Hello Neerigen Brook Families and Community Members

Earlier this term our middle and senior students listened to some positive and confident speeches from their peers. The Year 6 students who were interested in applying for leadership positions showed respect to themselves and our school through their hard work and effort to write and practise their speeches. Congratulations to the 2016 student leadership team who are:

**STUDENT LEADERS:**
- Taessia Mana
- Elisabeth Avey
- Jason Cole
- Alex Harbord
- Kayla Fairbain
- Ali Abboud and Jayden Read

**FACTION CAPTAINS:**
- Naledi Tafira
- Salim Youssef
- Skye Deppeler
- Kade Derschow
- Rollien Sanchez
- Eh Nay Di Htoo

**IT MONITORS**
- Utanga Rongo
- James Stribbling
- Alex Harbord

**LIBRARY MONITORS**
- Ashley O’Neill
- Grace Shatford
- Evie Heynen
- Braydon Steedman
- Sam Stanton
- Tarj Gregory

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**Easter Reminder**
Our school will be closed for Easter on Good Friday, Easter Monday and Easter Tuesday. All students will return to school on Wednesday 30 March.

**Gates**
To support the safety of our students and school community most of the school’s gates are now locked between 9am and 2pm. All visitors to the school, including our wonderful volunteers and parents who are dropping in lunches, must report to the office to sign in and receive a visitor’s badge. The gate near the bus stop on Seventh Road will be left open so that our school community can access the main office after using the street parking around the school. We appreciate everyone’s support and understanding with this matter.

Thank you

**Parking & Safety**
As our school continues to grow, the parking around the school continues to be stretched. We met with the City of Armadale and the Department of Education last year who are working together to try and organise more parking for us. Unfortunately this isn’t likely to be a quick fix. For the safety of our kids and our school community we ask everyone to model respect at all times when they are driving or parking around our school. We also ask that you help us remind our children about road safety on the way to and from school, as well as on weekends, as we’ve heard of some ‘near misses’ recently with children running in front of traffic.

**Evacuation Drill**
In Week 7 this term (14-18 March) we’ll be having an Evacuation/Fire practice. This will mean that an evacuation will be called with three short bursts of the siren and/or over the PA. During the practice all students and adults on the school site will need to make their way to the oval. It’s important that during the evacuation any parents/caregivers/visitors who are at school also walk to the oval so that we can practise our evacuation procedures.

Jane Wescott
Principal
B eing a bit of a chocoholic, I love Easter, especially the caramel and Turkish delight filled little eggs. The hot cross buns go down a treat too! But for me, it’s more than that. It’s a reminder of sacrifice, hope, great love and forgiveness.

From time to time I re-read a story about a group of Uni students who were given an assignment. They were required to carry a sack; they weren’t allowed to put it down and needed to sleep with it. Every day a potato was added. For the first few days it wasn’t a hindrance, but, as potatoes were added it started to become a huge nuisance; it was heavy, got in the way of having fun, it impacted on their relationships, the potatoes began to rot and smell dreadful. The students became irritable, annoyed, very unhappy and found themselves wanting to withdraw from life.

The Tutor explained ‘this is what unforgiveness looks like. In the long run it does not impact on the other person, it impacts you’.

Through my journeys in life, I have learnt the power of forgiveness, not just for the person who wronged us, but, more importantly for ourselves. Unforgiveness keeps us in prison, but forgiveness sets us free. Forgiving doesn’t always let the other person off scot free, there is a saying ‘do the crime, do the time’, but it ‘frees us’ to enjoy life to the full as it was intended.

One of the greatest gifts you can give yourself is the gift of forgiveness.

HAPPY EASTER.

The year fives and sixes in Room 17 have been working extremely hard to get this year underway. As part of our growth mindset we have written some SMART goals that we want to achieve this term and all our students have been striving to achieve them. We are consistently learning new things and trying new strategies to help us improve in all aspects of our learning. The Room 17 fives and sixes show they are BEST students by learning in different ways, both at their desk and as a collaborative class on the mat.