FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome
Welcome to the 2014 School Year. A warm welcome to all our new students and families. A special welcome to all our Prep students and their families. Please become involved in the Runcorn State School Community and support your children and the school. Successful education is about parents, teachers and students working together to foster positive learning experiences.

Welcome to our new Staff Members – Ms Corene Handyside (Prep), Ms Louise Henderson (Year 1), Ms Michele Stewart (Year 2), Ms Regan Cunningham (Year 3), Mrs Evalina McNeill (Year 3), Ms Mary Jane Smith (Year 4), Ms Sue Anglim (Year 5), Ms Emily White (STLN), Mrs Emma Vaggs (Reading Coach) and Ms Jessica Long (Strings). We also have a new Guidance Officer. Welcome to Ms Lisa Colombani. I’m sure you will all enjoy meeting the wonderful people that make up the Runcorn State School Community.

We have had a fantastic start to the year, with all of our students settling well and coping with new classes, routines and the hot weather. Thank you to the cleaning, grounds and ancillary staff who worked tirelessly to get our school ready for students on Tuesday. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Thank you to the administration, teaching and ancillary staff, as well as the wonderful ladies in the uniform shop. All of your efforts made for a smooth start to the year.

Thanks to all our parents who were patient and supportive in ensuring their children got off to a great start to the 2014 school year.

Parents & Citizens Association meet on the 2nd Friday of each month at 1.30pm. All parents are invited to attend.
Email: pandc@runcornss.eq.edu.au
New Students
Our new Prep students had a great start to the year. There were lots of eager learners, more than ready to engage in school life. Thanks to all the staff, parents and students who assisted our newest students to settle in and find their way around our school.

Supporting Your Child’s Education
At Runcorn State School we strongly believe in the learning partnership between school, students and parents to provide the best possible learning experiences. The following are suggestions for you to assist your children in their readiness to learn:

- **Start each day on a positive note.** A happy start to the day helps ready students for learning.
- **Be ready for school.** Ensure students arrive with everything they require at school. This allows for students to be ready to start working as soon as they get to class.
- **Be at school on time every day.** Arriving late is unsettling for all students and vital information about important events can be missed.
- **Encourage responsibility for learning.** Having students organise their bags, resources and items required for school the night before.
- **Model and teach appropriate values** including respect for self, others and property.
- **Encourage manners and good organisational skills.** This will reinforce what is happening at school.
- **Show the importance of learning by encouraging extra curricula activities,** visits to libraries and cultural events. Discuss current events and share the digital world together.
- **Read for 20 minutes every day to or with your child.** This significantly increases their reading ability and stamina.
- **Breakfast is brain food.** A simple but nutritious breakfast is a cornerstone to learning. Lunches and snacks are also important to keep student energy levels up.
- **School happenings.** Take some time to listen and discuss what went on during the school day. This will assist identifying any positives/negatives that might be occurring at school.

Student Resource Scheme
The student resource scheme payment paperwork will come out this week. The provision of this scheme ensures that comfortable, well resourced learning by our students remains our key focus. The scheme is not a fund raiser for the school. Its purpose is to provide you, the parent, with a cost effective, value for money alternative to purchasing textbooks, resources, consumables and materials from elsewhere, through reduced prices gained from the school’s bulk purchasing processes. Items provided by the scheme could include: reproduced class workbooks, reproduced class materials which compliment and/or substitute for text books, additional computer software materials, materials for subjects where the instruction is extended by providing practical learning experiences, access to Mathletics, Reading Eggs and Accelerated Reader as well as other literacy and numeracy support programs.

Newsletter
The weekly newsletter is produced every second Thursday, and is used to keep families up to date with current school events. It is currently available by email or on the website at [www.runcornss.eq.edu.au](http://www.runcornss.eq.edu.au). Please contact the school office if you do not receive a copy. Hard copies will only be made available on request.

Parent Information Evenings
Later this term there will be a series of parent information sessions, designed to explain procedures and curriculum in your son or daughter’s class. The school will endeavour to provide parents with as much information as possible regarding school activities. Our teaching staff entitlement for 2014 will be determined by our enrolment numbers on the 8th day of school, Thursday, 6 February 2014. We currently have 15 classes and may need to make adjustments to classes once we have been advised of our staff entitlement. Parents will be notified if changes are imminent. If you know of families who still need to enrol students they need to contact us before the 6th as soon as possible, so we can finalise classes and staffing allocations.

Contacting the School
When contacting the school, please be aware we have an automated phone service for functions such as absences and contacting the Special Education Program or the tuckshop. You will need to listen and follow the prompts.

Meeting with teachers is the first point of call if you have questions regarding your child and what is happening with their learning. The most efficient way to do this is to arrange a meeting, either with the teacher directly or through the office. We do ask that you do not try and meet with teachers during the hours of 8:45-3:00pm as this interrupts student learning. If you wish to meet with Deputy Principal or the Principal you will need to contact the office to make an appointment.
Swimming
Our swimming program for Years 1-7 starts next 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.

Playgrounds
At Runcorn we are fortunate to have two adventure playgrounds, one for junior and one for senior students. Before school these are out of bounds for all students. After school, students can play on their designated playground only if they are supervised by a parent or carer. Do not advise your children to play in the playground while they wait for you to pick them up.

Before School
There are a number of students arriving at school well before 8am. This is not safe and supervision is not provided for students. The school preference is for students to be dropped at school at 8.30am. If you need to drop children at school early PCYC provides before school care services.

Outside School Hours Care
Runcorn State School has engaged the services of PCYC Queensland to run an Outside Hours School Care Facility in the old library. Qualified staff are on hand before and after school to take enrolments for the program. If you require outside school hours care and would like the convenience of having it at school, contact Jayde on 0423 551 335 for further information.

Parade Time
The Whole School Parade will take place at 2:30pm on Monday afternoons in Girrawheen Place. All parents and carers are welcome to attend.

Bell Times
The bells (music) are as follows:

- First Break 11:00 – 11:15 eating, 11:15 – 11.55am
- Second Break 1:30-1:50pm eating and playtime.

Times for the beginning and end of the school day remain the same with the school day starting at 8:45am and concluding at 3:00pm. All students need to be at school and organised for learning prior to 8:45am.

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.

Volunteers
Runcorn State School uses the expertise and support of volunteers to enhance our fantastic teaching and learning programs. If you would like to volunteer in the classrooms, resource centre, tuckshop, uniform shop, P&C or as a volunteer in one of our support programs, please contact the office. No matter what your skill set we will be happy to find you a role in supporting our wonderful students.

Parents and Citizens Association
The first P&C Meeting for 2014 will be on Friday, 7th February at 1.30pm. All new and existing parents are invited to attend.
Looking forward to a fantastic 2014!

Regards

Greg Gosling

DEPUTY DIALOGUE

Welcome
Welcome to the 2014 school year. As I walk around the school the children are settled and look great in their uniforms. Thank you parents for making an effort to have the correct uniforms. Can I really encourage you to have your child wear the correct shoes as stated in the uniform policy, black or white shoes only with matching laces. If the shoes you have purchased have colour on them and are mainly black or white, match up the laces. Plain black or white are preferable.

Learning is well underway in classes as teachers and students establish learning routines and develop ways of working together. Please ask your child if there are notes that need to be handed to you. Class newsletter will be out next week outlining what is on offer learning-wise for the term. Class newsletters also outline keys dates and activities for the class as well.

You Can Do It
You Can Do It, our social and emotional learning program will begin in week 2. If you are around the school the coloured keys offer some cryptic clues about what is to come. There will be a parent information evening later in the term outlining what the program seeks to do and the resources that help to support its implementation. Having solid emotional and social skills contributes significantly to a child’s academic ability.

We look forward to another great year of learning.

Happy learning,
Kaye Dalus
Deputy Principal

FROM THE GUIDANCE OFFICER

My name is Lisa Colombani and I am your Guidance Officer this year. My role as Guidance Officer is responsive and is prioritised to meet the needs of the school community. I work collaboratively with students, teachers, families and community agencies in order that every student is learning and achieving within a safe, supportive, inclusive and disciplined learning environment. Each newsletter I will include information that you may find useful in assisting your child/children in reaching their potential. If you would like to contact me please leave your details at reception.

Lisa Colombani
Guidance Officer Intensive Behaviour Support (GOIBS)
Metropolitan Region Behaviour Services - Metro South
Ph - 3340 6355 Mob - 0467 716 384 Fax - 3340 6350

2014 BOOKLISTS NOW AVAILABLE

Booklists for next year have been distributed to all students. If you did not receive one, copies are available on our website or from the office.

CALM BODIES CALM MINDS - YOGA AND MEDITATION

We are pleased to announce the launch of Calm Bodies Calm Minds yoga and meditation after school program for Runcorn State School students. The benefits of Yoga for children include:

- Build confidence and self-esteem and improve concentration levels
- Develop and improve coordination, flexibility and body awareness
- Help relieve anxiety to relax and calm the mind
- The focus is on fun and respecting their bodies and each other.

Information flyer will be sent home with children on Friday or visit the school website for program and registration details.
TERM DATES FOR 2014 SCHOOL YEAR

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<th>TERM</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>28 January 2014</td>
<td>4 April 2014</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>22 April 2014</td>
<td>27 June 2014</td>
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<td>14 July 2014</td>
<td>19 September 2014</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>7 October 2014</td>
<td>12 December 2014</td>
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TERM 1 ~ DATES OF SIGNIFICANCE

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<th>DAY</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>5th February</td>
<td>Swimming commences for Grades 1-7 (More information to come)</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>7th February</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting, 1.30pm</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>4th April</td>
<td>Last Day of Term 1</td>
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PARENTS/CARERS' CONTACT DETAILS

In cases of emergency, it is imperative that the school can contact parents and caregivers. If your contact details and emergency contacts have changed, please notify the school office in writing. Alternatively, the office has "Change of Details" form that you can complete.

INCURSIONS/EXCURSIONS AND CAMP PAYMENTS

To avoid the disappointment of your child not being able to attend Year level excursions, payments MUST be made by the cut-off date stated in the excursion letter. This is due to the new Education Queensland financing system. Payments can be made by cash/cheque/efpos or direct deposit into the school's bank account (BSB 064-162/Account No. 00090035). 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.

MUSIC NEWS

Runcorn State School - Invitation to be in Choirs 2014

Dear Parents and Students,

We invite students to join our choirs at Runcorn State School. We have two choirs:

* Junior Choir which is for children in Years 3 and 4. This choir rehearses at 1.50pm- 2.30 pm on Tuesday afternoons.

* Senior Choir, students from Years 5-7, which is held Thursday mornings from 8 am – 8.45 am.

Students must be able to attend before school for this choir on a regular basis.

Commitment

Students are expected to attend all rehearsals and we ask for a note or phone call if there are absences. Students need to hire a vest and bow tie for the cost of $5 and buy a Performance Uniform from the uniform shop. New approximately $50. There are second hand uniforms available. Black socks and black shoes are also a requirement.

We will communicate to you via Newsletter, so please check our Music News on a weekly basis. For special events we will send home notes with the children and we request that you give them your prompt attention and return them to us as soon as possible. We do have 2 or 3 performances outside school hours and we will advise the times well in advance. We do ask that you will be in attendance for these events and as in the past we have found that after school commitments can be co-ordinated if you give sports coaches or clubs advance notice. As you can imagine, once we become a team we really do need everyone onboard.

Senior Choir members need to audition and demonstrate that they can sing in tune.
Children are not required to sing on their own. If you agree to the expectations as outlined, could you please complete and sign a permission slip to Mrs. Mechielsen. For a copy of the permission slip for Choir, please see Mrs Mechielsen.

**LOST PROPERTY**

Don't forget to check through the bins 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. A large pencil case, mobile phone, single earring, child’s spectacles and three toy cars have been handed in to the office. If you or your child have misplaced theirs, please contact the school office.

**P&C NEWS**

A wonderful welcome to all our new parents/carers as well as to our existing parent community. We encourage you to get involved in the P&C activities. Why not become a member? It's a great way to meet other families and join in the fun. I'm looking forward to meeting you all. Once again, welcome to Runcorn State School. The first meeting for 2014 will be held on **Friday, 7th February at 1.30pm.** Parents and carers are more than welcome to attend.

*Sandra Weatherall*  
*P & C President*  
*0413 109 957*

**Tuckshop**

The Tuckshop is up and trading for 2014. Please refer to the 2013 Tuckshop Menu until the 2014 menu is finalised. Copies of the menu are available from the office for your convenience.

*Jodie Newton*  
*Tuckshop Convenor*

**Uniform Shop**

Uniform Shop hours are Monday / Wednesday / Friday  
8.30am – 9.00am  

Hijabs are now available from the Uniform Shop in school colours - $7.50 each  

Library Bags are also in stock in a full range of colours. Price lists are available at the office.

*Jodie Thompson*  
*Uniform Shop Convenor*

**School Banking**

*Thursday is school banking day*

*Lisa Weir*  
*Banking Coordinator*

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**Runcorn Swim Club – Sign On Day**

Friday Club Nights commence on Friday, 31st January 2014. For any enquiries about joining the club, please contact Cheryl Riding, the Club President (Telephone 0402 141535) or Melissa McCusker, the Club Secretary (email address - eunanmac@hotmail.com)

**Triple P Program**

Would you like your family to live a healthier lifestyle?

Raising healthy children is an important aspect to positive parenting. Your child's physical health can affect their growth and development, their ability to participate in school, sport and other activities, and how they get along with other children. Children who eat well and stay active are more likely to develop into healthy adults. Researchers at the University of Queensland are currently offering a FREE Triple P parenting program to parents of children 3 to 10 years in exchange for participation in research. Across three seminars you will learn strategies for...

- Managing both general and lifestyle-specific child problem behaviours
- Helping your child eat a healthy balance of nutritious foods
- Motivating your child to be more active
- Limiting screen time

The program is run at St Lucia and Ipswich, with free childcare available for families. To register visit our website: [www.exp.psy.uq.edu.au/tripleP](http://www.exp.psy.uq.edu.au/tripleP)

*Jessica Bartlett – Project Coordinator*  
*Email: lifestyle@uq.edu.au*  
*Phone: 0404 321 086 (please leave a message)*

*The University of Queensland*