Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to term 2! It has been a great start to the new term and excellent work has begun in each class. It has been a joy to see all the students looking refreshed and happy after their holiday. Our school ANZAC Day parade was held last Friday and it was a very special time. The students heard from a number of speakers and learnt about some of the reasons behind the ANZAC traditions and of course the significance of this event. Special guest, Lieutenant Cooling, presented an informative and moving speech and also assisted with the laying of class wreaths. The ANZAC Day march at The Strand was also a fantastic event. Our school was well represented and we all enjoyed viewing the march, before joining with other schools at the end. Thank you to all the students and families that attended this important event. We have another busy term lined up. Further in the newsletter is a number of upcoming dates for your calendars. Details of each event will be provided closer to the time.

End of Term 2 benchmarks: Prep: level 4; Year 1: level 13; Year 2: level 19; Year 3: level 23; Year 4 – 7: Reading age matches chronological age, within 6 months at time of test.

**READING GOALS**

All students will be bringing home their term 2 reading goals by the end of week 3. Please talk with your child about their goal and ensure that they are reading for homework every night.

**ANZAC Day March**

Once again, our school attended the annual ANZAC Day march at The Strand. We had excellent participation, with almost 40 students representing our school. We were particularly impressed by the number of young RESS students attending. Thank you to the parents and caregivers that brought their children to this special event. Every student represented our school to the highest standard and we got numerous positive comments along the march from spectators.

**NAPLAN**

From 12\textsuperscript{th} to 14\textsuperscript{th} May, as part of the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN), national tests will be held in literacy and numeracy for all students in Australia at Years 3, 5, 7 and 9.

The national tests will assess student achievement in literacy and numeracy in much the same way as they have been done in the past. Students will be familiar with the test formats and the type of questions they have to answer. The main difference is that all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 at schools across Australia will be doing the same tests on the same days.

Students will have their skills assessed in numeracy, reading, writing, spelling, punctuation and grammar.

National tests will provide information on how students are progressing, and support improvements in teaching and learning. These tests will make it easier to monitor student performance in literacy and numeracy across the nation. Over 1 million students from 9,000 schools across Australia will participate in the national tests.

This information will be used to evaluate what students can do and how they perform against the national benchmarks. You can help your child by talking about these tests as a means of showing what they know and can do at this point in their schooling. Ease any anxiety by explaining that everyone in Australia will be doing this test at the same time and the testing process is an integral part of their school life.

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**Reading Benchmarks**

As we begin the new term teachers and students will be setting targets and goals, particularly in reading, which is our focus area of improvement. We have set year level benchmarks for our students in reading, to ensure that all students are successful throughout their education. These are aligned to regional expectations. We are working with a strong and united focus to ensure students are progressing towards these benchmarks. Whilst we realise that not all students will attain these benchmark levels immediately, we are determined to ensure that every student is progressing in their reading. Below are the benchmark levels for each individual year level. Parents need to know these so that they understand the level of reading necessary, and so that they can work with their children and the teacher to attain this level or beyond. Please note that these benchmarks are for the end of term 2.

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2015 P&C Executive Committee

Last term we had our P&C AGM. Thanks to all those that participated. Thanks once again to the outgoing P&C members for their dedication and support to our great school. I am very pleased to announce that Rachel Cook will continue as our P&C President. She will be supported by Kerri Taylor, as Vice President and Amber Goodall as treasurer. This year we welcome a new committee member, Christine Riley, who has taken on the role of secretary. Please note that P&C meetings will now be on the first Thursday of the month at 5:00pm. The next meeting is next Thursday 7\textsuperscript{th} May at 5:00pm in the Library. It would be wonderful to see other parents coming along to these meetings to support this small committee. The meetings are very positive and have great outcomes for your children.

We look forward to great support from the P&C this year and we trust that the whole school community will be on board with their initiatives.

Please note that the committee will need extra parent support for discos and the V8 parking. Without parent support these events cannot be run.

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D. Broadfoot
30\textsuperscript{th} April, 2015

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**END OF TERM 2 BENCHMARKS**

- Year 1: level 13
- Year 2: level 19
- Year 3: level 23
- Year 4 – 7: Reading age matches chronological age, within 6 months at time of test.
Later in the year individual students will be given reports which will indicate their level of achievement in reading, writing, spelling, punctuation, grammar and numeracy. You will be given an opportunity to discuss this report with your child’s teacher.

**Learning Fair – Education Week**
On Friday 22nd May we will be holding a Learning Fair for Education Week. This will involve ‘open classes’ where parents can come to their children’s classes and see all the hard work that has been happening. Open class sessions will be 2:30 – 3:00pm and 5:15 – 6:00pm (with the school disco to follow from 6:00pm). This day will also incorporate ‘Under 8s Day’ for Prep M, Prep/1MM, 1/2E, 1M and 2/3A. This will involve a range of fun-filled activities over the morning session. Parents are welcome to attend. More details about the Learning Fair will be sent home a little closer to the time.

**DATE CLAIMER**
**INTER-HOUSE ATHLETICS CARNIVAL**
Our Inter-house Athletics Carnival will run over the last two Tuesdays of the term. The field events will be held on 16th May for 10 to 13 year olds. The track events for all students will be held on 23rd May. This is usually the day that we get many families attending. As always, we welcome all families and friends to attend this event.

**Other Term 2 Date Claimers**
1/5 – P-3 Stuck in the Mud game on oval 1st break.
12/5 – NAPLAN – Language and writing
13/5 – NAPLAN – reading
14/5 – NAPLAN – numeracy
19/5 – Interschool cross country
22/5 – P&C Glow Disco
22/5 – School Learning Fair
27/5 – School photos
8/6 – Queens Birthday public holiday
16/6 – Sports Day: field events – Year 4-6
22/6 – Rewards Day – Ice Skating and Play Day
23/6 – Sports Day: track events – whole school
25/6 – Student Council Fun Run
26/6 – Red Nose Day

**Science News**
Interested in astronomy? Want great links to cool astronomy web sites? Try this: http://bsc.rascommunity.org/index.html
Then click on RESOURCES on the right-hand side. The links are the favourites of David Ellis. David was an instrumental music teacher at Railway Estate several years ago.

**Electrical Show**
Don't forget, permission note and $2.00 entry cost is due by Friday the 5th of June. Don’t miss out it should be an electrifying experience. A note should have made it home by now.

**International Space Station Spotting Opportunity**
Some better opportunities to spot several humans whizzing around the planet at about 27,000 km per hour some 300 kilometres above Townsville are coming up soon.
(Weather permitting.)
1. Saturday, May the 2nd at exactly 5:27am breaking horizon from the SSW. Visible for 5 minutes at maximum of 78 degrees elevation. Look for a bright, fast, star-like object.
2. Monday, May the 4th at exactly 6:31pm breaking horizon from the NNW. Visible for 6 minutes at a maximum elevation of 72 degrees elevation.

Better still keep an eye on NASA’s own web site: http://spotthestation.nasa.gov/ LOCATION LOOKUP / Australia / Queensland /Townsville

**BOOK CLUB**
Issue 3 of Book Club is due back at school by 6th May. Orders may be handed in at the Library or by visiting scholastic.com.au/loop to order online.

**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. Please note that the office does not have EFTPOS facilities.

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**Citizen of the Week**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weekend ending 27th March</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Week ending 24th April</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>David</td>
<td>PREPM</td>
<td>Bethany</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jesi</td>
<td>P/1MM</td>
<td>Sebastian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harrison</td>
<td>1M</td>
<td>Dante</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1/2E</td>
<td>Isabella</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian</td>
<td>2/3A</td>
<td>Felicianna</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kaide</td>
<td>3/4M</td>
<td>Alicia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paige</td>
<td>4/5F</td>
<td>Zoe Lee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kamryn</td>
<td>5/6I</td>
<td>Latisha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mason</td>
<td>5/6M</td>
<td>Brooklyn</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**HOY**
Saturday 9th May at 2.00pm under D Block