Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back to term 3! I hope that your children had a great holiday and are looking forward to another great term. A class newsletter will be sent home this week outlining what your children will be learning this term. Reading goals will also be sent home by week 3. Please engage with your children about these documents, so that you can communicate with them over the term about their learning. We look forward to working together with you over the term.

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D. Broadfoot
Principal
14th July, 2016

School Priorities
English and Reading

Our narrow and sharp focus continues to be reading and the learning area of English. A number of strategies are being implemented to drive further improvement in these areas, whilst maintaining momentum in other learning areas. Please assist us with improvement in English by reading the class newsletter about what your child is learning in English. We also need to ensure that all students are reading every day for homework. Please assist us by ensuring your child is reading each afternoon/evening for a minimum of 15 minutes. This has a significant positive impact on reading progress.

NAIDOC Day

Railway Estate SS will be celebrating NAIDOC week next Thursday 21st July. Please join us at 9am for a whole school parade followed by activities and workshops for the students and a Kup Murri for lunch! You are welcome to participate, help and join in the fun.

This year the theme is Songlines. For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, the Dreamtime describes a time when the earth, people and animals were created by our ancestral spiritual beings. They created the rivers, lakes, plants, land formations and living creatures.

Dreaming tracks crisscross Australia and trace the journeys of our ancestral spirits as they created the land, animals and lores. These dreaming tracks are sometimes called ‘Songlines’ as they record the travels of these ancestral spirits who ‘sung’ the land into life.

NAIDOC stands for National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee. Its origins can be traced to the emergence of Aboriginal groups in the 1920’s which sought to increase awareness in the wider community of the status and treatment of Indigenous Australians.

NAIDOC Week is held in the first full week of July. It is a time to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, culture and achievements and is an opportunity to recognise the contributions that Indigenous Australians make to our country and our society.

(http://www.naidoc.org.au)

V8 Thanks!

Enormous thanks must go to the P&C and parent volunteers for running the V8 parking at the school. We are very pleased that there were enough volunteers to manage this important fundraising opportunity. We look forward to working with the P&C to assist with funding a new independent reading system outlined in the last newsletter and at the last P&C meeting. Our next P&C meeting is 5:00pm tonight in the music room if you would like to come along.

School Opinion Survey

The annual School Opinion Survey will be conducted 11 to 29 July 2016. All families, school staff and a random sample of students will be invited to participate. We encourage you to take this opportunity to have your say about what this school does well, and how this school can improve.

Access details for the Parent/Caregiver Survey will be sent home with students this week. Parents/caregivers are welcome to complete their survey online at the school, and school computers will be available after school if needed.

Music

This term we welcome a new music teacher, Miss Bingle. Mrs Earle is now on maternity leave. Music will now be on Fridays instead of Tuesdays.
SAME DAY ABSENCE NOTIFICATION NEW REQUIREMENTS

Education Queensland has updated the enrolment and attendance policy, requiring schools to notify parents/caregivers of a school absence on the same day of the absence. This will be phased in over 2016. At this stage we will be working towards contacting all parents/caregivers by phone on the same day of a child’s absence. This will use a significant amount of office time, so we highly encourage all parents/caregivers to advise the school of absences before 10:00am on the day of absence.

Breakfast Program

We are urgently seeking volunteers for the Breakfast Program. Every school morning we provide toast, cereal, fruit and milk to students. We need volunteers to continue to provide this service. If you can spare an hour any morning of the school week, we would love to have some helpers. Please see Veronica at the Breakfast Program to offer much needed assistance.

Railway Estate State School Centenary

Save the date: Saturday 27th August 2016
For information regarding our celebrations, please contact the school on 4720 8333,
Email: centenary@railestass.eq.edu.au or like our school’s Facebook page.

Dear past and present Railway Estate State School staff, students, families and community members, beautiful, little Railway Estate State School is turning 100 this year. We are extending a warm welcome to all, to join in our Centenary celebrations on Saturday 27th August, 2016. Please spread the word!

Schedule of Events: Saturday 27th August 2016

- 11am – 12:00pm: Back to School Walkthrough
  Take a leisurely stroll around the school. Visit classrooms and specialist areas such as the computer lab and library resource centre, which showcase education at RESS here and now!
- 12:00pm – 1:00pm: Formalities
  Sit, relax and be entertained during the formal proceedings of the day. Meet with old and new friends and reminisce about days gone by.
- 1:00pm – 3:00pm: RESS Museum
  Browse through the historical memorabilia and displays in our students’ museum.
- 1:00pm – 5:00pm: P&C’s Spring Fair
  Head down to the back oval and join in all the fun of the Parents and Citizen Association’s Spring Fair!

- 5:00pm: Dinner at Victoria Park Hotel – 262 Boundary St, South Townsville.
  Finish off the day with dinner or a drink at the local Vic Park Hotel. (Please buy your own food and drinks.)
- Dinner bookings are essential – RSVP by 05 August 2016: 4720 8333 / centenary@railestass.eq.edu.au

School Resource Contribution

Please note that the school resource contribution can be paid at the school office. We strongly encourage your commitment to this important scheme. This contribution helps to provide important resources for the students’ curriculum needs, particularly as we do not use textbooks. The contribution is $80 for year levels 1 to 6 and $100 for Prep. Thank you to those that have paid this already. EFTPOS facilities are now available.

School Fun Run

We’re holding the adidas School Fun-Run as a major fundraising event this year! The event will be held on Friday 9th September next term! This is a sponsorship based fundraiser, and we’re looking to raise $3000, so all help is appreciated!

The School Fun-Run promotes healthy and active lifestyles to our students in a fun and engaging way! It’s all about participation and we’re organising a great day for our school community. Family support is key to our fundraising success and we encourage all students to get involved.

Keep your eyes peeled for the sponsorship forms which will be sent home with your child at the beginning of next term. However if you want to sign up for online fundraising early, head to http://www.schoolfunrun.com.au/Fundraising_students_entry. Students who raise just $10 or more will receive a reward for effort. In the Sponsorship Form you will also find many other benefits like the chance to win a Samsung Tablet every week!

The adidas School Fun-Run is a healthy fundraiser that ensures all schools have a viable alternative to junk food fundraising. The event sends the right message to students about having fun while getting involved and being active.

Saturday 16th July, 2016 under D Block at 2.00pm

LOST PROPERTY

There are a large number of items in the lost property box held at the office. If your child/children has lost something please remember to check this box as it may be hiding in there.