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**From the Principal ….**

Welcome back and I hope 2017 will be a wonderful year for the school community. A special welcome to new families.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce our new staff. We have **Amber Ryan** in Year 4R, **Adam France** in 5F; **Elaine Hearn** for Term 1 in Year 3, **Emma Polities** in Term 1 in the EALD support role; **Robyn Usher** our Guidance Officer, **Suzanne Schultz** in the front office and **Rob Scott** our Master Teacher/Head of Curriculum. I trust that they will enjoy their time at Runcorn.

Thank you to families for helping your child/ren settle into school this year. I would like to extend my thanks to the staff who ensured that the grounds and classrooms were neat, clean and safe for the students. It was wonderful to see happy children returning to school, in their uniforms and with their books. Thank you everyone.

School and family partnerships are very important to the learning of the children. I hope that this partnership grows. We look forward to volunteers in the school and classroom and really appreciate the work that you do. As with staff, all volunteers are also governed by a code of conduct and student protection policy.

**Targets**
- To achieve over 95% of students above National Minimum Standards in Year 3 and 5 in NAPLAN.
- At least 60% in the Upper Two Bands in Year 3 and 45% in Year 5.
- Increase in students getting As and Bs in their report cards for English.
- Decrease the number of students receiving Ds and Es in English.

We all need to work together in a strategic and informed manner to reach these targets.

There will be information sessions held by the school administration and classroom teachers on Tuesday 7 February in Week 3. These sessions are designed to share information of classroom processes and curriculum matters and will be conducted by the teachers. Running two sessions enables parents with siblings to attend the different classes. Please put these dates into your calendar. In between the two sessions there will be a whole-school presentation run by the school Leadership team on the focus and priorities of the school for 2017.

2016 was a great year and we achieved many successes. This year is going to be just as amazing. The main priority for 2017 is: **WRITING**. Students will be asked to write regularly and ‘on demand’. Teachers will focus on the explicit teaching of writing.

Reading, problem solving and wellbeing are also important and will continue to be monitored closely.

Best wishes for 2017

*Michelle D’Netto*
You Can Do It! Term 1 Week 1 and Week 2  ORGANISATION

The You Can Do It! (YCDI) program has been in place at Runcorn for a number of years. This is a program that supports student learning behaviours and social behaviours that encourage positive behaviour and relationships and emotional well-being. We utilise the learnings from the five social emotional skills and values known as the keys of Resilience; Persistence; Getting Along; Organisation and Confidence to support students when making decisions in all areas of their school day. In 2017 we are going to focus on the YCDI! keys and habits of the mind on a fortnightly rotation.

Term 1 Week 1 AND Week 2 the focus key is ORGANISATION

Being Organised is important for everyone and it’s never too early to encourage children to be independent with their organisation. Parents play a big role in supporting their children to be organised for and at school and this includes:

- Arriving at school at 8.30am so that students are here and unrushed when the music bell sounds at 8.45am - an organised start to the school day is essential.
- Labelling all clothes and items for school – 430+ hats, drink bottles, lunch boxes are all easily misplaced and if not named nearly impossible to return to the correct owner.
- Ensuring your child has the full school stationery pack with all items essential for the year level that they are in.
- Knowing the weekly timetable so that swimming kit and musical instruments are packed on the right day and show and tell items are brought in.
- Reading the fortnightly newsletters checking the school website and using the QSchools App for clarity about when excursion payments are due and when events are on at school.
- Setting aside time in the weekday family routine for daily reading and homework.

Oscar Organisation is the YCDI! character that models the way for students in their endeavours to being more independent with their organisation.
Stationery for 2017
Can all parents please ensure that they have their child’s stationery orders completed. This will enable your child to have the most organised and productive start to the school year. Please contact them on: schoolstuff.com.au or (07) 3391 7000.

Roberta Matlock

Leadership Induction
This special parade will be held on Monday 6 February at 2pm. Student leaders will be presented with their badges.

School Routine

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.00am</td>
<td>Music Bell indicating students under B block may move around the school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.45am</td>
<td>Music Bell indicates start of classes – Students should arrive at school just prior to this bell</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.50am – 11.00am</td>
<td>First learning session</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.00am – 11.15am</td>
<td>Eating Session. Years P-3 in Girrawheen Place and Years 4-6 in New Library area</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.15am – 11.55am</td>
<td>Lunch Break – play</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.55am</td>
<td>Music Bell indicating classes to commence</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.00pm – 1.30pm</td>
<td>Middle learning session</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.30pm – 1.50pm</td>
<td>Afternoon break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.50pm - 3.00pm</td>
<td>Music Bell indicating Afternoon learning session commences</td>
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Before and After School care
Students are reminded that there is no supervision before school. Students are encouraged to be at school just before the first bell at 8.45am. **Students should not be at school before 8am.** Should families require supervision prior to 8am, Runcorn State School has a before and after school care program run by the PCYC (0423551335). After school, **only students who are supervised by their parents** are able to play on the playgrounds.

Dress Code

**UNIFORMS**

**Boys Uniform**
Boys may wear royal blue shorts with the unisex polo shirt or dress shirt.

**Dress Shirt:** Pale blue with royal blue collar, front buttoning, short sleeves, breast pocket with blue trim and school emblem

**OR**

**Unisex Polo Shirt:** Pale blue polo shirt, with royal blue collar and school emblem.

**Shorts:** Royal blue shorts

**Girls Uniform**
Girls may wear royal blue shorts, skorts, wrap skirts or skirt with the unisex polo shirt (especially for sporting activities), dress blouse or school dress.

**Unisex Polo shirt:** Pale blue polo shirt with royal blue collar and school emblem.

**Dress Blouse:** Pale blue with royal blue collar, front buttoning, short sleeves, breast pocket with blue trim and school emblem, band around hips, worn over shorts or skirt.

**Dress:** Blue and white pin striped, royal blue collar, princess line, short sleeves, pleats, zippered pocket in side seam with school emblem on left breast.
Sports Uniform
Girls: Royal blue skorts or shorts with unisex polo shirt
Boys: Royal blue shorts with unisex polo shirt (House colour t-shirt can be worn on athletics day)

Shoes
Closed in laced or Velcro black shoes or predominantly white sandshoes with socks (black or white). Slip on canvas shoes, thongs and open sandals are dangerous and are not permitted.

Hats
Our Sun Safe Rule is: “No Sun Safe Hat, No Play”. Consequently all children and staff members must wear an appropriate sun safe hat while engaged in activities in the open. Students are encouraged to wear the school broad brimmed, bucket or legionnaire’s hat.

Winter Uniform
Cardigan, microfibre jacket, or jumper/sweatshirt in school colours. Blue track pants in school colours can be worn. Girls may also wear blue stockings.

Jewellery
The only jewellery to be worn at school are earrings (studs or sleepers and no more than one per ear), a watch and a signet ring. It is against Workplace Health and Safety Regulations to allow any other piercing apart from the ears. Similarly, no bracelets, anklets or necklaces are to be worn. The principal will give consideration for religious, cultural and medical needs.

Hair & Make Up
Extreme hairstyles are not permitted (This means haircuts that are not normally seen within schools of primary age cohorts i.e. tracks, mohawks, streaks, rats tails etc.). All hair that is shoulder length or longer is required to be worn pulled back and secured away from the face and shoulders with a scrunchie, band or ribbon (preferably blue or white). No coloured nail polish or make up is to be worn at school.

Absences
Student absences from school need to be reported either by written note to the class teacher upon return to school or by leaving a message on the dedicated school absence line (3323 8777 Option 1). Unexplained absences will be followed up by the Administration team via text messages. Regular attendance at school is vital for all students. If continued absences occur, whether spasmodic across a term or consecutive days, with insufficient reason, parents will receive a formal letter from Education Queensland requesting further explanation.

EARLY DEPARTURES: If you need to take your child out of school early, please go to the front office to receive an early departure slip to take to the class teacher.

LATE ARRIVALS: if your child arrives after the music bell, please go to the front office to receive a late arrival slip to take to the class teacher.

Car Parks and Parking
Please ensure that you are aware of the signage around the school in relation to parking. The pick-up and drop off zone is NOT a parking area in the afternoon. Drivers must remain in their cars or go around the block if their children are not waiting to be picked up. Parking within school grounds is limited and restricted to staff only.
**School Rules**

Students at Runcorn are expected to be proud of their school and its fine reputation, wear its uniform and behave appropriately at all times.

Throughout the school we emphasise the rights of everyone to be treated with respect, care and consideration and to feel safe at school. The students, staff and parents have devised a behaviour management plan which includes these school rules.

- Be respectful
- Be responsible
- Be safe

Each year the children are taught what these rules mean at classroom and school level. Children are encouraged in all aspects by a system of rewards at parade each week. These awards often include achievements in behaviour or supportive attitudes to others. A copy of our Responsible Behaviour Plan is available from the office for parent perusal or can be downloaded from the website.

It is stressed that this Plan includes a “proactive” element where the children are taught about behaviour, social skills and interpersonal skills as well as the usual “reactive” element where there are agreed consequences for breaking rules.

**Transport To and From School**

Because of the location of our school, we are very conscious about road safety.

- **Walking**: As school commences at 8:45am, it is appreciated if the students arrive just prior to this bell. Exceptions may be when students are involved in extracurricular activities such as music. After school, students are to walk straight home without any detours. Any misbehaviour that occurs on the way home is the responsibility of the parents. Crossing supervisors attend the pedestrian crossings (Ardargie St and Cnr Mains & Beenleigh Rds) outside our school on each school day. Students should use these crossings at all times.

- **Parents walking their child/ren to and from school are requested to use the pedestrian crossings.**

- **Car: pick up zone (2 minute passenger zone).** Please park here only when you see your child approaching. Wait at the end of the queue and move down in turn to collect your child/ren. This enables the traffic to flow more freely. Do not leave your car unattended in this area. Please do not attempt a U-turn in this area. This is extremely dangerous and stops traffic flow in both directions. Please do not call your child/ren across the road. This is dangerous and does not set a good example for others.

- Across the road from the Dental Clinic is another 2 minute passenger zone. We ask that when using this pick up area you do not obstruct the view of the Ardargie St crossing supervisor.

- We work closely with Brisbane City Council and the Queensland Police to ensure the safety of all students and to enhance traffic flow.

- **Bus**: students waiting for buses at the school Mains Road bus stop are supervised from 3:00pm-3:30pm. Please contact the office if you have any queries about bus travel.

- **Bicycles/Scooters**: Bicycles or scooters should be placed in the racks provided under B Block. Chains and locks are recommended. Students should not ride their bicycle or scooter in the school grounds. All students who ride their bicycles to school are reminded that State Government legislation requires ALL students to wear helmets.
From the Administration Office

Music Books
All students will be invoiced $5.00 this week for the school music curriculum workbook. Can all parents and caregivers please pay this through our preferred payment methods which include BPoint and online transfers through our school’s bank account:- BSB 064-162 / Account No. 00090035. The school also accepts cash/cheque/efpos.

Once payment has been received, students will be issued with this workbook.

Student Resource Levy Scheme
As in previous years, parents will be invited to participate in this scheme. The cost for 2017 will be $80 per student. The aim of this scheme is to ask parents to contribute to the payment for classroom consumables and other resource items as deemed necessary by the teachers and school. Letters will be sent out next week regarding this. PLEASE DO NOT SEND MONEY FOR THE STUDENT RESOURCE LEVY SCHEME UNTIL YOU RECEIVE FURTHER NOTIFICATION.

Payments
When making payments to the school, why not utilise our direct deposit payment system as this method is quick and 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/efpos.

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 the cut-off date.

Term Dates for 2017 School Year

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>TERM</th>
<th>START</th>
<th>END</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>23 January 2017</td>
<td>31 March 2017</td>
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<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>
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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>Monday</td>
<td>23 Jan</td>
<td>First Day of Term 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>1 Feb</td>
<td>Swimming commences for Years 1 - 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>6 Feb</td>
<td>Leadership Induction Parade, 2pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>7 Feb</td>
<td>Parent Information Sessions (3:15pm – 5:00pm)</td>
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