Welcome back to 2017. The students came back full of excitement and enthusiasm.

We welcome 2 new families into our fold. The Murtagh family have moved into the area and are having a new home constructed. Tanya and Doug have enrolled Will in year 4 and Darcy in year 2. The boys have a little brother called Laurie. The Wade family live just across from the school. Camille is in Prep. Mum, Andre’ and dad, Troy also have a younger son named Cormac. We welcome both families and look forward to getting to know them.

Our prep group, Fred, Camille and Montana has settled in happily and are working very hard in the prep-2 class.

We look forward to a great year with lots of learning and enjoyment for everyone.

Music and Drama

We welcome Dale Partridge to our school. Dale is an experienced music and drama teacher. In semester 1 he will be teaching our students music and drama and will include some dance.

Sports uniforms

As we will now be having PE on a Monday for Semester 1, the students can wear their house coloured shirts on Monday instead of Wednesday.

School Leaders

On Tuesday the 7th of February we will be having a special parade to present our school leaders with their badges. All parents are invited to attend this parade which will commence at 2.30 instead of the usual time.

House Captains

Congratulations to the students voted sports house captains for 2017. Nick LeDilly and Will Barnes will be leaders for Elliot and Harper Akins and Jed O’Brien will be Hodgson’s captains. We would like to congratulate Tally and Anikin for also nominating for these positions.

Student Council

The student council positions have been filled for this semester. All the school leaders plus Tally, Nick and Jed will form this committee. The chairperson is Emerson, secretary is Olivia and Nick is treasurer. Look out for exciting events organised by this team.

Australia Day at Cambooya
Thanks to Amelia Gaffney who represented the school at the Australia Day ceremony at Cambooya. She was a credit to the school and all who attended remarked on the way she conducted herself.

Running Club

Tennille will be organising a running club for interested students on Monday mornings from 8.15. Students in year 3-6 interested in improving their times are invited to attend these sessions.

After School Expectations

Staff members have expressed concern over the safety of students in the afternoons at pick-up time. Students have been told that they must go to the pick-up area when released and MUST ask their parents if they can go to play. They are not to leave that area until their parents have told them they can. They MUST then stay in front of the school, between the tall tank and the buildings or on the northern playground until their parents are ready to go home. Staff members are concerned that some children have been going into the staff carpark area during this time and an accident could easily occur if children are running around cars. This area is out of bounds at all times but some children tend to think that if their mum or dad is there they don’t have to follow these rules. Could you please remind your children that safety rules must be obeyed at all times? Children must stay in the area where their parents can see them once released from the pick-up area. Thank you for your assistance in keeping our students safe.

Exiting the Car Parking Area

Parents are reminded that, when leaving the front car parking area, they are to back out heading north and turn around in front of the tennis court. If you are unsure please ask another parent who has been here for a while to explain the procedure.

Student Free Days

Wednesday:- Teachers went to Wellcamp State School to learn about the NAPLAN marking guide for writing and its implications for the teaching of writing in their classrooms. In the afternoon we planned the best way of using the physical and human resources available to us to benefit the learning opportunities for all students.

Thursday:- In the morning we looked at our writing program and used evidenced based research to assess the current program and plan for ways to improve the writing outcomes for all students. In the afternoon we spent time setting up our classrooms. I’m sure you will agree that they are looking very inviting this year. I was impressed by the way Jenny managed to make her room look very grown up for the bigger kids. You must check out the underpants in the P-2 classroom!

Friday:- Teachers and teacher aides went to the Southern Vale Conference at Hume Ridge. We were addressed by Petrea Walton, Deputy Director General in Education in the morning, hearing the agenda set by Education Queensland for 2017. Then we listened to Andrew Horriban present ideas from his book called “Bullshift”. It is addressing ways to communicate effectively and directly within a work environment to gain the most productive outcomes. It was a very entertaining but informative session and the staff were all motivated and learnt many great strategies.

We had the most delicious lunch provided by the Ramsay P&C. They had to cater for roughly 600 people and Emily and her band of merry helpers were outstanding. Compliments have been flowing for the job they did and the food was amazing. Thanks everyone.

Curriculum for term 1

The sharp and narrow focus for 2017 in curriculum is WRITING for the first semester and NUMERACY in semester 2.

We have been working on writing as a focus for 6 months now and will continue with this at the start of the year. We have been concentrating on students producing more writing, setting writing goals and receiving timely feedback about the quality of their writing. These processes will continue but teachers will also be working on having a balanced approach to writing in their classrooms.

- A balance between the processes, skills and genre of writing.
- A balance between doing short on demand writing and longer tasks where students get to chose the topic, theme and type of writing they do.
A balanced approach that includes fluency in handwriting, spelling, sentence construction and grammar addressed in both writing lessons and as part of our reading program.

Year 5/6

In English students will listen to and read a variety of short stories, investigating text structure, language features and how to create humorous effects. For their assessment task students will write a short story. In mathematics students are looking at number and place value, fractions and decimals and units of measurement.

Year 2/3/4

In English students are looking at reading and writing narratives. We will be reading ‘The Twits’ by Roald Dahl, discussing, analysing and practising the use of specific language features of narratives using this text as an example. For their assessment task the students will be writing a chapter suitable for inclusion in ‘The Twits’. In Maths the students will be looking at Number, including skip counting, representing, comparing and ordering numbers and addition, subtraction and multiplication strategies. The year 2s work with numbers to 100, year 3 to 1000 and year 4 to 10000. They will be exploring length and time in measurement and using graphs to represent and interpret data. We will be working a lot on fractions. Students will be expected to improve their number fact skills.

Prep-2

In English students listen to, read, view and interpret written picture books including stories from aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures. They’ll identify emotive content and justify their interpretations of the stories. For their assessment students will give a spoken presentation about character emotions and enjoyment of the texts they have studied. In Mathematics the students will look at time elements including days of the week, months and using a calendar. In number students will be counting collections using the counting sequence at different levels and looking at patterns in numbers and involving objects. Year 2s will represent the counting in 3s sequence. The 1s and 2s will be doing skip counting to count these collections. They will be representing and solving addition and subtraction problems.

Science

All students will be doing the Life and Living Units for their year level. The prep-2 Unit is called ‘Living Adventure’ where they look at how the needs of living things are met in a variety of habitats and how changes affect those habitats and their inhabitants. The 3-6 group’s unit is called ‘Living Things’ and they will be classifying living things.

History

P-2 students will be investigating their own personal story including their family background and relationships within their family. 2/3/4 students are exploring the impact of changing technology on people’s lives.

Lunch area Tables

Some of you may have noticed that one of the lunch area tables has been painted white. This is only a trial of the undercoat. I had this wonderful idea that the tables where the students eat were getting really dirty and needed a spruce up so have bought paint to decorate them. It is a high gloss enamel and so should be durable and able to be cleaned easily. It is my plan to undercoat all the tables in that area. Then families who accept the challenge will paint the top coat. I have provided yellow, blue, green and some black and white paint. Any family who wishes to come to school in the afternoon or on the weekend can decorate a picnic table and then inscribe their family name on the table for prosperity. If your design requires another colour, that’s fine but you will have to purchase that pot of paint yourself. It’s time to get creative folks. If you think your family would be willing and able to accept this challenge avoid disappointment and get in fast and book a table.

Updating student details

In the past we have sent out copies of our records for you to check and update. New regulations do not allow us to do this anymore. It is now the parent’s responsibility to inform the school if any of their child’s details change eg. address, emergency contacts, phone numbers etc. If any details change, please inform the school office, in writing, so that our records can be kept accurate.