Dear Parents and Caregivers,

It has been a very busy fortnight of learning across the school, but it has also been another great fortnight of fostering enjoyment for school. We had a very entertaining visit from Captain Active, as well as Year 4 – 6 Inter-house Friday sport, Delta Dogs visit and Art Show preparation.

As we continue to progress our school priority of developing ‘assessment literate learners’ through high quality teaching and learning, we have just completed mid-point tasks to ensure that students are progressing well in their learning. Mid-point meetings were held with all teachers to track progress towards our school targets and plan the next critical steps in learning over the final weeks of term. We are very pleased with the overall progress across the whole school. Student attitude and effort is outstanding and we are already closing in on our target of 84% of students at or above C level in English, mathematics and science (our priority learning areas).

It is sure to be a busy time of learning and school events over the last two weeks of term with events such as: the Art Gallery, Disco, Interschool Swimming, School Review, Parent-teacher Interviews, National Day against Bullying, Election Day at the school, Rewards Day and Harmony Day. Details of these events will be in this newsletter, the student newsletter and in upcoming communication.

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D. Broadfoot
Principal
10th March, 2016

Y OUR ROLE IN YOUR CHILD’S LEARNING

One of our four explicit improvement agenda priorities of 2016 is to ‘build school community connections to the learning and well-being of students’. This agenda can only be progressed with the commitment of the school and parents and caregivers. With this in mind we would ask that all parents and caregivers attend the upcoming parent-teacher interviews (Week 9, Term 1 and/or Week 1, Term 2). Teachers will be sending home interview booking forms shortly. If the times that have been offered do not suit parents’ busy schedules, all teachers are committed to making another time to see you. Please ensure that you commit to this critical communication about your child’s education.

SCHOOL REVIEW

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

Our school is scheduled for a school review from Monday 14th March to Wednesday 16th March.

The Department of Education and Training introduced new performance reviews for Queensland state schools in 2015. The reviews are conducted by the department’s School Improvement Unit.

The reviews do not rate or compare schools but provide independent and quality feedback to help schools continue to improve outcomes for students. All schools have a review at least every four years. Key findings from the review are made available to parents and the community on the school’s website.

As part of the review, the review team would like to hear from our school community and we encourage anyone who is interested to have their say. Your feedback is important and will help us continue to deliver a quality education for students.

Our school is very keen for the reviewers to get feedback from parents about our great school and our partnership with you. The reviewers will be available from 2:30 – 3:30 on Monday 14th March. This feedback session will be held in the library. It would be great for parents to come along.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Our school attendance target is 94%. Our current 2016 attendance rate is 93.5%. Not far off! Children that are late or absent are missing vital learning that inevitably impacts on school achievement and future success. Please ensure that your children are only away if they are sick.

‘Take a Stand Together’ on Friday 18th March

Our school is taking part in the National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence on Friday 18th March.

We encourage students to behave responsibly and safely every day, but on this day we will be putting the spotlight on our anti-bullying strategies by organising in-class activities.

The ‘Bullying. No way!’ website has information for parents and students of all ages about the National Day of Action and how we can all help create a supportive school environment free from bullying, harassment and violence.


INTERSCHOOL SWIMMING

The Interschool Swimming Carnival is being held this Monday at the Aitkenvale State School pool. All students attending have been provided with information. We would like to wish all of these students the very best of luck!
School Disco Expectations

We are looking forward to a great Glow Disco tomorrow night (6:00 - 8:30). So that all students can have a safe and fun night, the following expectations will be in place:

Expectations:

- All students are to be picked up by an adult. No students are to be walking home by themselves.
- Students are not permitted to be outside the designated areas, including under D block unless they are buying food at the Railway Café.
- Students are not permitted to bring soft drink/energy drinks/chewing gum to the school for this event.
- Have a great time and allow others to have a great time too.

Art Gallery

Our school Art Gallery will be open from 3:00 – 6:00 in A4 (the classroom beside the office). We will be showcasing work from all classes. Pop in and see this great school initiative after school or before the disco!

3E - Miss Eaton

Unfortunately Miss Eaton (Year 3E) will not be returning for term 2 due to family circumstances. We are fortunate to have Miss Morrison continuing to replace Miss Eaton during her absence.

Parking

We have had recent complaints about parents parking across driveways and in ‘no stopping’ areas close to the school crossings. Please refrain from parking in these areas. We want to keep our students safe and our neighbours content.

Helping at home with writing

Children begin writing from their first day at school and are invited to write on a whole range of topics throughout their school life. It is important to encourage and praise all attempts from an early age, even if it looks like scribble in a foreign language to you. Children will soon get the message that written language conveys a message that can be kept, and shared with others.

You can support your child at home with writing by:

- Providing a range of materials for them to write with. Think about chalk, crayons, textas, pencils, glitter pens, biros, novelty pens, paint brushes, charcoal, sticks in the dirt.
- Encouraging them to write at home: write their own shopping lists, jobs to do, letters on the notice board, emails, cards and letters to friends and relatives, signs and labels around the house, instructions to games.
- Talking about and modelling the different types of writing you do at home such as writing cheques, application forms, emails, letters, lists and cards.
- Praising all attempts at writing and encouraging them to have a go at new words before giving them the correct spelling. Don’t always tell them how to spell a word or they will rely on you every time they want to spell a new word.
- Playing word games with them like scrabble, hangman, I spy.
- Reading to, and with, them regularly.
- Using a word processing program with them and allowing them to experiment with fonts, sizes and colours.
- Being interested in what they write, even if it makes no sense to you at all!

Happy writing!

Citizen of the Week

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<tr>
<td>Jonathan</td>
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<td>Luke</td>
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Railway Estate School Centenary

Save the date: Saturday 27th August 2016

We need your help! If you are interested in assisting organising the celebrations and centenary book, please come along to the next Centenary Committee meeting on Thursday 14th April at 5:30pm in our school library.

Do you have any photos or memorabilia that you would like to share?

Please package and label items clearly with name and number and drop off at school OR scan and email to centenary@ralestass.eq.edu.au by the end of the term - Thursday March 24th.

We are also interested in brief articles for our Centenary Book on topics like sports, parades, learning, resources, discos, tree planting, choir, natural disasters, buildings, plays, P&C, staff etc. Please email, post or pop into the school.

We are particularly interested in stories/photos from families who have attended our school through the generations for a possible article in the Townsville Bulletin. Please email centenary@ralestass.eq.edu.au if you are interested.

Families and community groups are encouraged to support our centenary celebrations by sponsoring a page in our Centenary Book from $40. Please contact the school on 47208333 for more information.

Saturday March 12th under D Block