Welcome back everyone!!! I hope you all had a great Xmas break with family and friends, and that you all feel rested and ready for the exciting year ahead. It’s always a favourite time of the year for me, as the students come back after a long break and are really excited to be back at school. They have shared many stories about their holidays, and are all really engaged in their classroom programs already.

A big welcome to the new families that join our Rosella Park School Community this year. We have a number of new families that have moved to the Gladstone area, so I hope you are all feeling very settled in your new homes and feel excited about the year ahead for your child.

New Uniforms and start times
WOW!!! The new school uniforms look so smart, and the students have been so proud as they walk in wearing them. The majority of students have the new uniform, but please know that if you have not purchased these for your child yet, that this is completely fine. As we communicated last year, we will have a 12 month phase in process, as we do not want to disadvantage anyone financially.

Every child has been given a hat at no cost, supplied by the P&C committee. Should you require a new hat in the future, there will be for sale for $10 from the front office.

The new start and finish times have been working quite well. The students are much more settled only having that short time before entering their classrooms and starting their learning time. I know that a few families are having a few teething problems adjusting to the times, particularly if they have students at other schools. Hopefully this will settle down soon as we all get into the new routine!

Staffing
Our Day 8 numbers were submitted today, so we should receive our official staffing allocation sometime in the next 2 weeks. At present we have staffed the classrooms on our indicative staffing that we received at the end of last year. Based on these numbers, and staff taking on roles in other schools or taking leave, we were able to offer a full-time position to Caroline Harris. Caroline has moved up from Gympie. On behalf of the school community, I would like to wish Caroline a huge welcome. We also welcome back Leanne Hayne, who will be with us full-time this year in our non-contact role.

Parent Information Session
As we start the school year, we see it as a priority to pass on critical information to you as parents about what we will be focusing on in classrooms for the 2017 school year.

We will be holding a parent information session on THURSDAY the 9th of February, starting at 5pm. The format of the session will involve a whole school welcoming, where we introduce new faces to everyone, and present an overview of a new communication protocol that we hope you will all love. The new process will provide you much more information about what your child is doing in their classroom every week. Following this, the group will split and parents will move to their child’s classroom where they will have an opportunity to hear about specific information pertaining to their child’s classroom program. Following this, we will have some light refreshments.

I cannot stress enough the importance we place on this evening. We appreciate that it is often very difficult to organise your afternoon to attend a function at 5pm, but if we could aim to have at least one parent from each family that would be fantastic. Ideally it would be great if you can attend without
your child, so that you can enjoy the presentation without being distracted, however we will offer supervision for families that have no alternatives, as we understand that this is the reality for many of our families.

Please return the slip at the bottom of the newsletter indicating your intention to attend so we can have numbers for catering purposes.

Facilities
If you have visited the school over the last few days, you would have seen that we are well and truly into the construction phase of our new facilities project. At present, a carpark is being constructed at the back of the school, and many students have enjoyed watching the big diggers at break times.

The crew from Paynter Dixon, who are managing the project, have been great in working with us, and we feel that all students are very safe on site. If you do happen to have any issues when you are here, please come and let me know so that I can then discuss this with the foreman.

As of next week, we will have to make a change to where the buses drop off and pick up each day. Until the end of March, the buses will drop off outside the school gate in the council’s dedicated bus zone area. Staff will be there to greet the students, and they will enter the school via the bike track area. Taxis and parent cars will stay as they are until further notice.

Literacy Consultant – Jane Farrall Visit
This year we continue our 4 blocks journey. We are all very excited about this given the amazing student outcomes that we saw throughout last year.

Jane, the consultant that worked with us last year, will be back for 2 visits this year. The first visit is from the 13th to the 16th of February. For the majority of this week she will be supporting teachers in classrooms, modelling practice and providing feedback to staff.

On Wednesday 15th February, Jane will be offering a parent session, where she will focus on ways that you as a family can support your child’s development of reading and writing in the home. She will offer 2 sessions offered at different times, so that we can try and accommodate parent need. This will be a great opportunity for you all to gain a better understating of what 4 blocks looks like for your child, and provide you with ways that support their learning.

The first session will be from 1.40-2.40 in the afternoon. The second session will be from 5-6pm in the evening. Please RSVP by completing the form below, or ringing the front office.

Parade
This year we will continue to have parade on a Friday afternoon, from 2.15-2.45pm. This is a really important time of the week, and all the students love participating.

Can I please ask that on a Friday you do not collect your child earlier than the official finish time of 2.45 pm. It is really disruptive if students leave, and also very disappointing if a student has received an award and they have left early and therefore not there to receive it. Please, if you are free, we would love to see more family faces each Friday afternoon.

P and C
Our first P&C meeting of the year will be held on Thursday the 16th of February at 9am. PLEASE consider coming along. We really need to see some new faces, as well as have more parent representation. We are a school that does focus on change for the better, and feel that we can only become the best school we can be with the assistance and feedback from many.

We are all very excited about the year ahead, and really looking forward to working with you more as we continue to strive for improvement!

Thanks
Kate Russ
Principal

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**NEWS FROM THE FRONT OFFICE**

In the case of an emergency, it is a requirement of the Department of Education and Training that parents are able to be contacted by the school. If for any reason you will be unavailable on any day, the school must be advised and an alternative emergency contact must be offered to the school.

Updating Address and Contact Details
Your student will be bringing home a form with the current contact details, emergency contacts, etc which we currently have on file. Please check that all information is correct, make any changes necessary and return this form to the school **NO LATER THAN FRIDAY 10TH FEBRUARY**. Also enclosed is a Permission to Administer medication form. If your child requires...
medication to be administered during school hours this must be filled in and kept on file.

**Absentees**
All absences must be communicated to the school office. If your child is sick please telephone the school office on 4976 8333. The school’s answering machine is turned on after hours so parents/carers are able to leave a message. Alternatively; a note in the communication book to the teacher can be passed on to Admin. All unexplained absences will be followed up by the school by SMS text message.

**Late Arrivals and Early Departures**
No student is allowed to leave the school grounds without first being signed out in the Student Movement Book at the office, if they are leaving before our official finish time of 2.45pm. If your child is late arriving to school they must also be signed in to the school grounds using the Student Movement book. It is preferred that all parents/carers report to the office when picking your child up during school hours Please do not go directly to the class room as it is very disruptive for other students.

**IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER**

Here are some upcoming events so pop it on your fridge as a reminder.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent Information session</td>
<td>Thursday the 9th of Feb – starting at 5pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literacy workshop for Parents – presented by Jane Farrall</td>
<td>Wednesday the 15th Feb 1.40-2.40 OR 5pm-6pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Photos</td>
<td>Wednesday 15th March</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Our first meeting is **THURSDAY 16th February**, at 9am. We meet in room 4. Please come to the office if you are unsure of where to go. We are hoping to see lots of new faces this year!!

At the meeting we will decide the meeting dates for the rest of the year!
COME 'N' TRY DAY

Saturday 11th February 2017

Special Olympics Gladstone invites all past athletes, newcomers and families to come along and join the fun of Special Olympics Basketball and Soccer.

Open to all people with an intellectual disability aged 6 and above.

9:30am-11:30am at the Gladstone PCYC on Yarroon St

Are you a Spectacular Spectator? If you would like to become involved with Special Olympics but do not wish to participate as an athlete, come along to meet our lovely Committee Members, Coaches & Volunteers to ask how you can become a volunteer.

Sign On for new and returning athletes will also take place at the event. Full registration is $95 per athlete which covers annual participation in any or all of the sports offered.

For more information contact Debbie Knust, Chair on 0437 526 346
Please complete the below slips and return to school in your child’s communication book.

**ROSELLA PARK SCHOOL PARENT INFORMATION EVENING 2017**

YES ☐ I/We will be attending the Parent Information Session Thursday the 16\(^{th}\) February

Student Name: _________________________________________________________

Number of family members attending: _____________

NO ☐ Unfortunately we will be unable to attend.

**LITERACY WORKSHOP WITH JANE FARRALL**

YES ☐ I/We will be attending the Literacy workshop with Jane.

I will attend at ☐ Afternoon session (1.40-2.40pm)

☐ Evening session (5-6pm)

Student Name: _________________________________________________________

Number of family members attending: _____________