer this to girls in 2014 as part of the current sporting programs. Students who wish to participate in the Girlsport Academy will have access to training sessions and information sessions for two hours per week. This is an extra-curricular activity that will utilise Stretton State College coaches, as well as external organisations. The cost to each student is $25.00 per term.

Students taking up this opportunity will receive the following:

- Membership card
- Water bottle
- Shirt
- 10% discount on Girlsport Academy Merchandise

Please contact Ms Jansen for more details!

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wd2d4bencY

Girlsports Academy

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EQL_GE41fXQ

Teachers Versus Students

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CwVlUve6cZg

Sports Update:

Inter-House Swimming Carnival

Stretton State College’s 2014 Interhouse Carnival for swimming will be held this week. The carnival will be held at Hibiscus Swim Complex Klumpp Road, Mt Gravatt on Friday 7th February 2014. This is an excellent opportunity for our students to participate at a high level and develop and improve their skills.

To be eligible to participate in this activity the Resource Scheme fee for your student must be paid (this includes full payment, significant deposit or payment arrangements as negotiated with the Business Services Manager) with or prior to the submission of the permission form.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What:</th>
<th>2014 Interhouse Swimming Carnival</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Where:</td>
<td>Hibiscus Swim Complex Klumpp Rd Mt Gravatt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When:</td>
<td>Friday 7th February 2014</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cost: $10.00
Transport: Bus
What to bring:

Students must be in sports uniform or House Coloured Clothes.