From the Principal….

Dear Parents and Caregivers

We are almost half way through the term and I hope that your child/ren have settled in to a routine. I have enjoyed walking through classrooms and watching the students engage in their learning. I was very impressed with Year 2 students who were able to tell me the features of poems. Why don’t you ask them to explain poetry to you? The Year 1 students were able to explain the difference between natural, constructed and managed features of the environment. Very often, at the end of a day we ask our children what they did at school. The response is often ‘nothing’. We all know that is far from what happened. So try to find out what content is being taught and ask a question specific to that topic. They will be impressed that you know what they are learning and will be more inclined to give you information.

I would like to thank the students and the school community for rallying together and ensuring that the school is litter free. Last week, the grounds were spotless. At lunch time, I saw a few students voluntarily pick up plastic from the garden beds. Well done students.

Last week, the School Council met for the first time in 2016. The School Council has between 6 to 15 members, depending on the size of the school. At the moment, we are short of two parent representatives and one staff representative. If you are keen to be a Council member, please nominate yourself and give your name to the office by Monday 29 February. If there is more than one nomination, there will be an election at the next Council meeting. School Councils are the governance body and support the school in strategic decision making.

The school has a Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students. This plan needs to be reviewed this year. I am putting together a working party to assist with the review process. If you are interested please let the office know this week. The working party will need to meet at least twice this term.

Playground Supervision

There is no supervision before school. Students should not be arriving before 8AM. In the event of them coming before 8AM, they are to sit under A Block. There is no playing of handball. There is NO playing on any playground equipment before school.

After school, students should proceed home if walking, go to After School Care if booked in, or be under the supervision of a parent or family member. Children on the playground after school must be supervised by their parents.

Michelle D’Netto
From the Deputy Principal….

Student Support
Student support continues to be provided in 2016 with specific teachers and teacher aides assigned to Year levels to ensure your child is being delivered a differentiated curriculum that meets their individual needs. Differentiation takes the form of whole class groupings, small groups and some 1:1 support. Mrs Melissa Bayle is working with students in Year 1 and 2, Mrs Chittenden in Year 3 and 4 and Mrs Bryzak in Year 5 and 6. Mrs Nicol is working with EALD students from P-6. These teachers will take on the role of supporting and case managing students in their assigned year level. As the school is no longer entitled to the position of Head of Special Education Services (HOSES), questions you may have regarding your son or daughter can be directed to their class teacher and relevant support teacher as outlined.

Sight Words “Magic Words”
Sight Word “Magic Words” Cards are available from the Office for $15 per set. These are a great way to support your child with fun and creative card activities to learn the sight words vital to efficient reading and writing.

Roberta Matlock

Prep 2016 – PSB
The Preps have been having a lot of fun learning the letters of the alphabet and the sounds that they make. Last week classes especially enjoyed “popcorn with the Principal”! Each class had a special visit from guest chefs Mrs D’Netto or Mrs Matlock who helped pop the popcorn which went into their pretty paperbags!

Mrs Julie Schooth, PSB

From the Administration Office

Payments
When making payments to the school, why not utilise our direct deposit payment system as this method is easy to identify and allocate payments to students. Also, it is quick and convenient and you do not have to wait in a queue. 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 before the cut-off date.
Term Dates for 2016 School Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TERM</th>
<th>START</th>
<th>END</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>27 January 2016</td>
<td>24 March 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>11 April 2016</td>
<td>24 June 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>11 July 2016</td>
<td>16 September 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>4 October 2016</td>
<td>9 December 2016</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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>26 Feb</td>
<td>Sports Gala Day (Years 5 &amp; 6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>29 Feb</td>
<td>Payment Cut –Off Date – Yr 2 Incursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>2 Mar</td>
<td>Year 2 Toy Incursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>4 Mar</td>
<td>Sports Gala Day (Back Up)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>4 Mar</td>
<td>Clean Up Runcorn Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>8 Mar</td>
<td>P&amp;C Annual General Meeting, 7pm, School Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>11 Mar</td>
<td>Payment Cut –Off Date – Prep Incursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>14 Mar</td>
<td>National Young Leaders Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>14 Mar</td>
<td>Three Way Reporting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>15 Mar</td>
<td>Three Way Reporting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>15 Mar</td>
<td>Prep Pet Incursion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>16 Mar</td>
<td>Three Way Reporting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>17 Mar</td>
<td>Three Way Reporting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>18 Mar</td>
<td>Three Way Reporting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>18 Mar</td>
<td>Say No to Bullying Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>19 Mar</td>
<td>P&amp;C Volunteers required to man BBQ for Council Election held at School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>21 Mar</td>
<td>Harmony Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>23 Mar</td>
<td>Easter Bonnet Parade (Prep to Year 3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>24 Mar</td>
<td>Last Day of Term 1</td>
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</tbody>
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P&C News

P&C Meeting
The P&C Annual General Meeting will take place on **Tuesday, 8th March, 7pm in the School Library**. All interested parents including new Prep parents are most welcome to attend. Please see attached invitation.

Tuckshop

Changes to Smart Choices
The Runcorn Refueller, along with all other Queensland schools, will see various changes at the beginning of Term 2.

The implementation of Smart Choices, the **Healthy Food & Drink Supply Strategy for Queensland Schools**, has focused on improving children’s health and learning through better nutrition since 2007. Since then, tuckshops across the state have been supported by the Department of Education and Training to improve the nutritional value of food and drinks offered to students.

Following recent examination of the strategy, there are significant changes to the classification of products under Smart Choices. These changes, which were made in consultation with key stakeholders, will be in place at the beginning of Term 2 2016. For further information on these changes, please visit [www.education.qld.gov.au/schools/healthy/food-drink-strategy.html](http://www.education.qld.gov.au/schools/healthy/food-drink-strategy.html)

A menu/pricelist for the remainder of Term 1 will be available in the coming days.
Volunteers
The tuckshop is always in need of volunteers. Even if you can only spare one hour a month, please contact Jodie in the tuckshop on (07) 3323 8732.

Thank you to these people of volunteered their time last week:- Nicole Long, Yvonne Lee, Sue Leclercq, Michelle Price, Nicole Noe, Sandra Weatherall, Doug Panic, Stephen, Janene & Micaela Aboody, Genevieve Whitecross, Nelly, Etsuku and Samara Frye

Jodie Newton
Tuckshop Convenor

FUNFEST 2015 - WINNERS!!!! WINNERS!!!! WINNERS!!!!

Uncollected Fete Cent Auction Prizes from 2015 Funfest

We still have a number of cent auction prizes that have not been claimed from the 2015 Funfest. Can the following people please contact Rebecca Simpson – drsimpson@iprimus.com.au to arrange a pickup time. If you know any of these winners and they are not Runcorn family members can you forward this information onto them please. If you have already claimed your prize yet your name hasn’t been marked off our sheet please advise.

Prize – 1 – Fish tank – Robert Kinman
Prize – 5 – Prepaid mobile phone – Ella B
Prize – 13 – Accommodation Royal Pines – Melba Brandon
Prize – 14 – Jewellery – Naomi Cosby
Prize – 17 – Vouchers pack – Sarah Maclean
Prize – 18 – Vouchers pack – Kate Chamberlan
Prize – 36 – Dog bed – Fiona Chandler
Prize – 38 – Bike pack – Glynn Flannagon
Prize – 47 – Gym membership – Sophie T
Prize – 49 – Swim club voucher – Geoff Tempany
Prize – 52 – MSP photography voucher – Mel Mackay
Prize – 53 – MSP photography voucher - Kirandees

Uniform Shop
Opening Hours: 8.30am – 9am Monday, Wednesday and Friday

The Uniform Shop is now taking pre-orders for winter uniforms. Please complete the attached Uniform Shop Winter Uniform Order Form (pick up one from the office) and return to the Uniform Shop by 29th February along with payment. We will only be stocking a small amount of winter uniforms, so please return your form to ensure your child does not miss out.

Rebecca McCutcheon
Convenor

Swimming Club
Volunteers Urgently Required for Election Day Fundraising BBQ to be held whilst Local Council Election
If you can assist on this day, please contact P&C Fundraising Coordinator, Erin Viles, by email on elc_1978@hotmail.com.

School Banking
School Banking Day is Monday. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please pick up an application form from the office and return.

Community News

French Immersion Program

Invitation to interested parents and students

Open Days - Thursday 25 February or Thursday 10 March

Information Evening - Wednesday 16 March 2016 at 6.30 pm in C block

Venue: Mansfield State High School, corner Broadwater and Ham Roads, Enter by the Broadwater Road car park.

Contact person: Mr Kerin Gordon, Head of Department, Languages phone: 3452 5356

The French Immersion Program has been running since 1991. In this program, which is offered from Year 7 to 10, students study Maths, Science, History and Geography completely in the French language. This program provides an exciting challenge for motivated students. There is a selection process for enrolment in the class.

"You live a new life for every new language you speak."

French Immersion - 26 years of high achievement and success!