Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back to Railway Estate SS! It has been a fantastic start to the new school year and 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. Our dedicated staff have spent many hours ensuring that we have a smooth start to the year and credit must also go to the children who have settled quickly back into school routine.

I would like to warmly welcome all of our new families to the school. We have had many new enrolments and we are excited that you are part of our great school. Once again, we have over 40 Prep students, which is fantastic. We made incredible progress with our Preps last year and we are looking forward to great outcomes again this year.

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
29th January, 2015

STAFF CHANGES

We would like to welcome Miss Adcock to our teaching staff in 2015 and beyond. We are very pleased that Miss Adcock will be a permanent teacher at Railway Estate SS.

We would also like to welcome Ms Janine Magnusson who will be our Guidance Officer.

This year Mrs Wilkinson will be in the role of Literacy Coach, which is a key strategy in our ‘Great Results Guarantee’ plan. Mrs Lauder will also be fulfilling a Numeracy Coach role this year, meaning that she will be at our school almost full-time, which is a significant asset. The purpose of these coaches is to further improve teaching and learning in these key learning areas.

Mr Inch will be returning from long service leave on the 9th February. We thank Mrs Muller for taking his class and ensuring that 5/6I had a great start to the year.

IMPROVEMENT IN READING

How did your child progress in reading in 2014? As a school we had our most significant year of improvement in reading, with a dramatic 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 (until the 200 word certificate has been achieved).

Below are the reading benchmarks for each year level for the end of this term and the end of this year:

**End of Term 1:**
- Reading Benchmarks: Prep: level 2; Year 1: level 11; Year 2: level 18; Year 3: level 22; Year 4 – 7: Reading age matches chronological age, within 6 months at time of test

**End of Year:**
- Reading Benchmarks: Prep: level 9; Year 1: level 17; Year 2: level 21; Year 3: level 25; Year 4 – 7: 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 fundraising and organising the large storage container that is now beside the groundsman’s shed. We have needed a cost effective storage option for our sports equipment for a long time and we are very pleased with this solution. The container will soon have house team logos painted on it.

The P&C have done a fantastic job of fixing the Prep Cubby House which can now be used by our Prep students. Thank you.

Thanks also for opening the uniform shop prior to the start of school and this week. This has made the purchase of our uniform much easier for our families.

**Parade**

This year we will continue having our school parade (assembly) at 2:30 on Monday afternoons. Parents and caregivers are welcome to attend.

**New Laws – Smoking outside Schools – 5 metre law**

The Queensland Government has passed amendments to the *Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act (1998)*, banning the use of smoking products, including tobacco and electronic cigarettes, in all enclosed and outdoor areas at state and non-state schools in Queensland—including primary, secondary and special education facilities—and for five metres beyond the boundary of school land. The new laws took effect from 1 January 2015.

The new laws apply at all times—during and after school hours, on weekends and during school holidays.

The five metre ‘no smoking’ buffer will ensure that smokers extinguish their smoking products well before they approach school land.

**Parent Information Sessions**

Parent Information Sessions will be held in week 3, with details of times to be advised next week. 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.

**School Leaders 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Girl Captain</td>
<td>Tahlia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Girl Vice Captain</td>
<td>Latisha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boy Captain</td>
<td>Mathew</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boy Vice Captain</td>
<td>Alexander</td>
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<td>Elliott Captain</td>
<td>Kamryn</td>
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<td>Elliott Captain</td>
<td>Alfie</td>
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<td>Stuart Captain</td>
<td>Abbey</td>
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<td>Taynarme</td>
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<td>Castle Captain</td>
<td>Dusty</td>
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<tr>
<td>Castle Captain</td>
<td>Elijah</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Council President</td>
<td>Rosie</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Council Vice President</td>
<td>Emily</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Council Secretary</td>
<td>Chloe S</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Council Treasurers</td>
<td>Angelia and Whillo</td>
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**HÔY**

Saturday 14th February at 2.00pm
under D Block