From the Principal

Welcome Back
I hope you have all had an enjoyable and relaxing break over the festive season and had the opportunity to spend some family time with your children. Our return to school has been both exciting and positive. The children have been excited to see their friends and happy and focussed in class. A fantastic way to start the year.

It was wonderful to see such a good turnout of parents for our first parade despite the oppressive heat. The children were definitely pleased to get back to their air conditioned classrooms.

Our student numbers have remained stable since our return with our enrolment likely to remain around the 84 mark by day 8. This is fantastic news for our school as it will mean we can keep our current teaching staff without having to make any changes.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of the new families starting their association with the school. We look forward to working with your children and getting to know you all. We welcome parents in our school as our most valuable partners in a child’s schooling.

Welcome New Staff
I would like to welcome Jessie Pawson our Prep/Year 1 teacher to our school for 2016. Jessie had been working out at Collinsville at St John Bosco’s for the last two years and has brought her amazing energy and passion for teaching to our school for this year.

A big welcome to Clare Brazel who will be teaching our year 5/6 class. Clare has moved from Brisbane to be part of our beautiful school community.

Also we have the wonderful Margie Chidley working as our Learning Support teacher on Mondays and Tuesdays. Margie is going to be a huge asset to our school as she will be working closely with our students to help them reach their full potential.

We would also like to welcome Jessica Smith who is our new permanent teacher aide and will be working with the Prep/Year 1 class this year. Jessica has been living in Bowen for a long time and is an extremely hard worker.

I am sure you will all join me in making all our new staff feel welcome in our school and as a part of our wonderful community.

Quote of the Week
“Success is walking from failure to failure with no loss of enthusiasm.” (Winston Churchill) - No matter how many times we experience lack of success in our lives this shouldn’t stop us from pursuing our dreams. Life is meant to be a learning process and the only way to learn and grow as a person is to fall, get back up, dust ourselves off and try again.
Woah we have had a very exciting start to Prep/1! Miss Pawson let us name our class so we are now “Prep/1 Super Stars”. We decided it was important to make some ways to be awesome in our classroom, our awesome rules are:

- Sit on your bottom
- Raise your hands
- One person speaks at a time
- Make sure your friends are happy

We have already read the book ‘The Pocket Dogs’ and got to make our own dogs that go in our pockets. Years 5/6 with Miss Brazel have become our buddies and they read to us and help us with art and craft. We really like them. We are having so much fun and can’t wait to see what the term will bring!

Left: The Prep/1 Super Stars with the pocket dogs they made in class.

Right: The Prep/1 and 5/6 class joining forces for the ultimate awesome-ness!

Left: The Prep/1 Super Stars getting in the groove singing alphabet songs. A, B, C, D.....

Welcome to all parents! Mrs H and Mrs Pott are so excited to be working with you all. We are going to have a ‘SUPER’ year! We will be learning about poetry and narratives in English this term and we will be studying a ‘Graeme Base’ unit during art which will be integrated with our English unit as well. Homework will begin this week! If you have any questions please don’t hesitate to ask Mrs H. Have a super owl-tastic week everyone!

Welcome to all the parents and students of the amazing 3/4 class. My name is Mrs Sherryl Sexton and I am looking forward to a rewarding and enjoyable year with your children. All the students have settled in well and are working very hard. In English we are working on a narrative but very shortly will begin working on persuasive text. Time, change and data, number and place value and fractions are being covered in maths. The children were very involved in our discussion during Civics and have a very mature attitude. In Science students will be investigating lifecycles. In History the year 3 students will be examining significant past events and the contributions of groups and individuals while the year 4 students will be examining great explorations and discoveries. Thank you very much to all the parents who have joined our dojo group, this should be an exciting way to stay in touch and for you to find out what we have been doing. I hope to see as many of you as possible at the parent information evening, but if you are unable to attend you can always contact me or the office if you need to know anything. To infinity and beyond, Mrs S.
**What’s Happening in 5/6**
We have been having a fun and busy first few days with Miss Brazel. We have been showing her our recount writing skills, impressing her with our creative writing and showing how good we are at working in groups. On Friday, we began our buddies afternoon with prep/1. It was really fun to help them with their art and craft activity and read to them. We are looking forward to a busy term, watch this space!

**Recycling**
Merinda State School is working with Planet Arc to recycle used printer cartridges and old mobile phones. Please drop off any printer cartridges into the office, drop any old mobile phones into Mrs Conway. Together we can make a difference.

**Guidance News**
Hello Team Merinda! My name is Danielle Upkett; I am the new Guidance Officer and will be visiting your school on Wednesdays. I will be walking around the school in the mornings and break times when I am here, please introduce yourself and your family. I look forward to being able to support the students, staff and parents of Merinda State School.

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Come and join the Bowen Scout Group

Sections for ages 6-17 have commenced for 2016 looking for new youth members, leaders & helpers.

The first two meetings are free - To find out more contact our Group Leader

Kay Knight: Ph 0407 772 197

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