Welcome

Congratulations to all our students who have received awards over the past two weeks. Students have been recipients of You Can Do It awards for Organisation and Confidence. It is very pleasing to see so many students receiving awards for their hard work and consistent effort.

Congratulations to the Runcorn State School representatives at the recent Sunnybank District Swimming Carnival. The six competitors were successful in winning the overall team trophy on the day. This is an outstanding effort. Well done swimmers.
Tama Meguro Japanese Study Tour
From Monday 23 February, Runcorn State School will be hosting 18 students from Tama Meguro Junior High School for 10 days. The students aged between 13 and 15 will participate in school activities, stay with Runcorn State School families and visit iconic tourist attractions in South East Queensland.

The students will be introduced on Parade, work with a Runcorn buddy and participate in classroom activities. Students will also participate in a school BBQ prior to returning to Japan. Thank you to all our families who requested to take students during their stay.

School Improvement Agenda
Every year as a school we set a clearly defined improvement agenda. This agenda is based on the previous performance of our students, regional and state priorities and the direction set through School Council Consultation.

The 2015 School Improvement Agenda has 4 key focus areas
1. Targeted teaching and improved results in Reading
2. Targeted teaching and improved results in Writing
3. Targeted teaching and improved results in Problem Solving
4. Implementing the You Can Do It 13 Habits of the Mind to enhance student learning behaviours

The improvement areas have clearly articulated targets and strategies, align with our Annual Implementation Plan and are the key areas for resourcing for both the school and the P&C. The full School Improvement Agenda 2015 is available on the website.

Parent Reading Workshops
Runcorn's Master Teacher and Reading Coach will be running Reading support workshops for parents throughout the year.

These workshops are a valuable source of support and will help take the stress out of getting your child to read regardless of the year level or ability.

The first workshop will be held on Thursday 26 February at 2.30pm in the A Block teaching area. Parents will need to come to the office to sign in and receive directions. I look forward to seeing you there.

Parent Information Evenings
Thanks to everyone who attended the parent information sessions, designed to explain procedures and curriculum in your child's class. The school endeavours to provide parents with as much information as possible with regarding school activities. If you missed this event, please contact your child's teacher for a printed handout that was given to parents on the night.

Student Resource Scheme
Thanks to everyone who has paid the Student Resource Scheme for 2015. The cut-off date to be eligible to win book and iPad vouchers is 26 March 2015. If you have yet to pay, lost your form or would like further information please contact the office on 3323 8777 or download one from the website.

School Disco
A reminder the first student disco for 2015 is on Friday 27 February from 5.30 – 7.30pm in Girrawheen Place. The disco run by the P&C and Student Council is a great social event for students and parents. Volunteers are required to help run food stalls as well as set up and pack up. Contact Samara Frye on 0423653816 if you can help. The theme for the disco is “People of the World”. Come along and experience a great family night out.

P&C Meeting
Thanks to everyone who attended the first P&C Meeting for 2015. The P&C Annual General meeting will be on Tuesday 10 March at 7pm in the staffroom. All new and existing parents are encouraged to attend.

Regards

Greg Gosling
FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

School Day
We take “Every Student, Every Lesson, Every Day” seriously at Runcorn State School.

Not only is turning up to school important, of equal significance is providing your child with the opportunity to be organised and well prepared for the school day. This means being at school **before the 8.45am bell**. Arriving on time provides students with the ability to enter their class in an orderly, unhurried manner and review what the day will entail. If you are aware that traffic and parking play a part in arriving at school prior to the 8.45am bell, can you please factor this into your school travel time rather than allowing it to regularly continue to impinge your child’s organised start.

Stationery
Class teachers are following up with a few students who are yet to purchase all the stationery that they require. Please respond to notes or phone calls from teachers following up by providing your child with the equipment they need.

Uniform
It is wonderful to see so many students wearing Runcorn uniform and hats correctly. Please support our efforts for students to present themselves with pride in their correct Runcorn State School uniform.

Roberta Matlock
Deputy Principal

FROM THE MASTER TEACHER

Encouraging your Child with Reading
Parents play an important role when encouraging reading at home. Please consider the following questions.

• Is my child read to and do they read aloud every day?

• Does my child see me or others at home reading?

• Is there a comfortable place where my child can be read to?

• Is my child encouraged to select the story to be read?

• Is my child encouraged to join in while being read to, e.g. turning the pages, holding the book, allowing them to ‘read’ the bits they remember?

• Is my child encouraged to take notice of print, e.g. find letters from his or her name?

• Is my child encouraged to retell or act out stories he or she has heard?

If you would like more information about how to encourage your child to read, visit the websites below.


Runcorn SS Parent Reading Workshops

Reading, Speaking and Listening, Spelling, Writing and Numeracy

Wanting to help your child at home but are not sure how? Come to one of our parent information sessions on a Thursday afternoon from 2:30pm - 3pm. Parent Information sessions will start next **Thursday February 26, from 2:30pm - 3:00pm** for parents who would like simple and easy ways of helping their child with literacy and numeracy. These session will be of benefit to any parent in the Prep - Yr 6 grades, who would like to assist their child in literacy and numeracy or who have questions relating to these topics. We will meet in the old Admin building (A Block). Please register your name by email admin@runcornss.eq.edu.au or phone on 3323 8777 if you are interested in attending or need more information.

**Session Topics and Times**

- Reading – Thursday 26/2 2.30pm
- Spelling - Thursday 12/3 2.30pm
- Numeracy - Thursday 26/3 2.30pm
- Speaking and Listening - Thursday 5/3 2.30pm
- Writing - Thursday 19/3 2.30pm

Looking forward to seeing you there,

Rob Scott
Master Teacher
OUR DISTRICT SWIMMING SUPER STARS

What a great day Runcorn has had at the Sunnybank District Swimming Carnival! All six of our students swam very well. In fact, out of the 19 schools competing at the carnival, Runcorn State School won the overall aggregate trophy with a total of 211 points. For the past three years, Our Lady of Lourdes has won this title! Second placing went to Our Lady of Lourdes in 170 points and third was St. Thomas More high school at 154 points.

Well done to Deneka, Hugh, Zofia, Brayden, Jackson and Fletcher! At this stage the district team is still being finalised for those students to swim on behalf of Sunnybank district competing at regionals, and hopefully we will hear from Mrs Wood soon!

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/eftpos. 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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>27 January 2015</td>
<td>2 April 2015</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>20 April 2015</td>
<td>26 June 2015</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>13 July 2015</td>
<td>18 September 2015</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>6 October 2015</td>
<td>11 December 2015</td>
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TERM 1 – DATES OF SIGNIFICANCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>20th February</td>
<td>Payment Closing Date – Yr 2 – Toys from the Past</td>
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<tr>
<td>23/02/15</td>
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<td>Japanese Students Visit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>26th February</td>
<td>Parent Workshop – Reading (2.30pm – 3.00pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>27th February</td>
<td>Clean Up Runcorn Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>27th February</td>
<td>Toys from the Past – Yr 2 Incursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>27th February</td>
<td>P&amp;C Disco (5.30pm – 7.30pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>5th March</td>
<td>Parent Workshop – Speaking and Listening (2.30pm – 3.00pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>6th March</td>
<td>Sports Gala Day 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>10th March</td>
<td>P&amp;C AGM, 7pm Staffroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>12th March</td>
<td>Parent Workshop – Spelling (2.30pm – 3.00pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>17th March</td>
<td>St Patricks Day (Free Dress)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>19th March</td>
<td>Parent Workshop – Writing (2.30pm – 3.00pm)</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>20th March</td>
<td>Young Leaders Day at Brisbane Convention Centre</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>20th March</td>
<td>Cross Country</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>23rd March</td>
<td>Three Way Reporting Commences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>26th March</td>
<td>Parent Workshop – Numeracy (2.30pm – 3.00pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>27th March</td>
<td>Three Way Reporting Finishes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>1st April</td>
<td>Easter Bonnet Parade and Hamper Draw</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>2nd April</td>
<td>Last Day of Term 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>3rd April</td>
<td>Good Friday Public Holiday (School closed)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>20th April</td>
<td>First Day of Term 2</td>
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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.

MUSIC MATTERS
Firstly, a big shout-out goes to Mrs Toni Stehbens, who took home ALL the choir vests to wash last week. You are our hero, Toni!

Senior choir started back last week and they sound beautiful. We are focussing on becoming ‘one sound’ by listening to each other and adjusting our voices. All Year Three students are participating in our Junior Choir. Please note that it is not necessary for them to purchase a choir uniform this year, as this is a compulsory and not an optional group. When the Junior Choir will be involved in performances, they will be required to wear their school uniform to these events.

Mrs Margaret Buddle
Classroom Music Teacher

FROM THE TRAFFIC SUPERVISORS

NOTICE TO SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Parents and teachers are asked to encourage their children to use the supervised crossing and to set a good example themselves by obeying the School Crossing Supervisor's directions whenever they use the crossing.

Stop when the STOP sign is Displayed

When the School Crossing Supervisor holds up the STOP sign all road users must stop their vehicles, clear of the crossing. Road users must not begin to accelerate until all pedestrians including the School Crossing Supervisor are safely on the footpath on either side of the road. If a vehicle has stopped to give way to the pedestrians at a crossing facility, do not overtake the vehicle while it is stationary. Failure to comply is an offence that will be reported to the Police.

No Stopping Zones

The 'No Stopping' zones delineate the School Crossing Supervisor’s workplace and serves to protect an area on either side of a crossing facility. It is important to the safety of pedestrians who use the crossing facility that this road rule is followed. If this is ignored the enforcement agencies will be contacted. The design of a crossing facility is a standard layout described in the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices to allow School Crossing Supervisors/ pedestrians to have a clear view of approaching vehicles and vice versa.

School Crossing Supervisors have the authority to report any incidents that affect their personal safety and the safety of pedestrians. They will record registration numbers and details of offending vehicles and report them. There are no circumstances where a driver can stop in the crossing zone, drivers delivering or waiting for children are no exception and are not exempt.

Supervised crossing procedure

The School Crossing Supervisor will ask all pedestrians, both children and adults, to wait on the footpath. When a suitable gap appears in the traffic from both directions, the supervisor will extend the STOP sign to face the traffic and when it is safe to do so proceed to the centre of the road with the STOP sign displayed. The supervisor will blow two blasts of the whistle to indicate that it is safe for pedestrians to cross. When all pedestrians have cleared the crossing, the School Crossing Supervisor then returns to the footpath.

All cyclists, skateboarders, children wearing roller blades or with scooters will be asked to dismount and walk their ‘wheels’ over the crossing. Please assist your School Crossing Supervisors – they are here to protect your children.
School Buddy Program

Each Friday, Prep and Senior classes team together to participate in buddy activities. Runcorn State School Buddy Program teaches, and gives children the opportunity to practise our important school rules of being respectful, responsible and safe. It also teaches children to care for each other, include others, value difference, and build friendships. Our Buddy Program enables our Preps to feel safe and cared for while our Seniors develop leadership skills and self-confidence whilst feeling valued and respected. As teachers, we love watching all of our students grow and witness how this program has a positive effect on learning.

Alphabet Days

The Preps are very busy learning about the letters of the alphabet. On Tuesday 17th February we focused on the letter “P”. Class PS were very lucky to have a special visitor who helped out during our rotation time. “Popcorn with the Principal” was certainly the favourite activity of the morning!

(Mr Gosling with Phoenix, Ilani, Eli, Leo, Asiyah and Isabella)

From the Prep Teachers
Ms Handyside, Mrs Schooth and Mr Biedermann

P&C NEWS

The 2015 Annual General Meeting will be held on 10th March and will commence at 7pm in the staffroom, followed by a general P&C Meeting. All community members including Prep parents welcome. If you would like to nominate for a role in the P&C, call or text Samara on 0423 653 816 or leave your name and number at the school office for more information.

Tuckshop

2015 Tuckshop Menu

The 2015 Tuckshop Menu has now been finalised and will be sent home. 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

Thank you to all parents for your patience as we await the arrival of new stock into the uniform shop. As per last newsletters these items should be available towards the end of February/early March. Cut off date is approaching for the ordering of Winter Uniforms. Please consider using this system so you are not disappointed when the cold weather hits us.
Thanks again to Sandra W, Rebecca M, Jane E and Belinda N for your continued assistance as volunteers in our Uniform Shop.

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

Runcorn PCYC – Vacation Care
2015 Rotary Bendigo Bank Fun Run – Sunday, 29th March, 9.30am
Runners can win $500 for their favourite charity or school/athletics club. For more information, see website www.rotaryfunrun.org.

For bookings, click on http://www.trybooking.com/GRXD