Dear Parents and Caregivers,

As this is the last newsletter for the term, I would like to thank everyone for their ongoing support and commitment to our fantastic school. Together, we are continuing to build a culture of high expectations within a safe and supportive learning environment. It is essential to have high expectations in effort, behaviour and achievement. When parent and school expectations are mutually high, children will have the same high expectations of themselves.

With this in mind, I hope that all parents have booked times with teachers to meet for parent-teacher interviews. I cannot emphasise enough how important these meetings are.

Have a great Easter and we look forward to your continued support in term two.

D. Broadfoot
Principal
24th March, 2016

Interschool swimming success!
Congratulations to all the students that participated in the Interschool Swimming Carnival last week. Railway Estate won the ‘Best Overall Average’ trophy. Once again, we also had great feedback about having the best ‘team spirit’ and sportsmanship.

Is your child at school on Friday?
A major concern is our Friday attendance which averages only 90% compared with 97% on Thursdays. This means that 23 children are away on Fridays on average. This trend is alarming and very concerning. Fridays are just as important as every other day of school. Please ensure that your child is not one of these students, unless they are genuinely sick.

New attendance tracking
Attendance can now be tracked by staff using a new school performance tool. This will enable us to see clearer trends and develop alert lists for chronic absenteeism and lateness so that we can address these issues promptly. If your child is experiencing problems in being able to attend school every day and on time, please see Mr B so that this can be addressed and improved.

Do you have skills to share?
Do you have particular talents or skills that you think could be of benefit to students in our school? Perhaps you would like to run a lunchtime club/workshop or listen to children read or help children with their sight words. If you are interested in contributing to the ‘greatness’ of our school, please contact Mr B or Miss Weir.

Rewards Day
We had a great ‘Techno’ Rewards Day on Monday. The students enjoyed using the photo booth, iPads, laptops, personal devices, the Xbox and a movie. They had free choice of activities and could move from one activity to the next. They all had a fantastic time. Every student starts each term with the opportunity to attend Rewards Day and we hope that everyone will be able to attend the next one.

National Day against Bullying and Violence
Last Friday was National Day against Bullying and Violence. On this day our school captains visited each class to discuss the importance of strategies to address bullying. At Railway Estate State School, we do not tolerate bullying. If you feel your child is ever being bullied please encourage your child to see the class teacher or Mr B. We are very committed to dealing with these issues.

School review
Last week we had our School Review, which occurs in all schools every four years. The reviewers spoke very highly of our students, staff and parents. In term two a summary of the review will be provided to the school and will be available on our school website.

LOTE News
Dear Parents and Caregivers,
Konnichiwa! In Year 5 this term we are learning about the family while the Year 6 students are learning to say they like or dislike things. I must mention that I have been very pleased with the number of above-average language learners in Year 5, as well as a few Year 6 students who have come back this year with a different, more positive attitude. Things seem to be clicking nicely.

However, the main reason I’m writing is to let you know that Ms Yuki Kotani (Catholic Ed) sent me this fantastic web site that has a great collection of games to help students learn and
practise their script. The hiragana script needs to be learnt if you are serious about taking this language further at high school.

http://www.mybenkyo.com/hiragana-games/

Some are easy for beginners while some are hard even for experienced learners – please try them out. Why not have a bit of fun while you learn! (I personally like the simple space invader-style “Kana Invaders” as it reminds me of an old style arcade game.)

Yoroshiku ne, 
Makku sensei

School Banking
Account Opening Day

Railway Estate is excited to offer the Commonwealth Bank School Banking program to all students.

The School Banking program provides children with an opportunity to deposit money into their Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account at school each week. The program is about how often your child makes deposits, not how much they deposit.

Getting involved in School Banking is easy!

We will be holding an Account Opening Day at our school:

**Time:** 8:30-9:00am  
**Date:** Friday 15th April  
**Location:** In the Library

If you are interested in opening a Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account for your child please bring along your current driver’s licence or another form of photographic identification.

Alternatively, you can open an account at your local branch. All you need to bring is your current identification as well as your child’s birth certificate. If you are an existing Commonwealth Bank customer and have NetBank, you can open an account online.

School Banking day will be every **Friday**. Each week you need to give your Dollarmite banking book and money to your class teacher. The Student Council Class Representatives will then bring the class banking bags to the Student Council Treasures, School Captain and Banking Coordinator in the library for banking.

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<th>Citizen of the Week</th>
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<td><strong>Week ending</strong></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@railestass.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@railestass.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.

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