Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back to Railway Estate SS! I would like to warmly welcome all of our new and returning families to the school. It’s been exciting to see the students returning, along with a number of new faces too. We have had many new enrolments and we are excited that you are part of our great school. Once again, we have a wonderful new group of Prep students, which is fantastic. We made incredible progress with our Preps last year and we are looking forward to great outcomes.

It has been so pleasing to see so many eager faces and beaming smiles during my classroom visits this week, as students have been settling well into their new classes. The students have been quick to reunite with their friends and engage in some fun at lunch times. Credit must go to the children who have settled quickly back into school routine.

On behalf of the staff, we look forward to working with you, as we work together for the education of your children. Strong relationships between parents and the school have a significant positive impact on learning.

D. Broadfoot
Principal
28th January, 2016

Staff changes

We would like to welcome Miss Paterson (Year 1P) and Miss Dwyer (Year 4/5/6) to our teaching staff in 2016 and beyond. We are very pleased that both of these exceptional teachers will be permanent teachers at Railway Estate SS.

Unfortunately Miss Eaton (Year 3E) will not be returning for at least all of term one due to family circumstances. Miss Morrison will be replacing Miss Eaton during her absence.

We would also like to acknowledge Miss Bartels as a permanent staff member at Railway Estate. Miss Bartels came to Railway Estate in 2015 and worked as a valuable member of the leadership team. She is now a permanent member of Railway Estate SS and will be continuing in her support and leadership role, as Support Teacher – Quality Teaching and Learning (ST-Q&L).

Composite classes

Once again we have some composite classes at our school, meaning we have some classes that have two or three year levels in the same class. It is important that we dispel the myth that composite classes are ‘streamed’ on students’ ability, as they are not. Multiple factors are considered when developing class lists, however ability is not one of them, except for ensuring that there is a range of abilities in each class. All students will be learning the curriculum assigned to their year level unless you have been contacted to discuss that your child is working on an Individual Curriculum Program (ICP).

Improvement in Reading

How did your child progress in reading in 2015? As a school we had a significant year of improvement in reading, with a steady increase in the number of students reaching our school and regional reading benchmark levels. We will continue our persistent focus of improving reading again this year and we need your help with this. Please ensure that your child is reading every day for homework and sight words are being memorised in the junior school. Below are the reading benchmarks for each year level for the end of term and the end of this year:

**End of Term 1:**
- Reading Benchmarks: Prep: level 2; Year 1: level 10; Year 2: level 17; Year 3: level 21; Year 4 – 6: Reading age matches chronological age, within 6 months at time of test.

**End of Year:**
- Reading Benchmarks: Prep: level 8; Year 1: level 16; Year 2: level 20; Year 3: level 24; Year 4 – 6: Reading age matches chronological age, within 6 months at time of test

Procedure for meeting with teachers and the Principal

Children who are feeling happy and safe are receptive learners. If you have concerns about your child, please contact us, as problems are far more easily attended to early.

However, we do ask you to consider the following points:

- Teachers are more than happy to talk with parents and caregivers – in fact we encourage your interest in your child’s education. However, please note that teachers will not be available from 8:50 as
they will be doing final preparations for learning and preparing to get their students from line-up areas. You are more than welcome to pop in during other times to see how your child is going. If you have a significant concern about your child it is best to arrange a meeting time. We also strongly encourage parents and caregivers to wait downstairs for their children to avoid distractions during the final minutes of the day.

- The Principal’s number one priority is to ensure we maintain a safe and supportive learning environment. This means that a great deal of time is spent in classes and meeting with staff and students. Therefore, if you need to meet with Mr B, it is best to make an appointment as he has a number of commitments throughout the day and is not always readily available.

**P&C Thanks**

Enormous thanks must go to the P&C for the organising of book packs and school uniforms last week.

Thanks also to Rachel Cook and the Youth Network for the new murals on the music room wall and E block stairwell. They certainly liven up these areas up!

We look forward to working again with the P&C this year, as we work together to support our children.

**Parade**

This year we will continue having our school parade (assembly) at 2:40 on Monday afternoons. Parents and caregivers are welcome to attend. If we have special guests or more items planned we start at 2:30.

**Parent Information Sessions**

Parent Information Sessions will be held on Wednesday 17th February at 5:00-5:30 and 5:30-6:00pm. These sessions are intended to introduce you to the class/cohort teachers and for you to learn about routines and expectations for the year. We trust that these sessions will be informative and responsive to your questions about class learning, routines and expectations. If you have concerns specifically about your child, we ask that you make a suitable time to meet with the teacher.

**THE RAILWAY CAFÉ** will be open Monday, Wednesday and Friday starting this Friday the 29th January.

---

**Administering medication at school**

If your child requires staff to administer medication to your child at school, please contact the school office in the first instance to discuss your child’s requirements.

**Please note, school staff will only administer medication that:**

- has been prescribed by a qualified health practitioner (e.g. doctor, dentist)
- is in its original container
- has an attached pharmacy label.

Office staff will ask you to complete and sign Section 1 of the *Administration of medication at school record sheet.*

N.B. If your child requires more than one medication, you will need to complete a form for each medication.

---

**Railway Estate School Centenary**

Save the date: Saturday 27th August 2016

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

*Please package and label items clearly with name and number OR scan and email to centenary@railestass.eq.edu.au by Thursday March 24th*

Families and community groups are encouraged to support our centenary celebrations by sponsoring a page in our Centenary Book from $40.