Dear Parents

Welcome to 2017! I hope you had a wonderful holiday and enjoyed some quality time with your children. We certainly missed them over the break and even though the holiday was relaxing, it is always nice to start the new school year and see the children again.

A special welcome to our Prep students and their families, and to our new families who have joined us for the first time. Welcome also to our new staff this year: Mrs Gabbie (4G), Mr Peterson (1P), Ms Mackie (PM) and Ms Rutkowski (Speech Pathologist). Our team supporting our English as a second language students has grown and we welcome Mrs Jennings, Mrs Carmody and Miss D’Amore to the team.

Our overall numbers as at Day 8 are an enrolment of 500 students. This has included 72 wonderful Preps who have made the transition to 'big school' very well. Similarly, our new students to our school have also found their place in our school, know their way around and have made friends.

As a result of our increase in enrolments, it is highly likely that a 21st class will be formed in the next couple of weeks. This movement will only affect our Prep and Year 1 students as the new class will be a P/1 class. A small number of students will be moved from existing Prep and Year 1 classes. Parents will be notified by phone should this affect you. No other year levels will be affected.

I am thoroughly impressed with the way students have come to school ready, eager and willing to learn. Their behaviour was so good that Mrs Aitken-Carruth organised a small ‘spot’ reward for them. The icy cold popper was welcome on such a hot day.

Over the next few newsletters I will outline our Explicit Improvement Agenda for 2017 – what are we doing at school to ensure your children are learning and their wellbeing is a priority. Additionally, I will profile various staff and give you an overview of the specific roles of our various staff teams and individuals (thank you to the P&C for this suggestion).

Until next fortnight. Stay safe.

Kim Schembri
Principal

HATS – Students must have a hat in order to play outside.

PARKING – DO NOT park in the staff carpark and certainly not in the staff allocated parking bays. Enter the Poinsettia Street gate at a low speed (10kph) drive to the end, drop your children and exit at a low speed.

START TIMES – School starts at 8.45am sharp.

FINISH TIMES – School finishes at 2.45pm. If you cannot collect your children straight after school we have information regarding the PCYC care program available for you.
FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL...

Hello Eagles, Welcome back to school. I hope that you all had a wonderful holiday. The students have started the Term very settled. So far we have not had any students in the Eagles Nest which is fantastic! Well done students.

Welcome back to all of our staff. It is great to see you all happy and healthy and enthusiastic about the Term and year ahead.

Over the last week and a half I have had the pleasure of working closely with the ten students who are our Senior Leaders. They have completed several days of auditions and scenarios that they may encounter as Captains of RESS. All of the leaders have been exceptional to work with. On Monday they all presented their speeches to the Year 4-6 Assembly. They did an amazing job and made the selection process even harder. Congratulations to: Tina, Annfal, Sean, Siale, Jacob, Altaaf, Taranim, Victoria, Kelly and Jennifer. You are wonderful RESS role models!

I am excited to be back at RESS and look forward to a great 2017.
Take care,
Mrs Aitken-Carruth - Deputy Principal

NEW SMS ATTENDANCE SYSTEM FOR STUDENTS

From Monday 13th February Richlands East State School will be commencing a new attendance management system which will see parents/caregivers receive a text message if your child is not at school by 9.30am and our office has not received any notification of their absence.

With this in mind it is even more important that you advise us of any changes to your contact details. Please do not hesitate to contact the office, on 3714 0111, should you have any questions.

News from the Culture Room

Chúc Mừng Năm Mới
Happy New Year 2017

Ms Hall and her new class in 6K thrilled us with the Vietnamese Lion Dance at our Friday parade. We celebrated Chinese New Year, the year of the Rooster. It is celebrated in China, Vietnam, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia and the Philippines. The Rooster is the 10th sign in the Chinese Zodiac Horoscope and signifies those that are hardworking, resourceful, courageous and talented. The year of the rooster begins on the 28th January with many weeks of celebrations. A tradition of the New Year is to exchange gifts, like the one on display in our school office. Come in and have a look. Children will also receive lucky red envelopes with money found inside.

Tết, (Vietnamese New Year), is the most important celebration in Vietnamese culture. Chúc Mừng Năm Mới to all and welcome back to a productive and eventful new year at Richlands East State School.
WELCOME BACK to returning students and HELLO to all our new students for 2017. I had a wonderful holiday, spending some much needed time in my garden, reading great books, swimming and generally loafing about.

This year I bring you a NEW and EXCITING MENU, and I hope you will embrace it warmly. I know some of the prices have changed, mostly due to price increases by the suppliers, but I have tried very hard to keep food as affordable and enjoyable as possible. The most exciting news is that each month we will have a SPECIAL DEAL. This item will only be available for that month and it will be at a very competitive price. The special for FEBRUARY (starting Feb 1st) is, CHICKEN NUGGETS. At only $2 for 3 it's a real bargain, so don't forget they are available everyday, but only during February and only if I have enough stock on hand for that day.

Parents, Grandparents, Aunties, Uncles are all welcome to come in and help out for an hour, a morning or a whole day in the school tuckshop or any day you would like. I'm always happy to have help and it's a delight to get to know families from the community, and your kids love seeing you at the tuckshop during break time. Just pop in and see me anytime (preferably after the morning rush) and we'll discuss how to volunteer. It's easy and quick and as I said I'm happy to have company.

I hope everyone has had a great start to 2017 and I will catch up with news on the next newsletter.

Miss Debby - Fuel Stop Tuckshop Convenor
**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24/2-24/3</td>
<td>Inala District Interschool Sport Competition - Soccer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24/2-24/3</td>
<td>Inala District Interschool Sport Competition - Rugby League</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24/2-24/3</td>
<td>Inala District Interschool Sport Competition - Netball</td>
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**Every Week**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mondays</td>
<td>Playgroup 8.45-11am, Richlands East State School, MPH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesdays</td>
<td>Free food give away, donated from Coles. Outside Administration Office, 2.45pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesdays</td>
<td>School Banking, 9am, Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon-Thurs</td>
<td>Breakfast Club 8.10am, Multipurpose Hall</td>
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| Fridays     | Years P-3 Assembly - 1.45 pm, Activities Hall |
|            | Years 4-7 Assembly - 2.15 pm, Activities Hall |

We will find out this week who will be the 2017 School Captains of Richlands East State School. They all did a great job with their speeches so it will be a close call. Congratulations to the final 10 students. You will all make great leaders at our school.

*From the Back left:* Tina, Annfal, Sean, Siale, Jacob and Altaaf.

*From the front left:* Taranim, Victoria, Kelly, and Jennifer.