Dear Parents

Welcome back to Term 3!

I have been given the great pleasure of looking after your school and children while Mr P is away on Magnetic Island.

With one week down, things are looking good!

I have heard so many great things about Halifax and cannot wait to see them in action. I have over 11 years’ experience as a small school principal and look forward to meeting you all.

The regional focus of the ‘assessment literate learner’ will be the key work that I will support and prioritise, along with our key improvement areas of attendance, reading and The work is about students being clear on what they know and do.

Congratulations to Michelle for all the work she has done in getting the Canberra Trip organised. This has been a massive effort and the students will have an awesome time.

On a personal note, my wife Katrina and I have two grown children and two grandchildren and we live at Balgal. Katrina is an Advisory Visiting Teacher for the Vision Impaired. I am fixing my trailer to get my boat up here to go fishing asap.

Please make your self-known to me. If you need me in an emergency my phone number is 0459 825 797 and my email is mblak18@eq.edu.au.

Cheers

Michael Blake

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**Important dates**

28th July – Small School Sports Day
15th August – Barnes Cup

**Our School Rules**

- Courtesy
- Cooperation
- Commitment
- Consideration

**THIS WEEKS FOCUS**

YCDI – Ready Set You Can Do It

**SCHOOL RULE: Commitment**

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**Absent Letters and phone calls**

New guidelines have been released last week on how schools have to manage student absences. Please read the article on page 2.

**Attendance**

Attendance for Semester 1: **93%**

Attendance for Term 3: **86.5%**

Attendance target **98%**

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**FROM THE PRINCIPALS DESK**

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New policies have been implemented in state schools taking effect from last week!

Basically, schools have to contact parents/carers to advise them if their children are not at school. At Halifax SS, if your child is absent when we mark the roll (around 9.30am) we will be sending an SMS message (or calling by phone if you have no mobile) advising that your child is not at school. Parents/carers need to let us know as early as possible if students aren’t going to be at school.

Students are welcome to bring a light snack as a brain boost to be eaten at around 10am.

This food needs to be appropriate for eating at the student’s desk. So it needs to be: dry, in a container that doesn’t spill easily, is not noisy, and, most importantly is healthy. Examples could include: dried fruit, nuts, fruit pieces (drained), etc.

Students will need to have this on their desks at the start of the morning session so that it doesn’t interrupt learning.

All parents are invited to participate in this year’s School Opinion Survey and have a say about what your child’s school does well, and how it can improve. Participation is anonymous and all information that you provide will be treated confidentially. The online survey will be available until 29 July, 2016 and should take less than 10 minutes to complete. Follow the instructions on the attached sheet to complete. Anyone who does not have access to a computer is more than welcome to use a computer at the school.
Recent Events

Visit from the Fire Brigade

P-2 Shape Shakers

End of Term Fun Day
P & C Meeting— The next General Meeting is Thursday, 25th August, 2.00pm in A Block. All are welcome.

Tuckshop—No assistant workers are now required. The Baking Roster for Term 3 is following. There will be no tuckshop on 15/8 due to Canberra Camp.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Workers</th>
<th>Baker</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25th July</td>
<td>Louise Jones</td>
<td>Davina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st August</td>
<td>Louise Jones</td>
<td>Raylene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th August</td>
<td>Louise Jones</td>
<td>Michelle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22nd August</td>
<td>Louise Jones</td>
<td>Amanda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29th August</td>
<td>Louise Jones</td>
<td>Prachern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th September</td>
<td>Louise Jones</td>
<td>Davina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12th September</td>
<td>Louise Jones</td>
<td>Raylene</td>
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