Hi Everyone,

It was fantastic to catch up with so many parents at the parent information sessions held after school on Monday. We had a wonderful roll up and our teachers provided information on Homework expectations, spelling strategies, class routines and assessment processes. We also provided details on our new “RAVES” which are individual learning goals for every student. This system is being implemented throughout the whole school. Primary teachers will be collating your child’s RAVES and sending them home in coming weeks. If you have any questions about your child’s goals please make an appointment with our teachers to get the clarification you require.

Remember that emailing is a great way of keeping in touch with teachers and if you would like to send a message to your child’s teacher please send the email to admin@prostonss.eq.edu.au and our office ladies will ensure your email is passed on to teachers.

Our school website www.prostonss.eq.edu.au is being regularly updated with information for parents and it is worth looking at this site for up to date information on what is happening at school.

The recent weather events have impacted on home and school over the last 5 weeks and our fingers are crossed for no more flooding, some sunshine to dry everything out and the chance for all students to return to school for a full week. Our teachers are very aware of the learning time we have lost and are modifying their planning and assessment to ensure all students are on an equal footing. If you have any questions about your child’s learning this term please make a time to talk with our teachers. They are always more than willing to meet with you as we work together to educate your child.

Last week I attended the 2013 State Principal’s Conference in Brisbane where the outline for our new Pedagogical Framework (the “HOW” of teaching) and the new Community Engagement and Participation Framework were launched. While we have a lot of work to do, the work is exciting and will lead us in the right direction for the benefit of our children’s learning and academic outcomes.

Congratulations to our new P&C Executive for 2013 – and thank you to everyone for the work they did supporting the P&C in 2012. Thank you to all who attended our first meeting for the year and for those of you who have accepted positions on the team. It is vital for our school to have as many families involved in our school operations and supporting our school home partnerships for the success of all students. Just a reminder that our P&C meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month and that the new meeting time is 7pm to enable all parents who work to attend the meeting.

We are currently completing a review of the distribution of our Proston Pennies and have appreciated the feedback from many parents. Our School Wide Positive Behaviour Program is one that we constantly need to review and modify and adapt our practices for, to ensure we are going from good to great. Thanks for your support and feedback.

This week and next week we have scheduled a lock down drill and a fire drill to ensure all students understand the processes for these emergency procedures. Due to the high numbers of students unable to attend school due to flooded roads we are late with these drills. Please talk to your young children about emergencies and the difference between a fire drill and a lockdown drill. We practice drills every term throughout the school year.

We are in the process of reviewing our Rural Program and looking at ways we can engage our students in meaningful and real life learning and provide more work experience opportunities in the rural industry. If you are interested in joining a team of community members with the key role of advising us on ways we can provide support to our students, develop our school farm and provide our young people with the skills they require for career pathways in the rural industry, please call or email me the.principal@prostonss.com.au by next Friday 15th March so that I can coordinate a meeting to discuss your ideas and ways you are able to help us develop our program. I propose to hold this meeting on Wednesday 20th March at 5:30pm so that it is before the P&C meeting, making it one trip into town for everyone. Will keep you posted on the new frameworks we will be developing over the year.

Warm Regards, Ree
Easterfest Camp
Join a group of your friends on SU Qld Easterfest Camp. You get a Premium Ticket which includes free music downloads, early access to the Main stage and Big Top night programs, exclusive shows with feature artists, headline artist signings and loads of discounts.

Accommodation is offsite, only a short 5 minute bus ride from the Easterfest site. Head down the road into the town centre to check out the artists on show or grab a bite to eat in one of the many great cafes Toowoomba has to offer.

Get your Chaplain or Youth leader involved and get in quick as places are limited.

Price: $185.00
Where: Centenary Heights High School
When: Friday 29 March – Monday 1 April 2013
Grades: 10 - 12 (Co-Ed)
Director: Nathan Grady (0411 463 594)
Email: Easterfestcamp@sucamps.org.au

If you require more information please call Chappy at Proston State School (07) 4169 4333.

Important Dates to Remember
- Parent/Teacher Interviews - Tuesday 12th March
- School Photos - Tuesday 19th March

Please ensure your child/children are wearing the correct school uniform for photos.

Brisbane School of Distance Education
Keep up the great work Nic!

Nic Urban has been invited by the Brisbane School of Distance Education to participate in Project 600. The aim of the project is to extend students’ reading and comprehension skills and to develop their critical thinking and technology skills; making good readers great readers.

Nic was the only Year 5 student at Proston State School eligible to be a part of the project. He participates in lessons online every Monday and Wednesday with students from three other schools in Queensland and has set tasks that he must complete every week.
Greetings from K Block

This fortnight’s award winners:
Daniel Humphrey – recognising rhyming words
Nathaniel Flick – good work with addition
Eliza Humphrey – being a great partner in the ‘Heel and Toe’ dance
Harrison Wieland - being a great partner in the ‘Heel and Toe’ dance
Lachlan Wilson - being a great partner in the ‘Heel and Toe’ dance
Leighton Blanch - being a great partner in the ‘Heel and Toe’ dance
Lorna Smith – good use of letter/sound knowledge to sound out words
Dominic Malone – Pink level sight words
Corey McCullough – Aqua level sight words
Jake Harrold – an excellent effort in following the THRASS alphabet rap. Well done!
Dominic Malone – great participation in class discussions
Jade Dalton – increased classroom involvement. Congratulations and Thank-you!
Mick Gulish – a fantastic start to the new year. Congratulations for your increased classroom involvement

Another busy fortnight in K Block! The children have been VERY busy with the opening of the sandpit (it has been shut due to all the wet weather). Nearly all the children from K Block could be found in the sandpit at both breaks, trying to dig their way to China! They were very excited when they dug so deep they hit water. We then had to introduce some ‘new’ rules to ensure we were playing safely.

As part of our Arts unit, Dance, the children have been learning the moves to Heel and Toe. Each Monday we spend time practising and it has been sooo much fun watching the children co-ordinate themselves, remember which is their right and left hands and try and move quickly to keep up with the music. You will get an invitation very shortly to our end of term Bush dance celebration.

Over the last fortnight we have been busy talking about our academic goals for the coming term. This program is called RAVES: Realistic Achievable Valuable Educational Success. Each child has been supported in choosing three maths goals and three language goals. A note will be sent home to each household to explain this program and you will also be receiving a letter outlining what your child’s goals are in the coming weeks.

Thanks to everyone for all their support with readers and homework over the last couple of weeks and a MASSIVE thank you to our parent helpers. It makes our rotations work all that much easier. Remember, if you are able to give us a hand on a Tuesday and Thursday morning from 9-11, that would be fantastic. We would also appreciate help at other times; just let us know when you can help us out!

See you at the Show!

Fiona Gill and Sonia Steele

School Banking Day Reminder

Don’t forget that Wednesday is School Banking day and students should bring in their weekly deposit. For every deposit made at school, no matter how big or small, students will receive a cool Dollarmites token. The first token will be received upon the first deposit at school. Once students have individually collected 10 tokens they can then be redeemed for a range of great, exclusive reward items in recognition of their continued savings behaviour.

Thank you for supporting the School Banking program at Proston State School.

Year 5/6 News

It is great to see all the 5/6 students back at school after the rain we have received. We have been working hard this term so far, working on improving multiplication, facts and spelling. We have created a Multiplication Ladder in our room for students to move their feet up the ladder each time they can recite their multiplication tables to me. The students are very proud of this achievement and they are able to visually see where they are positioned within the class. This also has provided them with an large incentive to learn their tables. Well done 5/6!!!

Our English unit has allowed students to listen to some humorous short stories and discuss plot structure and character traits. Students have enjoyed this as it enables them to become skilled at writing their own engaging humorous stories.

Technology has been a lot of fun with students moving to the next phase of their boat building activities. Please assist your child by reminding them to bring from home different items such as plastic bottles and light timber to build their boats at school.

Please ensure you return the parent teacher forms as I would love to meet as many of you as I can and touch base with you regarding student progress.

Mrs Waterford
From the Paddock - Rural Studies Report

The last few weeks have been very interesting on the farm. The students have been working extremely hard and the rain has been continuously falling.

We have put in more round posts in the yard and have attached the gates to improve how we are able to work the herd. Thanks to some helpers and the loan of a tractor we were also able to work the pasture paddock and plant some forage sorghum. With the rain this is now well established and at the height of 3 feet. The vegetable patch is now also planted with tomatoes (varieties include Grosse Lisse, Tommy Toes) and basil. The students have also put in the anchor posts, the trickle-tape watering system and the steel posts ready to stake the tomatoes. The year 10s this semester will be putting in trial plots of pasture ranging from Lucerne to grasses, which is going to be a very exciting project.

Unfortunately the rain has also meant that we will be unable to attend the local shows this year. We are very disappointed that we are unable to have the cattle trained and ready. Access to our paddocks and yards has been very restricted and this has put us behind. Hopefully we can attend some alternate shows later in the year.

We have some grand plans this year with fencing, crop development and training new weaners. Our curriculum program has also changed this year and will be more school based instead of relying on outside sources. With these changes comes a need for community support. I appreciate all the assistance we have had in the past and hopefully we can continue these links and make some more.

I would like to thank those who have assisted us over the break with the cattle and chickens, especially Noel Chesterton, Mr Carfoot and the Rea family. Thanks also need to go out to Keith and Jeffrey Steinhardt as well as Keith Ramke for giving up their weekend and for the use of their equipment in working the ground and putting in the yard posts, that were kindly donated by J B.

Until Next time
Sophia Steinhardt

The dam overflowing at Rural Studies!

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Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Update

This week we had our first official week in the kitchen and finally in the GARDEN! After so much rain the garden needed some love and attention. The students really enjoyed finally getting our there, digging, planting and weeding! In the kitchen this week we made homemade pasta from scratch. It was a very interesting morning. We made the dough as a whole class, and then everyone helped roll it out. Then each group went and made a delicious cheesy filling to put inside so we could make Ravioli. The pasta was then made into ravioli and then cooked quickly in some boiling water. We topped it off with a yummy butter herb sauce. It was a great week in the kitchen and garden. Thank you to all our helpers! It was great to see some new faces. Anyone who wants to come and help is always welcome - Tuesdays from 9am to 10.50am!

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Year 3/4 News

Thank you to all parents who came to school on Tuesday afternoon for a very successful parent information sessions! It was great to see the children excited and they all had fun showing everyone around the room (especially the fish tank). For those of you who were unable to make it, I hope to see you soon at the parent teacher interviews next week! We discussed homework going home every fortnight, Kitchen Garden and how it links to Technology, Science, English and Maths, Reading Groups involving Year 3,4,5, and 6 that occur three times a week and we also discussed the Year 3 and 4 assessment for Term 1. If you have any questions about any of this information please feel free to contact me. One thing that I forgot to mention was our class RAVES. Realistic, Achievable, Valuable, Educational, Successes. Each student in our class has discussed with me three literacy and three numeracy goals that they would like to achieve this term. We have been working on these goals in class and you will notice in this week’s homework the children are working on their writing goal. We have a giant display of these goals in our classroom, if you would like to come and have a look or ask any questions!

Miss O’Sullivan

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