Dear Parents and Carers

Another year is almost over and we can all look back and reflect on the achievements of the students and the areas that need more attention. The year has been filled with important celebrations and events. We have paid respect to our soldiers in the Anzac day and Remembrance Day ceremony, we have celebrated our diversity and our cultural heritages. This was the first year that we engaged in cultural activities and celebrated NAIDOC week. Students have competed in interschool Gala sporting events, inter-house sports days and swimming carnivals and band, choral and strings concerts.

We have also been privileged to have teams represent the school in writing, reading and maths competitions. Students also showed us their creativity and design skills in projects like the Runcorn Pitch. The Science fair brought many young scientist into the limelight. AND then, there was the final concert. What a great way to bring the year to an end.

Academically, we pushed the bar up and our Year 3 students exceeded the NAPLAN targets. Year 5 students exceeded their reading targets and will continue to work on their writing and numeracy goals. The school, in terms of achievement and improvement sit at the highest level and we have to continue to work hard to maintain this position. The focus on writing this year as a priority has paid off and the abundance of writing being generated from the early years is amazing.

I would like to thank all the staff for their commitment and dedication to the school. They have worked as a team with the sole purpose of improving the outcomes for the students of this school. I would also like to thank Ms Natalie Mahon and Ms Wendy Chan, contract teachers who have been with us this semester.

I would also like to thank three long-standing staff who will be leaving at the end of the year. Ms Wendy Reeves is moving to the Gold Coast and Mrs Kristina Sluggett is moving to the Darling Downs area. We thank them for their contributions and wish them all the very best. Finally, I would like to congratulate Mrs June Butler on here retirement after 18 years of dedicated service to this school. We would also like to thank Mrs Sonia Kelly for the work she has done as Master Teacher. We wish her all the best in her new role at Mansfield State School. WE wish you all the best as you write your next chapter.

Thank you to the P&C and all the volunteers at the school. It was nice to say thank you at the breakfast. We could achieve what we have without the support of families and volunteers.
During the last week of school, there will be other celebrations, the big one will be to say goodbye to Year 6 as they take their final step from Primary to High school. Learning will still continue and at all times students are aware at they are at school and school rules apply. BE SAFE, RESPECTFUL AND RESPONSIBLE. Classes will be advertised and report cards will be distributed during this week. A lot of thought and care goes into these processes.

Finally, I wish all of you a restful holiday, a happy Christmas and a safe return in January.

Michelle D’Netto

From the Deputy Principal…

We Love Our School – Share The Love
Let’s make the Runcorn State School community an even friendlier, open and welcoming place. Please volunteer to be a Buddy Family in 2017 to families new to the school. Please email rmatl2@eq.edu.au to volunteer for this excellent way of meeting new families.

Get Connected Stay Connected with QSchools App
There are so many ways for families to be connected with school activities – through the website, fortnightly newsletter, notices home in school bags and the QSchools App. Download the free QSchools App and receive important school notifications and news feeds. It can be used on any Apple or Android device.

It is particularly important for emergencies in the storm season.

School Uniform
When buying school shoes for your children, please bear in mind that plain black or plain white with no coloured stripes and inserts is the school uniform. Please support the school uniform policy and students to wear this with pride.

Wishing all families a safe, restful holiday and look forward to seeing you all in January 2017.

Roberta Matlock

Term Dates for 2016 School Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TERM</th>
<th>START</th>
<th>END</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>4 October 2016</td>
<td>9 December 2016</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Term Dates for 2017 School Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TERM</th>
<th>START</th>
<th>END</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>23 January 2017</td>
<td>31 March 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>18 April 2017</td>
<td>23 June 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>10 July 2017</td>
<td>15 September 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>3 October 2017</td>
<td>8 December 2017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Term 4 – Dates of Significance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>8 Dec</td>
<td>Party Day / Free Dress Day (no gold coin donation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>9 Dec</td>
<td>Last Day of School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>19th Jan</td>
<td>Get Ready for Prep 2017 Morning (9:30am – 11:00am)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students Enrolling for Prep in 2017 – Activities

- Get Ready for Prep Morning – Thursday, 19th January 2017 (9:30am – 11:00am)

ICAS English Competition Results

Congratulations students on your awards for the 2016 ICAS English Competition.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Award</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mitchell</td>
<td>Distinction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fan</td>
<td>Participation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isabella</td>
<td>Merit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kazuha</td>
<td>Credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amy</td>
<td>Credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kate</td>
<td>Participation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meshak</td>
<td>Participation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Music Matters

Music Vests
Thank you to all those who have returned their music vests! All choir, band and strings members must return their blue music vest to the marked boxes outside Mrs Buddle’s room in clearly named plastic bag by this Friday.

End of Year Concert
Congratulations to all of our children on an exciting and entertaining End of Year Concert last Wednesday. The costumes were terrific, the singing was excellent and the moves were slick! Overall, it was great to see the community come together for a memorable night of celebration. Thank you for being involved.

Mrs Margaret Buddle

Aspiring Junior Weight Lifter – Alex

Aspiring Junior Weight Lifter Alex in Year 5 recently represented Runcorn State School at the Queensland All Schools Weightlifting Championship. He produced an amazing effort to place second overall in Queensland in his category. In the snatch he lifted 26kg and 36kg in the clean and jerk. Well done Alex on the excellent result.
LOTE Excursion

San, ni, iichi … and, we were off!

We were all very excited but also a bit nervous about our trip to the Japanese Restaurant and the offer of new foods. It did not take us long and after our first bites, we started to relax and ventured to try other morsels with relish. Some of us really loved the unique tastes and most thought it was very different to what we normally ate. All in all, we found the food to be incredibly tasty and the experience was fun and exciting.

But as they say, all good things come to an end … San, ni, iichi … and we were back to Runcorn. Thank you teachers for broadening our horizons!

By Genevieve

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 to allocate payments to students. Also, it is quick and convenient and saves you having to wait in a queue. This is our preferred method of payment. If you wish to use this payment 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 all cash is placed into a sealed envelope and clearly labelled with your child’s name, class and what you are paying for. Also, 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.

Library Books To Be Returned
All library books need to be returned to the library by the end of this week. Thank you for all those who have returned their items already. If an item is lost or damaged, please drop us a note so we can streamline the administration for repairs etc.

Remember the Brisbane City Council libraries summer reading program includes terrific free events and activities cartoon and writing workshops, live performances, music and science activities. Visit the council website for more details. www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/libraries.

Have a safe happy holiday and as always, Happy Reading 😊.
Ms Howes

Tuckshop News

The Tuckshop will be open for orders and ice-block purchases up until Thursday, 8th December. On this day, a limited supply of stock will be on hand for students not wishing to order their class year levels’ Party Day Meal. Please see Jodie in the Tuckshop prior to Party Day to order for this day.

The Tuckshop will be closed on Friday 9th December.

Volunteers
The Tuckshop is always in need of volunteers to process orders, prepare lunches and serve students at break times. If you can spare an hour or two once or twice a month, please see Jodie in the Tuckshop.
Uniform Shop
We need Volunteers to help run the uniform shop on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8.30am to 9.00am for the remainder of this year as well as next year. If you are able to help, please see one of the friendly ladies in the Uniform Shop on Monday, Wednesday or Friday. Training will be provided. Without the wonderful work of our Volunteers, the Uniform Shop will be unable to open on a regular basis.

The uniform shop will be open on 19 and 20 January from 9:00am to 12:00pm. If you are able to volunteer on either of these days, please let the office know.

There will be a price increase on bucket hats from the 6th February 2017. New price will be $7.50.

Rebecca McCutcheon
Convenor

Community News

Message from the Metro South Oral Health team:

Metro South Oral Health would like to thank those families who have attended the dental clinic this school year. Just a reminder that all school age children can receive free dental treatment at one of our clinics, where our gentle and experienced staff will provide a dental examination and the care your children need. Please feel free to call our call centre (the Oral Health Hub) on 1300 300 850 to book an appointment at any of our clinics in your area. We are open during the school holidays! So get that dental check-up off your end of year ‘to do’ list. Our Dental Therapist at your school, Amanda, currently has a non-work related injury that may take some time to improve, so we are currently transferring dental appointments booked in the last few weeks, to our other clinics. We apologise for any inconvenience and we will be in touch with you shortly to help you choose another clinic nearby for a replacement appointment soon. One of our clinics nearby is our clinic at QEII Hospital. We can now see the whole family at this clinic if they are eligible, and we have worked hard to ensure our younger visitors will be seen in child-friendly relaxing environment. There is also free on-site parking at QEII Hospital.

We will be commencing our ‘Healthy Mouth Day’ program at your school in February and March 2017. This day is where we bring a team to your school and every child can receive a dental screening exam, and their own oral hygiene lesson. It also allows us to see if your child needs any urgent or follow up care. We will contact you again in the New Year with more information.

Best wishes for a safe Christmas and fun school holidays.

Helen Boocock and team
Metro South Oral Health