FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome
Thanks to all our families for helping your children settle into the new school year. It has made for a great start to the year and your efforts are greatly appreciated by the staff and myself.

Congratulations to all our students on a great first week back at school. It was wonderful to see so many students settling into class and school routines, catching up with friends and supporting our new students, especially the Preps.

Our teaching staff entitlement for 2015 will be determined by our enrolment numbers on the 8th day of school, Thursday, 5 February 2015. We currently have 16 classes and may need to make adjustments to classes once we have been advised of our staff entitlement. Parents will be notified if changes should need to occur.

Thank you to all the parents who have offered to volunteer in their son or daughter's class. We still require parents to help out with swimming in classrooms, the resource centre, tuckshop and the uniform shop. If you are able to help even for a small amount of time, please contact the office.

Congratulations and good luck to Hugh Weatherall, Deneka Weir, Brayden Thompson, Zofia Elliott, Jackson Chang and Fletcher Day who will compete at the Sunnybank District Swimming Carnival next Wednesday. We look forward to reporting on your results in the next newsletter.
Leadership Induction Parade
Thank you to all the community members who attended the Leadership Induction Parade this week. For the first time we saw our Year 6 Leaders solely take the student leadership role at Runcorn. A full list of student leaders and photos of the day are also in this newsletter.

Thank you to our student presenters who did an outstanding job ensuring the parade ran smoothly. Thank you to Mrs Jarvis, Mrs Howes and Mr Simiana for all the behind the scenes work.

Parent Information Evenings
In week 3 on Tuesday, February 10 and Wednesday, February 11, there will be a series of parent information sessions designed at explaining procedures and curriculum in your son or daughter’s class. The times of each class will come out once staffing has been finalised. The school will endeavour to provide parents with as much information as possible with regarding school activities.

Before School Care
There are a number of students arriving at school as early as 7.15am and sitting under B Block. This practice is not safe as there is no supervision at school this early. Should you require it, Runcorn State School has a before school program run by the PCYC in the old library.

**Do not send your children to school prior to 8am and preferably not before 8.30am unless they are attending before school care.**

Pick up time for students is 3pm. If you are going to be late, contact the office on (07) 3323 8777. Runcorn State School has an after school program run by the PCYC (0423 551 335, Runcornsa@pcyc.org.au) in the old library.

Slow Down Around our School
Parents should also take the time to teach their children about road safety and the safest ways to travel to and from school including:

- ensure your child knows the safest route to and from school
- teach your child to always walk on footpaths
- make sure your child crosses at traffic lights, pedestrian crossings or supervised school crossings and ensure they know the safe times to cross
- accompany young children when they are walking or riding to school until they are old enough to understand road safety
- teach your child to be alert for cars going in or out of driveways
- discourage your child from playing with balls or toys while walking to school.

Swimming
Our swimming program for Years 1-6 started this week. Please ensure you have returned all notes and students have the necessary equipment to participate in lessons. Parent volunteers are essential to enable our comprehensive swimming program to be undertaken. If you can help with supervision or lessons, please contact your child’s teacher or the office immediately.

A reminder there is **no swimming on Wednesday, 11 February** due to the Sunnybank District Swimming Carnival being held at the pool.

P&C Meeting
The first P&C Meeting for 2015 will be on **Tuesday, 10 February at 7pm** in the staffroom. All new and existing parents are invited to attend.

Regards

Greg Gosling

FROM THE MASTER TEACHER

Welcome back to Runcorn SS. I have been fortunate again to work with the teachers and your children at Runcorn SS this year. Last year, I worked with many teachers to help them improve their teaching of Literacy to your children. It was pleasing to see the great improvement many students achieved with their reading in 2014.
Students at Runcorn SS are being encouraged to practice their reading skills and strategies every day. To be a lifelong reader, a child needs to see reading as an enjoyable experience. A positive, supportive environment at home and at school, where children are free to ask questions and discuss what they are reading, helps them understand the world, understand themselves and builds their vocabulary knowledge.

Thanks again to all those parents who make reading an enjoyable and rewarding experience for their child. For more information click on the following link: http://www.topmarks.co.uk/parents/ten-tips-on-hearing-your-child-read

Rob Scott  
Master Teacher

INTRODUCING OUR 2015 STUDENT LEADERS

Weston Hammond, Emma Cane, Galen Panic, Annabelle Julien, Rebecca Spence,  
Lucy Hetherington, Emily Clausen, Lachlan De Lange, Bonnie McAlinden, Leon Li,  
Maddison McCulloch, Grace Branthwaite, Alvin Doci, Bella Williams, Jieye Mauai, Zofia Elliott,  
Fletcher Day, Jackson Chang, Nicholas Schooth, Sean O’Brien, Matthew Olsen, Katie Bowden

MUSIC MATTERS

Welcome back to another year of making wonderful music together. The importance of music education is well known. Here is just one example:

Music helps students learn to be organised. Music is organised sound, and so to participate we do need to know what, when and how to play. Students who join an ensemble and learn an instrument have to learn to arrive at their lessons on time with all the equipment that they need. A child who struggles with organisation can develop these skills with practice. This in turn helps their overall ability to be organised, which is an important life skill. In fact, organisation is one of our 5 Keys to Success.

Our classroom music program has already begun in earnest. Each class has a thirty minute classroom music lesson every week. We cover a variety of musical topics in each year and our activities include singing, playing, listening, reading and writing. A special music workbook is provided for each child at the cost of $5. If you did not pay for this when ordering your bookpack, please send the $5 in an envelope to the school office marked with your child’s name and class.

Our students are very fortunate to have the opportunity to learn instruments and participate in music ensembles at Runcorn State School. Students in Year Three form the Junior Choir. We meet every week on a Tuesday at 2:30 and are working on a range of songs. The purpose of this group is to introduce students to music ensemble work, develop their choral technique and to have fun creating a beautiful sound together. Students in Year 4, 5 and 6 have received an invitation to join the Senior Choir, which meets at 8am on Thursday mornings. The first rehearsal will be held next week, on the 12th of February in the music room. Lessons for band and string instruments have begun this week. The Senior String Ensemble is for students in their second year or more of learning and commences next Tuesday morning at 7:45am in the Music Ensemble room. We have a large number of students beginning a band instrument this year, which is fantastic! For this reason, Band Ensemble will not be starting back straight away. Mr Millar will inform students of when this will occur. We are also in need of volunteers to help wash performance uniform vests. If you would like to help, please collect a bag of ten (10) vests from the Tuckshop. Your help would be greatly appreciated. I look forward to an exciting year of working with our budding musicians to be the very best they can be.

Mrs Margaret Buddle  
Classroom Music Teacher
FROM THE ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

Thank you to those parents who utilise our direct deposit payment system as this method is quick and easy to identify and allocate payments to students. **This is our preferred method of payment.** If you wish to use this method, our school’s bank account details are as follows:- BSB 064-162 / Account No. 00090035. The school also accepts cash/cheque/efptos. **Please ensure permission forms are completed and submitted to the class teacher when paying by EFT.** Our school does not participate in the Centrepay scheme. If you have any concerns or difficulties with these payments, please do not hesitate to contact the front office to discuss payment arrangements in advance of cut-off date. Invoices will no longer be sent home, please regard the excursion letter as your invoice for payment.

TERM DATES FOR 2015 SCHOOL YEAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TERM</th>
<th>START</th>
<th>END</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>27 January 2015</td>
<td>2 April 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>20 April 2015</td>
<td>26 June 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>13 July 2015</td>
<td>18 September 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>6 October 2015</td>
<td>11 December 2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TERM 1 – DATES OF SIGNIFICANCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>10\textsuperscript{th} February</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting, 7pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>10\textsuperscript{th} February</td>
<td>Parent Information Sessions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>11\textsuperscript{th} February</td>
<td>No Swimming classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>11\textsuperscript{th} February</td>
<td>Parent Information Sessions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>12\textsuperscript{th} February</td>
<td>Free Dress Day (P&amp;C)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LOST PROPERTY

Please remember to check through the lost property bin throughout the year for any items that your children may have misplaced. Any leftover items will be donated to charity at the end of each term. This bin is located near the bin cage under the teachers’ staffroom.

EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS

As we commence a new year, students will be receiving a form for parents and carers to complete with their updated contact details. If you have recently moved or changed your contact phone numbers, please add these details to their form and return to your class teacher or the school office. It is vital that the school can contact parents and carers in an emergency situation.

P&C NEWS

The date for the next P&C Meeting is Tuesday, 10\textsuperscript{th} February, 7pm. All parents, including new Prep parents, are welcome to attend. We look forward to meeting you.

**Election Day BBQ**

A big thank you to all our Volunteers who helped out at the Election Day BBQ and Cake Stall. Money raised from the BBQ will be going towards our yearly P&C contribution to the school. The Swimming Club also had a wonderful selection of cakes and cookies for their stall and their money raised will be helping out the club. We would like to thank all our helpers - **Melissa C, Kathryn A, Cheryl R, Emma D, Lisa W, Sandra W, Carrisa B, Jodie N, Rachel B, Peter B, Kevin S, Lisa C, Sue L, Tony S, Isabella P, Grace B, Myora F, Ethan S, Rebecca S, Sawn K, Bruce K, Emma D, Grant D, Nicole L, Amlcar F, Greg G, Alice C and Andrew S.** Also, a big thank you to all the parents who donated items and the community who supported the school by buying from the BBQ, Cake Stall and Coffee Van.
The 2015 Tuckshop Menu is being finalised and will be sent home soon. In the meantime, please refer to the 2014 menu which is available from the office or Tuckshop. For a copy of the tuckshop menu, download one from our website, or pick up a copy from the office or tuckshop.

Prep Students

Tuckshop for Prep students will commence in the coming weeks. Prep students can order from a limited menu on Fridays only.

Volunteers

Volunteers are needed for Fridays. If you can spare even just half an hour, it will be greatly appreciated.

Birthday Cupcakes

Cupcakes are available for your celebration. Please place your order with Miss Jodie at the Tuckshop.

Jodie Newton
Tuckshop Convenor

Uniform Shop

Big shout out to the volunteers who manned the Uniform Shop during the school holidays and the 3 days a week during school terms! You all do a fantastic job. Thank you for your commitment.

New supplies of Polo Shirts and Broad Brimmed hats are expected in the last week of February. New supply of dresses are expected middle March. New supply of dress shirts are expected middle of March also.

The colder mornings will be upon us sooner than we think. To ensure that your child is ready for these mornings we will be placing an order for jumpers and micro-fibre Jackets at the end of February. Please place your order in to the Uniform Shop by the 27th of February to ensure your child has warm clothing for the start of second term. These jackets and jumpers take 6 weeks to arrive from the order date. Microfibre pants are also available in the Uniform Shop. Swimming caps will also be available in the Tuckshop – Lycra caps $7.50, Latex caps $2.50.

Thank you all for your patience with the short supply of uniforms. It came as a big surprise to us all how many uniforms we processed during the last week of the school holidays and the first week of school. Uniform shop order forms are available from the office for your convenience.

With thanks
Cathryn Marshall
Uniform Shop Convenor

School Banking

Thursday is School Banking Day

Davina Edwards
Banking Coordinator

SCHOOL DENTAL CLINIC
“Smile Vanuatu” are now accepting toothbrushes for their visit in 2015. This time, our very own Mrs Lyn Newman from Administration is also going along and would like to take lots of toothbrushes with her. If you would like to donate, please drop off your toothbrushes at the office.

COMMUNITY NEWS

NAB Auskick