FROM THE PRINCIPAL
Welcome to all students, families and staff to the 2015 school year. Thank you parents/guardians for sending the children along so smartly dressed in their uniforms and with their books ready to start the new year. We would particularly like to welcome our new families to the school. At this stage we have 137 students which means that we will retain the 7 classes.

Prep – Miss Coulton
Year 1 – Ms Younger
Year 2 – Miss Hughes
Year 2/3 – Mrs Graves
Year 4 – Mr Collingwood; Mrs Sugden
Year 5 – Mrs Eilers
Year 6/7 – Mr Clair; Mrs Sugden
Instrumental Music – Mr Hyde
Music – Ms Louis
PE – Mr Collingwood
Support Teacher Literacy and Numeracy – Mrs Eilers
Speech Pathologist – Ms Harish
Guidance Officer – Ms Browning
LOTE – Mrs Newell
Admin Assistant – Mrs Jones
Teacher Aides (working across all year levels) – Mrs Hobl, Mrs Forbes, Mrs Dorge, Mrs Johnson, Mrs Brocherie
Cleaners – Mrs Trost; Mrs Algate; Mrs Chappell, Mrs Sternberg

Welcome to ‘first time’ school families. It is a big step sending your eldest child to school for the first time. It is often harder for the parents than it is for the children. I am sure that you and your children will value what the school can offer your children educationally, socially and emotionally.

The children have all settled in well and some great things are already happening in the classrooms. For those students who have not obtained all of the items on the booklist, I ask that the children have these items as soon as possible.

A big thanks to Mrs Hockin for making our gardens look fantastic, to Mr Eilers for mowing and a few repairs during the holidays.

Thanks to all staff members for ensuring that our 1st day and 1st week with the children went well.

I would like to welcome Mr Hyde and Ms Louis to our staff.

CLASS MEETINGS
Class meetings will be held during the next 2 to 3 weeks. I ask that as many family representatives as possible attend (either Mum or Dad) as this will provide an opportunity to discuss issues such as homework, curriculum, school and classroom expectations.

Prep – Monday 2 February
Year 1 – Tuesday 3 Feb
Year 2 – Tuesday 3 Feb
Year 2/3 – Thurs 5 Feb
Year 4 – Thurs 5 Feb
Year 5 – Mon 9 Feb
Year 6 – Thurs 12 Feb

The meetings will commence at 3:15 and should last for approximately 30 minutes. During this time, your child’s teacher will present an overview of the curriculum, classroom organization and student expectations. All class meetings will be held in the classrooms.

PARADE TIME
A reminder that parades will be held on Monday afternoons from 2:30. We encourage school families to attend parade. Our first parade for the year will be next Monday 3rd February.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC
The start of a new year and a new semester! Hire fees for instrumental music are now due. Cost per semester is $20. This fee is used for periodic maintenance and cleaning of instruments. If all students hiring instruments could send their fees (in clearly marked envelopes) in to the Office as soon as possible, it would be appreciated. Once the hire fee is paid, the students will receive their instruments. Mr Hyde with meet with continuing and new students next week. If your child is interested in the program (and wasn’t involved last year), please let the office know.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE
It is extremely important that students attend school regularly and on time. The new National Curriculum is very prescriptive, with new content introduced each day. It is also important that the students are at school

Instrumental Music Hire Fee $20
Swimming notes
Swimming money each Tuesday
when previously taught content is being reviewed and consolidated.

From 9:00 – 11:00 is prime teaching time. If children arrive late, not only are they missing out on this prime time, but their arrival interrupts the learning of the other students.

**STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS**

Student Council members were voted in yesterday. The members are:
- Year 4 – Ella; Logan; Ruby
- Year 5 – Mia; Alex; Domini
- Year 6 – Connor; Riley; Aaron

Our School Captains – Kayleigh, Daniella, Cody and Billy.

The first meeting was held this morning to discuss the combined fundraiser on Election Day.

**SAFETY AROUND THE SCHOOL**

Just a few reminders to ensure the safety of our students. The car park is for staff only. It is NOT a drop off or pick up area for students. Also please encourage the children to use the crossing. Please set the example – use the crossing with your children when arriving to and departing from school.

**SWIMMING**

Swimming notes will be sent home next week. Swimming commences for Year 1 – 7 students in week 3 (Tuesday 10 Feb) and will run for 5 weeks. Please note, it is **Week 3**. Some classes notes have indicated Week 2.

The children will be using the new pool this season. The cost of pool entry has risen to $2.50. Swimming is such an important part of the school curriculum that we are going to continue to subsidize the cost of sending the children to Gatton for swimming lessons. We ask that the children contribute $3 per trip (cost for the bus is approximately $4-$5 per child). Therefore the cost of swimming will be $5.50 per lesson for pool entry and bus. I encourage you to send your children to swimming lessons. Students will be attending swimming lessons on Tuesdays for 5 weeks. Preps do not attend. First swimming day is Tuesday 10 February. Children who do not attend swimming lessons are supervised by teachers remaining at school, and do both literacy and numeracy activities.

**STUDENTS OF THE WEEK**

Each week, a student is chosen from the class as the ‘Student of the Week’. The teachers base this award on many aspects – academic, effort (inside and outside of the classroom) and extra curricula activities. Our first students of the week for 2014 will be announced next week.

**TUTORING PROGRAM**

The before and after school tutoring program will commence next week. This year we are offering 2 groups before school, both at 8:30 (Mrs Dorge and Mrs Brocherie) and sessions after school on Monday, Tuesdays and Thursdays with Mrs Forbes, Mrs Hobl and Mrs Johnson. This term, we will be focusing on spelling. Students (Years 2 – 6) have been given a diagnostic spelling test and I am evaluating the results. I will speak with parents to invite the students to be part of the program. There will be a variety of groups – some with students below the level expected; some with students working at the level; and some better spellers that we are challenging.

The Levelled Literacy Program has commenced for some Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 students. This program operates during the students’ normal reading times. Most parents have been informed of their child’s involvement. Hopefully by this afternoon, I will have contacted all parents regarding this program. This is a fantastic program, and we have seen significant reading improvements. The program relies on the reading support that the children receive at home – reading the homereader and going through the homework sheet.

We are very fortunate to have such skilled teacher aides to take these programs and to assist with all aspects of support for our students.

**PBAs (POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR AWARD)**

During the week, when staff members see students making that extra effort at school such as helping out students/teachers, picking up papers without being asked, asking if they can help around the school etc., they may be given a ‘PBA’ which goes into a draw each week. The winner gets to choose a prize from the prize board in the library.

**STUDENT ATTENTIVE AWARD**

During parade, the teachers chose a student from each class who has sat and listened attentively during parade. The winner from each class, gets a free iceblock on Friday.

**SWPBS (School Wide Positive Behaviour Support)**

SWPBS has had a name change. The program is now Positive Behaviour for Learning. The program itself has not changed. We will now refer to the program as PLB.

This week’s expectation is to ‘Be in the Right Place at the Right Time’. When the bell goes, we want the students to stop playing, get a drink, go to the toilet, wash hands, move towards the classroom and do this quickly and quietly.

As some of you may had heard, the school has a new bell system. We are still trying to get a good volume, so that it can be heard around the school, but not too loud for the classes near the speakers. Bell times are as follows.

**2015 TERM DATES**

Below are the dates for the terms this year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Duration</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term 1</td>
<td>Tuesday 27 January – Thursday 2 April</td>
<td>10 weeks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 2</td>
<td>Monday 20 April – Friday 26 June</td>
<td>10 weeks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 3</td>
<td>Monday 13 July – Friday 18 September</td>
<td>10 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 4</td>
<td>Tuesday 6 October – Friday 11 December</td>
<td>10 weeks</td>
</tr>
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8:30 – short bell to let children go to the classroom with their bags to get organised for the day.
9:50 – long bell to go to the classroom to be ready for lessons.
9:55 – short bell to ensure that everyone is in the classroom.
11:00 – long bell indicating the beginning of morning tea.
11:25 – long bell indicating the end of morning tea with 5 minutes to be back in the classroom.
11:30 – short bell to ensure that everyone is in the classroom.
1:00 – long bell indicating lunchtime.
11:35 – long bell indicating the end of lunch.
11:40 – short bell to ensure that everyone is in the classroom.
3:00 – long bell indicating the end of the day.

We are also able to use the system to alert the students and staff of a lockdown or evacuation.

We have set up the bell to ring from Monday to Fridays.

STUDENT COUNCIL PIES AND ICEBLOCKS
The Student Council will continue to sell pies and ice-blocks on Fridays. Pies at Morning Tea and ice-blocks at lunchtime will be 50c each. This will commence tomorrow.

BOOKCLUB
Bookclub will again operate this year. By purchasing books through Bookclub, you are assisting the school in obtaining books for the resource centre. THANKYOU to those families for supporting Bookclub. There are many good books (and other resources) available through bookclub. Catalogues will go home shortly. The will need to be returned by Tuesday 10 February. For new families wanting to purchase books, simply fill in the order form on the back of each catalogue, return the orders with the money (or you may pay by credit card – details on the back of the catalogues) to school by the due date. Books arrive at the school in 7 – 10 days time.

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION
Religious Instruction classes are held each Tuesday from 9:00 am to 9:30 am. Continuing students will remain in classes based on the information supplied last year. New students will be placed according to information on the Student Enrolment Form. Parents are able to place their child into a Religious Instruction class or withdraw their child from a Religious Instruction class at any time by forwarding a letter to the Principal. It is Education Queensland policy for Preps not to attend Religious Instruction classes.

MEDICATION
Only prescribed medication can be given at school. A signed permission form (available from the office) needs to accompany the medication. The medication must have the pharmacy label, child’s name, doctor’s name and instructions clearly labelled. One medication form (for the year) is required for long term medication (eg asthma puffers). Please ensure that we have your child’s medical conditions up to date.

NAMING OF ITEMS
Please ensure that all items are named – clothing, hats, water bottles, lunch boxes etc. Lost property is stored in the green locker near the stairwell to the Office.

NEWSLETTERS/PARADE/WEBSITE/FACEBOOK
Newsletters will go out on Thursdays and Parade will be held on Monday afternoons from 2:30pm.
Newsletters will be uploaded to our website. If you haven’t already done so, remember to ‘like’ Helidon State School on Facebook to receive information about current happenings.

SCHOOL BANKING
School banking resumes next week. Information about banking will be sent home with our new students. If you would like your child/ren to be involved with school banking, please see Mrs Jones.

ACTIVE AFTER SCHOOL SPORT
Just a reminder that Active After School Sport has ceased. It is in the process of being developed into ‘School Sport’. I have registered the school’s interest in being involved in this program. If we are successful, the program should commence in Semester 2.

GAMING FUND GRANT
The school has been successful in obtaining a Gaming Fund Grant to install a musical play area for the school. The grant is worth just over $31 000. Pictured are examples of items that we will be purchasing for this area. This grant will be discussed at the next P & C meeting.

EARLY YEARS GROUP
The Playgroup Shed has been lined and is almost ready to be used. Mrs Zupp has been contracted to the school for 1 day per week to cover NCT (Non Contact Time) for the some teachers. Mrs Zupp will also take on the role of our Early Years group leader. This group will not be affiliated with Playgroup Australia, but will be run by a staff member from the schoo. As such, the school’s insurance will cover this group. There will be no charge to join the group, and there will be no weekly contribution. All costs associated with the group will be covered by the school.

There will be more information (day, time, activities etc) shortly. If you have young children, or know of anyone with youngsters, encourage them to come along.

P & C NEWS
Our first P & C meeting for the year is TUESDAY 10 FEBRUARY, 3:15 pm in the Library. I encourage as many people as possible to attend. I look forward to catching up with everyone and also hopefully meeting some new faces. The AGM will be in March.

Thanks, Sam