Dear Parents and Caregivers,

This week is National Reconciliation Week, which is celebrated annually from 27 May to 3 June. It was established to highlight the importance of building stronger relationships between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous communities. This year’s theme is ‘Walk the Talk’. We are very pleased to say that at RESS, we are ‘walking the talk’ on closing the gap between our Indigenous and Non-Indigenous students. In 2013 NAPLAN results, the gap between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous students is significantly lower (better) in 11 out of 16 tests. For example, the gap between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous students at RESS in Year 3 writing is 17 points compared to 86 points for our region and 58 points for the state. This is 5 times better than the region and 3 times better than Queensland! We believe that our 2014 NAPLAN results will have closed the gap even further. Our curriculum has also evolved, with a greater focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives. Where we must continue to improve is closing the gap in attendance. We can ensure that all students are improving when they are at school.

D. Broadfoot
29th May, 2014

**Improvement Agenda – Explicit Teaching**

This week we started work on our second part of our explicit improvement agenda: ‘Explicit Teaching’. We are currently implementing a series of professional learning sessions for teachers, followed by observation and feedback.

‘Explicit Teaching’ is a very systematic way of teaching. In this model a strong and consistent routine is to be established in all classrooms, one that starts with an explanation to students of the lesson intent, fast-paced warm-ups focussed on core content, explicit teaching that uses a simple process of “I Do, We Do, You Do”, and constant revision and reinforcement. These three stages of learning (knowing, practising and applying) are critical. This “brand” of teaching has a strong commitment to getting the basics right and also consistency with high standards.

Explicit teaching is also a well-proven strategy in the teaching of reading, which supports our continuing focus on improving reading outcomes also.

**Parade**

The following items were discussed with the students. Your reinforcement of these messages would be most appreciated.

- Recognition of National Sorry Day and National Reconciliation Week, acknowledging the great success of our Indigenous students at RESS.
- Snake Safety – we had a recent spotting of a snake on Monday. We discussed what to do if you see a snake: Stop, walk slowly away from the snake, inform a staff member immediately.

We then organise for a snake catcher to attempt to catch and remove the snake from the school.

- Pillar of the Week: This week’s RESS Pillar of the Week is ‘Responsibility’. We discussed how this pillar can be seen as the most important pillar, as we must be responsible for our learning, our effort and our behaviour from the moment we walk through the school gate every day.

**Swimming lessons**

In term three, all students from Year 1 – 7 have the opportunity to participate in swimming lessons. This is as a result of P&C requests to consider extending this program to upper school children. We are happy to now offer this great opportunity across these year levels. Notes have been sent home recently as an expression of interest. The students that have returned the forms will soon have medical update notes sent home, then further details will be provided regarding dates, times and what to bring.

**Shade sail**

We will soon have a big shade sail over the Junior School playground. The poles have been erected and the sail will be installed shortly. The shade sail and internal structure is being lifted from the recently closed Stuart State School site and reinstalled here. Thanks to the P&C for the initial prompt to pursue this option!!!

**Athletics**

Our Inter-house Athletics Carnival will run over the last two Thursdays of the term. The field events will be held on Thursday 19th June for 10 to 13 year olds. The track events for all students will be held on Thursday 26th June. This is usually the day that we get many families attending. As always, we welcome all families and friends to attend this event.

**P&C News!!!!**

**V8’s**

The V8’s are just over a month away! We’ve had a steady stream of bookings coming in and now we need to finalise our volunteers. A register will be at The Railway Café so if you can pop your details on it and let us know when you’re available. Just think of the $11,500 we were able to raise last year and all the awesome stuff we did with that money - readers for the whole school, upgrades to the prep area and the concrete pathways and garden beds. That money can’t be raised without a team of people so any time you can give will be greatly appreciated.

**'Beauty & The Geek' Disco**

We recently met with the Student Council to plan the first disco for 2014 and they have come up with the theme of ‘Beauty & The Geek’. So mark down Friday 13 June in your calendars and we’ll be sending a flyer home next week with all the details.

**P&C Meeting**

The next P&C Meeting is Wednesday 4th June at 5.30pm in the Resource Centre and all are welcome.
Fundraising Meeting

The next Fundraising Meeting is Friday 30 May at 3pm under the Junior School. This is a busy time of year for the P&C so feel free to pop in and see what we’re up to, bring along your suggestions or let us know how you can help out.

Do you know what your child is learning this term?

Find out what your child is learning in the curriculum section of our school website http://railestass.eq.edu.au/wcms/

Alternatively, you can ask your class teacher or the office for a printed version.

RESS ON FACEBOOK

Have you ‘Liked’ our new Facebook page? https://www.facebook.com/RailwayEstate. This page will be updated with school events and information throughout the year.

How to help your child with…. Developing resilience

Learning to be resilient is one of those special life skills. Resilience is the ability to cope with negative events in one’s life and ‘bouncing back’ to a state of emotional well-being. Research indicates that young people who have high resilience skills have a lower likelihood of becoming depressed or suicidal. They have a higher likelihood of having greater emotional wellbeing and lives that are more satisfying.

Experts are concerned that well-meaning parents are smothering their children by over-protecting them. Sheltering children from disappointment does not allow them to develop life skills. Children can only learn resilience skills through experiencing some hurt; it is a part of growing up. Obviously, parents can intervene to minimise the ‘hurt’, but the nature of childhood is that you will graze your knee, be chosen second, have a friendship disagreement and not get everything you want.

To develop resilience in life, unfortunately you have to experience some of these things.

Life skills start when children are preschoolers, playing, taking risks within the protection and parameters of parents in the family home. Then when children commence school through formal and informal play, children learn to interact, solve problems, show initiative and be inventive. The critical thing for parents is to let their children make mistakes or miss out and learn from the experience. Resilience is not ‘caught’, but has to be ‘taught’. By careful conversations both at home and school, children can learn to ‘bounce back’ after disappointments and develop a healthy attitude to life’s challenges and opportunities.

“Experience is not what happens to you; it’s what you do with what happens to you.”

Aldous Huxley.

An information session about the Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum will be held for parents of students in Prep – 7 on Wednesday 4 June at 4.45pm in the Resource Room (Library). The presentation will be approximately 30 minutes and there will be an opportunity following the presentation to ask questions. The information session will conclude by 5.15pm if you would like to attend the P&C meeting afterwards at 5.30pm.

Pyjama Day

273 toothbrushes and 222 tubes of toothpaste donated! Thank you to everyone who donated.

Citizen of the Week

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week ending 16th May</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Week ending 23rd May</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dante</td>
<td>PREPM</td>
<td>Cooper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michala</td>
<td>1/2E</td>
<td>Chanel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Isabella</td>
<td>1/2M</td>
<td>Haylee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Angelique</td>
<td>3M</td>
<td>Leeroy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aaron</td>
<td>3/4W</td>
<td>Jack</td>
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<tr>
<td>Syanne</td>
<td>4/5F</td>
<td>Nickayla</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taynarme</td>
<td>5/6MJ</td>
<td>Brooklyn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lania</td>
<td>5/6RJ</td>
<td>Joshua</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arie</td>
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<td>Osmund</td>
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LOST PROPERTY: There is currently a large amount of items in lost property. Please check with office staff if your child has lost something at school. All items not collected by the end of term 2 will be donated to charity.