Hi Everyone,

Welcome back to a new school year: I trust you all had a relaxing break or at least some quality family time. This year we opened the school with 188 very eager to learn students which was slightly down on our goal of 200. I have been informed by Regional Office that our groundsman position which was filled in the school holiday period will be full time up until June and then be reviewed. Hopefully we may pick up some extra students along the way to grow towards this target. At present 6 of our 7 classes are quite full though and if we continue to pick up extra students then we may need to consider class restructuring similar to last year when we enrolled 10 extra prep students. Anyhow we will persevere up until the 8th day of school at this stage.

New staff members welcomed: Welcome Bob, our new groundsman and Mrs Kathy Mathews who is relieving Mrs McNichol for the first 5 weeks of term then Mr Greg Venz for the second half of term one.

New prep arrangements for enrolment: The Queensland government opened prep enrolment for children born before the 31st of July 2010 at the discretion of the Principal. In order to be accepted an interview is necessary to assess the child’s readiness which includes their social and emotional development. Some of these children born in July may have already enrolled in the Kindy program and we do not wish to make any changes to their placement. However, if your child is born before the 31st of July 2010 and not enrolled in the Kindy program then you may like to make an interview for prep consideration. Please support our new prep parents over the first few weeks as it can be quite upsetting handing your child over in those early years.

Positive behaviour for Learning Program commenced: Yesterday I spoke to the parents and children on parade about the new PBL program and the three school rules proudly displayed on our new school signs. Our three school rules Be a Learner, Be Respectful and Be Safe have several expectations underlying them and each week the children will be taught these expectations. New token cards will be used also this year but the reward for 25, 50, 75 and 100 tokens will remain the same. The children will still bring these home for your signature and return to the office boxes for the end of term movie raffle. Accompanying this newsletter will be a copy of the PBL minor and major expectations and further information within. Please familiarise yourself and your children with the definition of “minor” and “major” and read through the behaviours listed under each of the categories. Thank-you for supporting our school with this program and we look forward to excellent learning opportunities ahead.

New communication diary for year 3 to 6 students initially: This year we are trialling a new school diary for every student. Today every year 3 to 6 child will bring home their own diary which we have provided for them during this trial period of term one. It is anticipated the prep to year 2 will be completed and be given to the students early next week. The purpose of the diary is to provide an opportunity to parents and teachers to communicate more effectively. The students are expected to bring their diary home and return to school every day! Notes and teacher information will be in the diary. You are encouraged to record any messages for the teacher including absent messages that can be shown to the office. The teachers have requested if you can cover the front with contact or place in a book cover this will protect the diary. The diary will also be used for homework communication or any other messages such as meet and greet afternoons commencing week 3.

School and Student Leaders in Year 6: Yesterday I met with our School Leaders explaining their roles and responsibilities. We conveyed these messages to all our student leaders in year 6 as it is these children we expect model the three school rules. It is our intention that most if not all year 6 students will have specific leadership roles to perform throughout the year. Our Peace Patrol officers are already doing a fabulous job supporting younger children in the playground.

Rod Finney
Principal

"Caring, Sharing, Learning Together"
STUDENT ABSENCES

If your child/ren are absent from school please ring the student absent line on 49657 360. Admin will be contacting parents/caregivers daily if you haven’t contacted the office if your child/ren are absent. Thank-you Admin

YEAR SIX CAMP—FAIRBAIRN DAM

We are planning a year six camp to Fairbairn Dam again this year — Term 3. Information will be sent home to the year six parents as soon as possible.

We will also be asking for parents to help us to do fundraising. Please see Miss Usher if you are able to help.

YEAR 6 SHIRTS

Each year, we order a special shirt for our senior students—which this year will be our year six students. Sample shirts will be used for sizing. An order form will be sent home as soon as the shirts have been tried on. The price will be advised when known. If you wish to order a shirt, please return the order form and payment to the school office. The shirts normally arrive around the end of term one.

IN THE LIBRARY

Parents and students are most welcome to visit our library for borrowing, browsing and communing with like-minded people who have a passion for reading. Remember the library is open before the bell at around 8:20 as well as after 3:00 should your children have forgotten to borrow at lunch times. Don’t forget that we require students from Prep to Year 3 to have a waterproof library bag and we encourage all borrowers to be responsible for the safe return of all items.

Parents, I also invite you to bring your younger children to the library (with their library bags) so that they can also borrow. And so... a new year - a new thrust. One of my mantras will be the little verse that goes:

"Good, better, best,
I will never rest,
‘Til my good is better,
And my better’s best."

(I can already hear some students saying, “Oh, no! Not that again.”) I am looking forward to a fantastic year. Let’s all make a difference to the literacy levels of our students. Only reading, any sort of reading, be it Mum/Dad/Grandparents/brothers or sisters reading or cuddled up in a corner for a bit of silent, independent reading, will make a difference.