Hi Everyone,

**Welcome to the new school year 2016:** I trust you all had a wonderful Christmas vacation and that you and your family are well rested. It is an absolute pleasure to welcome new students and parents to our beautiful school. We have commenced the school year with 28 eager to learn prep students which will mean inviting some of our prep students to be in a year one class with Miss Thorpe as we like to keep our class numbers as low as possible to deliver a quality educational program. This will also mean some of our year one students will be invited to move up to Mrs McKean’s 1/2 class and some of the year two students in the 1/2 class will be invited to move across to Miss Yarrow’s year two class. Our class sizes are some of the smallest in the District and we believe this provides better individualised attention to learning. Our total enrolment is hovering around 190 students.

**School Explicit Improvement Focus agenda for 2016:** We made positive progress in the children’s writing last year and this year we will continue to implement our Student Writing Improvement Plan. We will also be implementing the ‘growth strategy’ which provides specific feedback for individual students writing performance using a red, green and purple coloured pen. Specific classes also have specialised support for numeracy and five year reading program continues every day. We were successful in our federally funded Sporting Schools grant of $4000 to provide touch football in term one and athletics in term two to our interested students.

**New staff roles and responsibilities:** Mrs Davy has returned from leave and accepted the two day Head of Curriculum role with 1 day librarian position joining Mrs McNichol on the administration leadership team. Mrs McNichol will be here every Monday, Tuesday and Friday with Mrs Davy here Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Either of these school leaders will be looking after the school when I am absent. Mrs Miller (Music) will also be here on Fridays sharing the year 3 class teaching role with Mrs Ridgeway. Ms Menzies will still be here on Thursday to teach our strings band and Mrs Sorensen will still provide guidance support every Monday.

**PBL in second year of implementation:** The Positive Behaviour For Learning Program focuses on teaching our students the three school expectations – Be a Learner, Be Respectful and Be Safe. The program uses green reward tokens to identify and track each individual student’s behaviours. Yellow warning cards, orange card minor behaviour breaches and red card major behaviour breaches are used to encourage students to make positive behaviour choices. Our data system individually tracks student performance in this area providing parent invitations to special award presentations on reaching 25, 50, 75 and 100 green tokens. It is our PBL goal this year to have all children achieve at least their very first 25 token Emerald award.

**School leaders 2016:** On parade this week I welcomed and challenged all our year 6 students to earn their ‘Leadership badge’ this year. Our elected school and sport captains will be presented with their badges at a special parade in a few weeks’ time. I am very pleased to see them already taking on leadership responsibilities, assisting the younger students and modelling our three school rules.

**Safety in and around our school:** We have a beautiful school and I thank all the school community for looking after our grounds during the holiday period. With school resuming it is timely for me to remind our students to play safe and be sensible. Road safety is a major focus always in helping maintain the safety of our students. I am asking our parents to be vigilant before and after school driving around to provide a safe and efficient method in which to transport our students to and from school. Thank you for keeping clear of the staff carpark and for reminding the children to wear a helmet and walk their bikes out of the school grounds.

**Parent invite to join school P and C Committee:** If you would like to have a direct say in what events and policies assist in how the school is managed then I urge you to join the P&C. The school Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday night the 8th of February at 6pm. Each month I deliver a comprehensive report on the school that will enable you to be kept up to date and provide you with an avenue to consider your ideas and opinions. I look forward to more parents and community members coming along.

Rod Finney
Principal
**P & C NEWS**
- AGM is the **Monday 8th February 6pm** in the staffroom. All welcome to attend. All executive positions will be vacant. Nominations needed for this year.
- **Monday Munchies** will be on **Monday 8th February**. Notes home in the next week.

**HATS**
HATS: Parents/caregivers can we please arrange that your child/ren have a hat with their name on it. Thank-you.

**TUCKSHOP**
Tuckshop is now open on **Wednesday, Thursday and Friday's**. If you require a tuckshop menu please call into the tuckshop or the office.

**PLAYGROUP**
Wednesday 1-3pm every week of term. Free to attend. Please bring a hat, enclosed shoes and a drink bottle. We meet downstairs in B Block. Please go to the office if you need directions. Parents supervision required for the duration of the playgroup.

**STUDENT ABSENCES**
It is an Education Qld requirement that all students are accounted for each and every school day. If your child/ren is going to be absent for any reason for any part of the day you must notify the school. Please ring the student absent line before 9am on **49657 360**. Admin will be contacting parents/caregivers daily after 9am if you haven’t contacted the office if your child/ren are absent. If you got a missed call, please write a note to the class teacher for the next day explaining why they were absent.
If your child has an unexplained absence you will receive an unexplained absence letter from your child, please complete the form and return it to the office. Thank-you Admin.

**LATE ARRIVAL/EARLY DEPARTURE**
Students must come to the office if they arrive after 8:45am to be entered on the class roll and receive a late slip which is then given to their class teacher. If you need to collect your child from school at any time before 2:50pm please write a note to the class teacher or make a phone call and then you need to sign your child out in the office in the book.

**WEBSITE**
The school website is updated weekly. It contains important information, date claimers, the current tuckshop price lists, weekly school newsletter plus lots of useful links. [www.sladpoinss.eq.edu.au](http://www.sladpoinss.eq.edu.au)

**TELEPHONE**
The school office is open from 8am to 3:45pm each day. Please be aware that our busy times are 8am — 9:30am and 2:30pm — 2:50pm; please leave a message on the phone line if you can’t get through and we will contact you back.

**FACEBOOK**
Slade Point SS has a Facebook page. Please search for our school and like the page. We post information on what is happening in the school ie: reminding about the newsletter have gone out, school disco, school photos, rewards day and more.

**QSCHOOLS APP**
Parents with smartphones are encouraged to download the FREE QSchools App and Slade Point SS to your favourites. This app is fed directly from our website and is a great way to stay updated with current information.

**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.

**SCHOOL BANKING**
School Banking is every Thursday. You can drop in your bank book any day before or on **Thursday morning** in the green box in the office.
**Note:** Any new customers would like an application form please come to the office to collect one or you can open up an account at the Commonwealth Bank.
Each time you deposit money your child will receive a token each week and once you reach 10 tokens you can swap the tokens for a prize which needs to be ordered.

**INVOICES/PAYMENTS**
If you receive an invoice for Swimming, Instrumental Music, Camps etc, please contact us about making part payments if you require to do. We accept weekly/fortnightly payments. Direct debit and cash only we accept. No EFTPOS facilities available.

**HEAD LICE**
Could all parents please check your child/ren’s hair for any lice and please treat asap.