Term 1, Week 1 - Wednesday, January 25, 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome. We are very pleased to welcome our new families to Oonoonba as well as welcome back our returning families. The first day of the school year proved to be a very smooth transition for students to classes and students and teachers settled very quickly into the routines once again. Without a doubt, many of the students I spoke to were glad to be back as I know many parents were glad for the children to be back as well!

Our teachers have worked hard during their break to prepare for the new school year and our support staff including cleaners, office staff, teacher aides and groundsman have excelled in their respective roles to ensure a great start. We are also grateful for the rain which has made the school environment green and more inviting.

Of course it is a big thank you to you, our parents and carers, who have provided the necessary requirements for your child/ren in preparation for the new school year. We appreciate your great efforts.

Parents and Citizens Association

A very big thank you to our P&C committee members who gave up much of their time to ensure that the uniform shop was opened during the week before school resumed, offering a convenient service to families. We also thank them for the huge work prior to school completion for the many hours spent in order to provide families with an option to purchase book packs ready for the new school year. Our P&C provide a great service to families through the tuckshop and uniform shop as well as the many fundraising events which benefits all students. We look forward to all families supporting the efforts of the P&C during 2017. As the saying goes, "many hands make light work", and you will be pleased that you have assisted in some way.

Classes

Currently we have set up 23 classes across P-6 and we are closely monitoring enrolments until day 8 when staffing is finalised.

North Queensland Weather

If you are new to the area you may not be aware that we can experience floods or cyclones in Townsville. In the event that these events occur parents and carers are advised to listen to the local radio stations for advice whether the school is open or closed. The decision to remain open or to close a school in these conditions is not made by individual principals but rather is a coordinated approach across the district and a decision made by the Regional Director. If an emergency occurs during the school day parents will be advised via SMS text service. At any time if you as the parent or carer deem it not safe for your child or children to attend in the extreme conditions mentioned then that is a decision which you should make.

Please ensure that all your phone numbers are current and always advise the school of any changes.
Parade
Our very first parade for the school year will be held on Monday 30 January at 9.00am in the Covered Play Area (CPA) for Prep to Year 6. Parents are very welcome to attend.
Happy Australia Day holiday! We are lucky to live in this beautiful country.
Regards

Anne-Marie Day
Principal

FROM THE DEPUTY’S DESK
Welcome back to school for 2017, and in particular welcome to our many new students and families who are now members of our school community. It has been great to see our students settled in their classrooms and getting to know their classmates and their classroom teacher/s.
Please be very careful when driving your vehicle on Lakeland Boulevard and/or in the car parking area. It is very busy during before and after school times and your care is very much appreciated in order to ensure the safety of adults and children.
Please park in designated parking bays in the car park or on the roadside. Refrain from parking on footpaths and driveways of houses in streets close by. If you are using the pick-up/drop off zone you are not permitted to leave your vehicle to enter the school grounds and collect your child/ren.
Your vehicle will be required to display the appropriate disability permit in order to park in the parking bays assigned for disabled persons. You will be asked to move on by school staff or police if your vehicle does not display the appropriate permit.
Police officers sometimes patrol the area before and after school to ensure drivers are complying with the road rules and associated traffic signs.
Please remember that all playground equipment in the school grounds, adjacent to the Lakeland Boulevard carpark, is out of bounds to all children, before and after school. This applies even when parents or family members are present.
We do expect parents to use the crossing in the car park with their children as this models to students that this is the safest way to move through the carpark at this very busy time.

Lakeland Boulevard B Block Gate at 2:50pm
In the afternoons, students who are waiting to be collected (picked up) from school by a parent/family member in a motor vehicle in the Lakeland Boulevard car park drop-off zone will now be assembled at the B Block gate only. This is the gate where you walk out to the car park crossing.
We have determined that it is a better way to manage students by having them leave from the one gate (B Block gate); it assists with supervision of students by staff inside the school grounds; and it ensures that vehicles will continue to drive forward as far as possible to vacant car parks and not stop earlier than expected, in an already congested area.
Drivers and pedestrians are asked to observe the usual road rules and protocols for a pedestrian crossing, with regard to the use of the Lakeland Boulevard carpark crossing as staff will be inside the school grounds.

Bicycle Enclosure Security
It is important that students lock their bicycle/scooter to the bike racks in our bike enclosure each day. Whilst the enclosure is locked each morning at some point after the bell, when unexpected issues occur for our janitor groundsman he may be unable to lock the enclosure at the usual time. Please ensure scooters are labelled clearly with students’ name as scooter models are very similar. This will help return a lost scooter to its owner.
When students leave the bike enclosure area, they are expected to walk their bike or carry their scooter on the path when moving towards the Oonoonba Rd crossing gate. The same applies when they are arriving at school in the morning, where they walk from the gate to the bicycle enclosure. Students who use other gates are expected to walk their bike/scooter through the school at all times.

Interhouse Swimming Carnivals
Over the next two weeks students (turning 8yrs and older this year) will take home information letters regarding our upcoming interhouse swimming carnivals:
We have carnivals on two different days due to availability of the Aitkenvale State School pool and the numbers of students in year levels. This way we can work towards maximum participation of students in the 25m freestyle competitive events and the team building novelty events during the time available. The carnivals enable us to select our school team in the competitive events using student’s swimming times for the upcoming interschool swimming carnival. Competitive 25m swimming events are timed. Can you please assist us by returning the permission/information form and cost by the due dates specified in the letter. For organisational arrangement purposes, we will not be accepting permission forms/cost after the due date.

Nominated your child for the freestyle competitive events only if they can swim 25m reasonably well without stopping.

If you are able to assist us in any way during either carnival for timekeeping or setting/packing up please indicate this on the form.

Please contact Mr Billy Green (HPE Teacher) through the school office, if you have any questions about the swimming carnivals.

4th Year JCU PST/ and Centre of Excellence Pre-Service Teacher Placements

Our school is once again hosting pre-service teachers in their final year of study in order to become qualified primary school teachers. They will be at our school for different periods of time during the year working with their supervising classroom teachers and teaching students in their respective classes. The pre-service teachers will also be working within the Centre of Excellence Program, with Patsy Tanner, where they will participate in a range of targeted professional development and mentoring programs designed to improve their abilities, understandings, effectiveness, and readiness to be quality first-year teachers.

This year we welcome:
- Kirsten Weight mentored by Ruth Kinsella-Richards 3R;
- Faith Garvie mentored by Nadine Outtrim 65O;
- Emilee Ralph mentored by Karen Bruce 21M.

Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference!!

Have a great week!
Trevor Milton
Deputy Principal

Payments to the Office

Payments to the office can be made from 8:00am – 9:30am via EFTPOS at the counter or cash via the new payment slot which is located inside the main office doors. All payments made outside of this time will not be receipted until the next school day. Payments by cash need to be in the correct amount as the office does not issue change. Please ensure that you have permission slips sealed inside the payment envelopes.

Student Absences

We are now live with our SMS 4 Schools absence procedures as per the new Department of Education and Training directive.

Effective this year is the following procedures:
- All children MUST be present in their classroom for roll marking by 9:15am.
- Teachers will mark and close the roll by 9:15am. Any child who has not presented to school and is not in her/his classroom will be marked as absent.
- Children who arrive after 9:00am will be required to go to the office to be signed in by a Parent or Carer and then collect a LATE SLIP for presentation to their classroom teacher. Office staff will check and clear the absence line by 9:30am and a daily unexplained absence report will be run.
- A generic SMS message will be sent to parents advising of their child’s/children’s absence and requesting an explanation.

Please assist the school office by:
- Phoning the student absence line (47998366) by 9:20am on the day to advise of any/all absences. This is a 24 hour service and can be called at any time of the day/night.
- If/When you receive an SMS message, please reply to explain the absence.
- Please DO NOT SEND EMOJI ICONS in the returning text. The SMS 4 Schools service does not pick up emoji icons and will reject your message.
• If you believe your child/children should be at school, please contact the school office immediately.

P&C Matters
Welcome back - 2017 will be very exciting for all at Oonoonba School and the P&C can’t wait to get started! Keep up to date with all the news on the P&C Facebook page. Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday 15th of February in the Library and commences at 5.30pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

Tuckshop - Jayde our Tuckshop convenor is super excited about 2017 with an updated menu being sent home this week. We love providing the freshest made on site choices at Oonoonba's Tuckshop but it takes many hands to do so. We were very sad to say good bye to our beautiful volunteers for 2016 as most no longer have kids attending our school. More than ever helpers are needed in the Tuckshop for 2017. Any assistance that you can give would be most welcome. Pop in and see Jayde she would love to meet you!

Remember - Every time you support your P&C, you support your children.

Thank you.
Oonoonba P&C - Creating opportunities-Making a difference.

Defence News
Hello! Welcome to all new and returning students and parents. If you have just posted in and are interested in obtaining tutoring for your child please come and see me or email me and I will organize this for you. My room is in the B Block PLA and I am here Monday and Tuesday 9:00am-3:00pm and Wednesday and Thursday 9:00am-1:00pm. On Monday after parade there will be a Morning tea held in my room and all are welcome to attend. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions as my door is always open. Kids Club this year will be held on Mondays for students from years 1 to 6 and Tuesdays are for Prep students. I look forward to meeting all the new parents and catching up with the returning families. ‘Till next time take care.
Donna Warde
DSTA
dward106@eq.edu.au

Chappy News
The first week of the year is always such an exciting and wonderful time. Meeting new students and their families and catching up with the returning students is always a highlight for me. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend our parent morning tea on Monday. It was great to have your company and hear your news.

As the School Chaplain, I aim to provide support to our school community through prevention and support: helping students find a better way to deal with issues. I can provide a listening ear and a caring presence for kids in crisis, and those who just need a friend. I can also provide support for staff and parents in the school community. I am at Oonoonba State School on Monday and Tuesday each week and my room is B Block PLA (near the year 2 classrooms). If you have any questions regarding the help I could provide to your students, please come and talk with me.

Chappy Ros
(rpark146@eq.edu.au)