Dear Parents and students

Yangan State School's 2013 Annual Implementation Plan was presented for endorsement at our recent P&C Meeting. This plan sets the direction of the school for this year taking into consideration departmental priorities, the findings from our school reviews and the uniqueness of our school.

School improvement is always a part of our annual implementation plan. Our school is always trying to maintain the best possible education for your child.

As a school we continue to ‘promote high expectations’ and have the belief that ‘every child is capable of success’. To this end, we have set our focus on many areas to guide our work in 2013. In particular, we will focus on the areas of READING and SPELLING. We will track our attainment of these areas by setting benchmarks and targets. We will also ask students to set their individual targets/goals for each of these aspects of their schooling.

Our teaching practice is another significant area that we will focus on this year. As educators we are constantly working to improve student outcomes. As the year progresses we will continually review and improve our whole school Teaching and Learning Framework. Explicit teaching will become one area of review.

Explicit teaching involves directing student attention toward specific learning in a highly structured environment. It is teaching that is focused on producing specific learning outcomes. Topics and contents are broken down into small parts and taught individually. It involves explanation, demonstration and practice. Students are provided with guidance and structured frameworks.

Another important characteristic of explicit teaching involves the teacher modelling skills and behaviours and modelling thinking. This involves the teacher thinking out loud when working through problems and demonstrating processes for students. The attention of students is so important and listening and observations are keys to success.

In future newsletters and parent information sessions, more detail of our improvement agenda will be shared with you.

Principal’s Conference

I will be away tomorrow and Friday attending a state conference in Brisbane for all principals in Queensland. The agenda items will include messages from the Minister of Education and the Director General of Education. The conference will focus on the importance of implementing a research-validated pedagogical framework to support excellence in teaching and learning practices and connecting with parents and the community to support successful student learning outcomes.

There will be keynote presentations by two internationally renowned experts in educational reform and community engagement – Professor Ben Levin and Dr George Otero – and a series of workshops based on Queensland case studies that have demonstrated excellence.

This conference also allows principals to discuss important issues that may be impacting on their particular school, and thus seek new ideas to assist.

During the following week I will also be away supervising teaching and learning auditors as they conduct audits in various schools. This important process in state education contributes to the ongoing state-wide improvement in teaching and learning.

As a school we are focused on improving student outcomes, and this involves working closely with parents and the community.

Miss Anna Condon is the contact teacher in my absence.
Student Council News
Yangan State School Student Council conducted their AGM on Tuesday last week. Congratulations to the new executive for 2013 as elected by their peers:
President – Anu Woodruff Becker
Secretary – Isabella Hawes and Prisca Albendia
Treasurer – Max Grayson
Leaders of Committees are:
Media and Publicity – Lindsay Payne
Fundraising – Jake Hartwig
Student Welfare – Isabella Hawes and Prisca Albendia
Community Participation – Aiden Steele
The student council is conducted to allow students to become familiar with meeting procedure, public speaking skills, adopt roles and responsibilities in various sub committees and participate in active decision making skills. There is a great deal of enthusiasm presently and we wish the students well on their future endeavours.

If you have any queries or concerns regarding your child’s education or any other school related matter, please have no hesitation in contacting the school (4664 8224) or emailing me at the.principal@yanganss.eq.edu.au

Have a great week.
Regards, Ian Rathmell

SCHOOL NEWS

Gotcha Values Awards
Improving – Hannah Gould *(for working extremely hard on her reading)*
Congratulations to Hannah as the recipient of this special award. Hannah received this award for her personal achievements and assisting and supporting fellow class members. Well done!

Word Wizard – Lachlan Kelly and Kade Atkinson *(Set 2)*
Music Award – Max Grayson *(for demonstrating initiative and dedication by independently following up on work while away)*

Year 1 Religious Instruction
Due to the unavailability of a Year 1 Religious Instruction teacher on Wednesdays, Year 1 students are participating in Religious Instruction on second Mondays from 2-3pm. If you do not wish your child to take part in these lessons, please advise the school in writing.

Head Lice
Head lice has again become active in the school. Please check your child’s head for headlice and commence treatment if required.

School Office Hours
Carolyn is in the office on Tuesdays 9.30 am – 4.00 pm, Wednesdays & Thursdays 8.00 am – 4.00 pm.

P & C NEWS

TRAIL RIDE MEETING.
This Friday the 1st of March at 9am at school. We have only 1 week from then until the trail ride. Please come along. If unable to come on Friday please contact Charlane (0437340203) or Colette (0450420184) and they will be able to discuss with you what help is needed.

THIS IS THE P & Cs MAJOR FUNDRAISING EVENT OF THE YEAR. IT RAISES FUNDS TO HELP PROVIDE A BETTER LEARNING ENVIRONMENT FOR YOUR CHILD.

Volunteers Needed!!
Raffle ticket sellers at Rose City Shopping World on Wednesday 6th March. Please sign up at the office or speak with Colette Locke to ensure we have at least two people available throughout the day.
**P&C Meeting**
Next meeting of the P&C will be held on Wednesday 6 March at 3.15pm. All are welcome.

**Hotel Raffle Ticket selling to raise P&C Funds**
If you can assist with selling tickets (in conjunction with another family or by yourself) at the Yangan Hotel even one Friday in the year, please contact the school to place your name on the roster. Selling dates just to hand: 1 March, 5 April, 10 May, 14 June, 19 July, 23 August, 27 September, 1 November, 6 December. **SOMEONE URGENTLY REQUIRED to sell tickets this Friday 1 March!**

**New name for QCPCA**
Our state parent body, formerly QCPCA, has changed its organisational structure and is now called P&Cs Qld. The change does not affect how our school P&C operates but will provide more focussed support for all state school P&C associations. Our dedicated P&C makes a vital contribution to the school community and always welcomes new members or support from volunteers. Please contact Colette 0450420184 to find out how you can get involved. [www.qc pca.org.au](http://www.qc pca.org.au)

---

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

---

**Freestone State School P&C Annual Trivia Night**
Freestone Hall, **Saturday 16 March** at 7.00pm. Nominate a team or just yourself. $10 per player, licenced bar and light supper. Phone Helena 46661726

**St Patrick’s, Allora School’s P&F ‘Rattle of the Brains’ Trivia Night**
**Friday 31st May**, starting 7pm (doors open 6:15), Allora Community Hall, Herbert Street, $10/each. Book your Table of 8 by phoning the St Patrick’s School on 4666 3551

**Orienteering Event**
Location: **Braeside** between Warwick and Stanthorpe on the New England Highway
Date: Sunday 3rd March
Starts: 9 - 11am
Cost: Adults ($7.00/$9.00) Juniors ($5.00)
Contact person: Liz Bourne phone 4683 6374 emailbatmaps@halenet.com.au

**Getting there:**
From Warwick, travel south on the New England Highway for approximately 28km. Shortly after crossing Turner Creek, turn right into Crystal Mountain Road, drive past Braeside Homestead and over a grid before turning left into a paddock and following the track to the assembly area.

**Additional details:**
There will be an open garden event at the historic Braeside Homestead on the same day as the event with funds raised going to the care for Kids hospital appeal. The grounds around the homestead and along Turner Creek have undergone extensive landscaping in recent years and are well worth a visit. The entry fee will be $10 and it will be open from 10am.
We are helping you to make your children the best they can be!

CURRICULUM CORNER

Reading to your child – hints for parents

Comics, magazines, library books, signs and even shopping lists can stimulate your child’s reading. Asking your child to read these aloud with you will improve their reading in the classroom.

You can help your child with their reading by:

- Reading to them from an early age – to let them know that reading is a fun and relaxing activity and not just for work and school. Children love to copy, so it’s a great way to set an example that reading is important
- asking your child to read aloud each day for at least 10 minutes from a variety of texts, such as beginner’s readers, library books and picture books – this will establish a routine and make reading aloud easier
- using expression and feeling when you read and using different voices for different characters – this can make a story more entertaining
- letting your child choose what you read together – it doesn’t matter if you read the same book several times
  - joining a library and borrowing books to read is inexpensive.

Harmony Day

To celebrate Harmony Day and this year’s theme: Many stories—One Australia, SBS are giving all Australians the opportunity to share their story.

Create a video, take a photo or share your written personal journey. Everyone has a story to tell, so share yours today!

There are two fantastic prize packs up for grabs:

First prize: A Canon EOS 110D SLR Camera Twin Lens Kit complete with memory card, tripod and case plus SBS’ A Day in the Life photographic book.

Second prize: An Apple iPad 4 with Retina Display 32GB WiFi + Cellular plus SBS’ A Day in the Life photographic book.

For more information, visit www.sbs.com.au/harmonystories

Book Nook Quotes

‘Outside of a dog, a book is man’s best friend. Inside of a dog it’s too dark to read.’ Groucho Marx

‘Anyone who says they have only one life to live must not know how to read a book.’ Author Unknown

FOUND

Green & black ‘Benten’ watch found in the school grounds. Contact the office if it is yours.