Dear Parents and Caregivers,

As the school term enters the last two weeks it is an extremely important time to continue our strong commitment to our improvement agenda for 2014 – improvement in reading outcomes. It is so important that students are coming to school every day and are committed to being successful in working towards their reading goals. This is increasingly pertinent at this time as students begin to complete end of term testing. It is also a good time to reinforce the message that ‘every day counts’ as some students may be feeling weary as the end of term nears. Tiredness or lack of motivation is not an excuse for absences. Every day that a student misses is multiple missed opportunities for learning. Reading at home every day is also paramount to improving achievement in reading, as well as across other learning areas. Even when the home reading program finishes for the term, it is essential that children are reading books at home – even over the holidays when possible. This is because children will often digress slightly during this time as they are not utilising the strategies that they have been taught.

D. Broadfoot
4th September, 2014

PARENT-TEACHER INTERVIEWS
Parent-Teacher interviews for students in Prep to Year 7 are taking place from this week through to the end of term, depending on the teacher. An interview timetable will be sent home, if it hasn’t already. It is very powerful to have parents attending interviews so that everyone is clear about future directions and the effort that will be required. As a school we aim to encourage students to take control of their learning and to recognise the growth they are achieving in both social and academic areas. The ‘interview’ is an important opportunity to discuss your child’s progress and to build communication and understanding between home and school. If everyone is well prepared, even a short interview can be productive and very worthwhile.

Teacher Aide Day - 5th September
We celebrate Teacher Aide Day on the first Friday of September to recognise the great work our teacher aides do to support our students and teachers.

The help they offer goes a long way in our classrooms, providing the extra attention some students need to get the most out of a lesson and supporting our teachers to organise engaging and educational activities each day.

We are extremely fortunate in our school to have eight fantastic teacher aides who are very committed to their roles and our school.

EISTEDDFOD
All the best to our choir, who will be competing at the Eisteddfod next week. Thanks must go to Mrs Nichols, who has dedicated many lunchtimes to leading the choir.

PREP INFORMATION SESSION
Last night we held a great Prep Parent Information Session for 2015. We will be having another information session next term as well due to the number of enrolments we are expecting. The date is to be advised. We have a number of ‘open sessions’ coming up for children that are planning to come to RESS next year. The dates and times are available on a flyer which is available from the office. If you know of parents that are considering enrolling their children at RESS next year, please encourage them to contact the school office as soon as possible.

How to help your child with ... Swearing

Swearing is not tolerated at RESS and will be dealt with seriously. Staff at our school have a ‘zero tolerance’ to swearing. Students will go to lunchtime ‘TIME OUT’ if they are caught swearing and their ‘Time Out’ form will be sent home to be signed.

Swearing may cause stress and conflict in the home, particularly if your child has not sworn before. Before dealing with it, both parents need to discuss their own values about swearing and what they think is acceptable. In some families one parent swears and the other does not, or one parent disapproves of swearing while the other does not – this gives mixed messages to the children. Some families think it is fine for adults to swear but not for children – this also gives mixed messages to the children.

Children will hear swearing around them at sporting events, parties and gatherings, on television and in movies. They need to learn that there are many unacceptable forms of language and that there are times and places when its use may cause distress to others.

Listed below are some suggestions for dealing with swearing at home:

- Try to be matter of fact and say something like, “We don’t use that word in our family and I don’t want to hear it again.”

- If children are experimenting with a word you could offer an alternative suggestion. For example if they are calling out a word you don’t like, you could make up a fun word and suggest they try that instead. e.g. “I know a better word than that, what about saying ‘ping’.”

- If your children say a swear word when they are angry or distressed it is probably most helpful to show them how to say what they really mean, e.g. “I can see you feel really cross/upset/disappointed … “ rather than make a big fuss about the use of the word.

- Set up a penalty box. If anyone swears or uses unacceptable language they are fined an agreed amount. Money collected in the box is donated to a worthy cause.

- Try not to overreact if your children swear at home; sometimes that is their sole purpose!
Make sure that they know you are not impressed with their choice or use of language.

- Discuss the use of inappropriate language as a family. Set family rules.
- Both children and adults may sometimes swear out of habit. If this is the case, help them to find new ways of expressing themselves.
- Consider your own use of language. If there are words you do not want your children to use, remove them from your own language; remember that children learn best by example!

**SWIMMING** — Reminder swimming is on this Friday.

**Student Council Messages**

- Railway’s Got Talent is back! Auditions begin Week 2 next term, so start preparing your acts!
- We raised $193 for Jeans for Genes Day.
- The winner of the Cowboys tickets was Darlene Reid. We raised $302 to help Tama Mason pay for his brain tumour treatment.

- Rewards Day this term will be ‘Techno Day’ in the last week of term. The date is still to be confirmed. It will involve rotation groups in the computer lab, Wii/Play Station and iPads in Science Lab, general board games, possibly robotics, and own devices in the library. The Student Council is currently developing the rules about bringing own devices.

**Health**

Preparation the key to safe bushwalking

When preparing for a bushwalk these school holidays, safety should always be paramount. Emergency Management Queensland (EMQ) recommends you let someone know the route you plan to take and the time you will return by, talk to locals about the area you plan to walk in and make sure you are suitably attired with proper footwear and extra clothing should temperatures drop.

For more information visit the EMQ website at http://www.emergency.qld.gov.au/emq/.

**Teach your child to dial Triple Zero (000) and remember details**

The Queensland Ambulance Service is encouraging parents and caregivers to teach their children how to become potential lifesavers by practising calling Triple Zero (000) with a disconnected or toy phone, or by playing an online training game at http://kids.triplezero.gov.au/.

When calling Triple Zero and requesting an ambulance, an emergency medical dispatcher will provide advice and dispatch medical help to your location.

For this reason, it’s also important for families to familiarise themselves with their holiday surroundings by memorising holiday addresses and beach access codes, so they can relay the correct information to Triple Zero staff.

More information can be found at http://www.ambulance.qld.gov.au/default.asp

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<tr>
<th>Citizen of the Week</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Week ending 29th August</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jett</td>
<td>PREPM</td>
<td>Liam</td>
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<td>Josh</td>
<td>P/1M</td>
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<td>Kyuss</td>
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<td>Madison</td>
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<td>Scarlett</td>
<td>3M</td>
<td>Eden</td>
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<td>Jimmy</td>
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<td>Blake</td>
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<td>Nicholas</td>
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<td>Tathan</td>
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<td>Rhys</td>
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**FREE FATHERS DAY FAMILY NIGHT**

**BUNNINGS WAREHOUSE**

**Fairfield Waters**

**Date:** 4th September 2014

**Time:** 6.00pm to 8.00pm

**Activities:**

Make Dad something special for Fathers Day. Jumping Castle, Face Painting, Sausage Sizzle, great games and prizes.

**Bookings essential**

**Phone:** 47589100

**HOY** —Saturday 13th September under D Block at 2.00pm