Dear Parents

Welcome back. I hope all our students and parents had a wonderful, happy and enjoyable break. I am looking forward to another exciting year in this fantastic school. We achieved so much last year and have high expectations for this year.

On Friday afternoon in accordance with our school documents we had an election for student official positions. Congratulations to our new school leaders;

- School Captain: Oliver,
- School Vice-Captain: Dylan,
- Emu House Captain: Erin,
- Kangaroo House Captain: Trenyce

Student Officials will be presented with their badges at our meet and greet night (yet to be finalised).

Schools App - Please make sure you have downloaded the schools app to your smartphone it keeps you in touch with the latest news.

NAPLAN - This year sees a key focus of all schools in our region on improving reading and writing. Improvements will be judged on our NAPLAN results. At Halifax we have developed Literacy block and Numeracy blocks in an effort to increase student abilities in numeracy and literacy.

Parent helpers - We are looking for parents to help with reading groups that will begin shortly. If you are interested please contact the school. I am hoping we can begin this process next week.

Attendance - I must stress that Education Queensland’s every day counts strategy is highly important. As a principal it is my legal responsibility to follow up on students that do not attend school as everything is electronically reported. The process involves an informal meeting with parents on the first occasion, should a student be truant again then a formal letter and meeting occurs, should a student be truant again then the matter is followed up strongly with possible court action and fines. Students cannot stay home other than being ill, or attending significant events eg funerals. Staying home because "it’s your birthday" or "I don’t want to go to school "is definitely prohibited. If your child needs to stay home please contact the school by 9am on the day and provide a letter the following day.

How can I help my child to be successful? - A question all of us parents ask. These are some of the simple everyday things you can do. Get your child to

- Read a chapter or book, the tv guide, recipes, newsletters, advertising materials, traffic signs aloud to you.
- Make up the weekly menu and shopping list.
- Use a calculator to add up the shopping.
- Be involved in spelling each night do a spelling test with the weekly spelling list and watch them improve. Each time they spell a word incorrectly have them write out the correct spelling using write cover check.
- Set high expectations

Regards

Donald Pritchard
What are we up to

P to 3

We are currently working on identifying emotions and feelings in picture books and working on simple and compound sentences. In Maths we are looking at knowing the days of the week and months of the year in order.

The past, present and future is the focus of our History Unit and Living and Non Living is the key focus in Science.

Reading plays a very big part in all KLAs and the students are engaged in reading activities every day.

Homework begins this week. Students were given out their homework on Monday to be returned each Friday. Reading books are also sent home each week. Please make sure you read with your child each night as this will be very beneficial for them.

Thank-you for your co-operation.

What are we up to

4 to 7

This week in English we are learning about characterisation, plot and writing narratives.

What we are learning this week in Maths

**Year 3 and 4**
Make connections between days, weeks and months.
Use a calendar to plan personal events.

**Year 5**
Revise multiplication and division fact families.

**Year 6 and 7**
Students will compare and order fractions with related denominators on a number line.

In science we are learning about adaptations.
Recent events

New Students
We would like to welcome our 3 new students and their families. We have Rhys Bairstow and Connor Thompson starting Prep and Tess Hinschen continuing her schooling in Year 4.

Appointment of School Leaders
Students wishing to fill student leader positions presented speeches on Friday before all the students and staff voted. After a very close finish between all candidates the following students were successful. School Captain – Oliver Putzka, School Vice Captain – Dylan Marinoni, School House Captains – Kangaroo – Trenyce Pearce, Emu – Erin Begg. CONGRATULATIONS.
P & C Meeting—A P & C General Meeting will be on Tuesday, 11th February, 2014 at 3.30pm. All parents are invited to offer input into these meetings.

P & C AGM – This meeting will be scheduled for March and we are encouraging all parents to attend and consider nominating for a position. All positions are vacant so please consider working closely with our school towards building a stronger school community where all children benefit.

Tuckshop Roster— Tuckshop roster for Term 1 is below

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Workers</th>
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<td>Jasmine Pearce</td>
<td>Amanda Marinoni</td>
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<td>Kim Lake</td>
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<td>18th February</td>
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<td>Dallas Mallet</td>
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