From the Principal

As a staff we are pleased that term two has been shorter than last term..........

However, as we struggled to meet reporting requirements for the end of semester, I think a few of us hoped for a few extra hours in each day this past fortnight.

Staffing this term has challenged us. A number of staff undertook leave. Four other staff, due to individual health issues, have been undertaking “return to work” programs. To families whose children have experienced changes as a result of our staffing requirements, thank you for your support. Your children have adapted remarkably well to the changes.

An unusually early beginning to the flu season has also affected a number of staff and unfortunately a number of your children, with six of them requiring hospitalisation. Again, thank you so much for adhering to our guidelines of keeping ill children home. As you are aware, many of our children have compromised health systems. We have reinstated the use of hand gels in classes at more regular intervals throughout the day during flu season. In previous years this practice appears to have had positive results.

During the Easter holidays a meeting was held with EQ Project Services Team with respect to the additional class and staff work spaces on the third floor (Admin level) of our school. The architect presented a new set of plans which have utilised a great area of existing roof space (copy attached). Four weeks ago our administrative team met again with Project Services to discuss in further detail the electrical/ technological and other “nuts and bolts” issues pertaining to each room. We are due to meet again in the near future to finalise finer details.

During the latest meeting we discussed the nature of our site and the need to “stage” the building project. Given the current status of planning it is not anticipated that the building will be ready for the beginning of the 2012 school year. Hopefully completion will be early into the first term though. As the planning moves to construction phase we will liaise regularly regarding day to day implications.

Staff has again engaged in a range of professional development activities to enhance their roles in supporting your child’s educational program. Technology, Auslan, podcast training, coaching and disability specific
professional development are some areas in which staff engaged.

As part of our Annual Operational Plan (AOP) for 2011 we identified as one of our priorities the development of Communication Guidelines for students at Red Hill Special School. To this end, throughout term 3 each student will be profiled using a Communication Matrix to gather baseline data. On the basis of this matrix additional communication assessments may be undertaken by our Speech Language Pathologist. For use of the Communication Matrix at our school and in an effort to attain a consistency in implementation of the tool, agreement has been reached regarding the intent of individual statements for respondents. Each teacher will be interviewed by the same person in further attempts to achieve consistency.

Once completed, teachers will be able to share your child’s communication profile with you. We anticipate that such information will greater inform our discussions with you regarding communication development, programming, implementation and review for your child.

For families of school aged students, you will have received your child’s school semester report. Please feel free to contact us should you wish to discuss any aspect of this report. Please also note that, on these semester reports, the remaining semesters of schooling for your child is also reported. In Queensland each student has an entitlement of 24 semesters of schooling.

At the end of May the AMAQ Foundation hosted another gala fundraiser for which our school was again a recipient. As a result of this evening, our school received almost $12,000.00 to purchase three highly specialised seating systems for our students. We are so fortunate to have again been supported by the AMAQ Foundation. A number of families from the school demonstrated our gratitude for AMAQ Foundation support through attending the evening. A great deal of fun was had by all.

Your small P&C Association also worked tirelessly this term to arrange a major fundraiser for our school ‘A Knight with Wayne Bennett’ on Thursday June 16th. As you can imagine, bringing together such an evening doesn’t “just happen”. A small group of six parents gathered auction items, obtained a great venue at The Queens Arms, quality champagnes and food for the evening, facilitated an MC (Terry Hansen from 97.3 radio) and of course the time of Wayne Bennett as the overall draw card! All of this to raise the necessary funds to improve programs for your children through quality specialised equipment. As you would be more than aware, the moment “specialist” or “specialised” is placed in front of a word the price escalates. This year your P&C has focused on meeting the needs of all students at Red Hill Special School through raising funds to purchase a “wish list” of equipment the school budget would require a number of years to acquire.

We acknowledge that while this small group of hard working people put this occasion together, the success of the event has been made possible through support from all our families in facilitating ticket sales for the evening. Thank you.

Enjoy the winter break with your children. Hopefully lots of “sleep-in” time..... lunch boxes away .... school uniforms out of sight.... Stay warm and well and we will be looking forward to happy faces on Tuesday July 12th. Remember that Monday July 11th is a Pupil free day when our staff will be updating in CPR as one of their Professional development activities.

Stay Safe.

Pam
Staffing has been challenging again this term. It has been further exacerbated with the flu season upon us.

Jocelyn Haycox (Middle school) and Hilary Murphy (ECDP) have had extended sick leave this term. Hopefully both teachers will be back on deck next term.

Libby Howard (teacher Junior team) is taking six months leave next term to travel overseas. Libby will return to us in 2012.

Rebecca Craner, our music therapist for the past two years, is moving in a new direction with her career and leaves us at the end of term. We have advertised Bec’s position and hopefully will have a music therapist amongst us again in the near future.

Lisa Conway (teacher aide with seniors) who has been on sick leave this year is returning part time to us next term. It will be great to have Lisa back with us.

Megan McKenzie (teacher aide middle school) has had long service this term but will return next term also.

As we end semester one it is time to farewell our five wonderful Danish students, Sille, Mia, Siri, Katrine and Stina. The support these young people have provided to our programs is immeasurable. Our staff is already reviewing programs to reflect the loss of these students. Throughout semester two we will host another two Danish students. We have been very spoilt to have had five this semester.

We are currently finalising all staffing for next term. We understand the concerns you have as families when disruptions occur to your child’s classes. We will always attempt to minimise disruption as much as possible. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding throughout our staffing predicaments. Please, if you have personal concerns regarding decisions we make around staffing, contact us to discuss the issues.

Every day thousands of Australian children suffer the effects of asthma and eczema, and families struggle with illness management and children’s behavioural and emotional adjustment.

### Asthma and Eczema Triple P Study

**Positive Parenting for Healthy Living** is an adaptation of the successful Triple P - Positive Parenting Program, offering practical ideas and support for parents of children suffering asthma or eczema. This innovative group program is designed to help parents manage their child’s illness, assist children in coping with their illness and emotions, and prevent and manage difficult child behaviour.

Over the next few months and for a limited time only, parents of 3-10 year old children suffering asthma or eczema are able to access Positive Parenting for Healthy Living Triple P free of charge as part of a University of Queensland research project. Contact Amy Mitchell on (07) 3365 7305 or email healthyliving@uq.edu.au, or visit www.exp.psy.uq.edu.au/healthyliving for more information.
P&C Update

A Knight with Wayne Bennett

On the night following the second State of Origin, 200 people gathered at the Queens Arms Hotel to enjoy great food, drink and company, to hear Wayne Bennett speak and to raise money for Red Hill Special School.

The Queens Arms provided a great venue with delicious food, drinks and friendly staff. Thanks to the sponsorship from Moet the champagne was flowing early and enjoyed throughout the night. Terry Hansen, a friend of the school and presenter on 97.3 FM breakfast crew, kept the night flowing and people informed of opportunities to support the school.

Wayne Bennett gave a funny, informative speech and an auctioned question from the floor nudged him to speak more about his experiences as a carer. As anticipated he spoke honestly, saying amongst other things, that we should try to live one day at a time, create a solid support network and accept the help offered.

It was a very successful fundraiser with friends and family keen to support our school. There were raffle items, silent auction items, live auction items [including the first Newcastle Knights jersey signed by Wayne Bennett] and a donation wall to help complete the multi-sensory room at our school - over half of the 40 items on the wall were purchased for the school on the night!

The P&C committee would like to congratulate everyone who supported A Knight with Wayne Bennett and are delighted to announce $35,000 was raised. By all accounts, everyone had a great night whilst helping a great cause.

Classroom News

ECDP have continued our journey through exploring the “Wonderful World of Books”. Classes have read a selection of new and old favourites like One Cool Watermelon, The Very Hungry Caterpillar, Where is the Gruffalo, Mrs Honey’s Hat, Brown Bear, Brown Bear. Chicka, Chicka Boom Boom and, The Enormous Watermelon just to name a few. This term students have delighted in performing role plays of their stories, making mini books, puppets, monster models and completing art products to accompany themed stories. Students have enjoyed outdoor play experiences in our sandpit and play house. Many students have completed our ever changing obstacle courses and explore the world of transport with the bikes, little red car and scooters. Sensory play has been a daily occurrence with goo, play dough, slime and lux flakes all experienced with varied tolerance and usually a lot of fun.

We have already said goodbye to a number of students that have moved full-time to their PREP classroom at their local school. While we miss them, we have heard that they are doing really well, which is fantastic! We will begin to say goodbye to a few more next term, and wish all families well in this exciting journey!!

We had our first ECDP parent workshop this term. We were very
excited about the number of parents that returned the survey, and hope that we can offer a series of workshops that address some of your questions/concerns. The first workshop we ran was on toileting. Thank you to the parents that came. We hope that you were able to take away some useful information that may assist you in your child’s toileting journey. We plan to run these workshops annually, so if you missed out on this one, or are unable to make future sessions, maybe you can come to another one next year.

We also held our annual PREP morning tea this term, which is an information session for families that are moving through into the PREP year in 2012. Our aim is to help you through the process as much as possible. If you were unable to make the session, but have questions, please contact Kate, and she will attempt to assist you in making the transition to PREP as smooth as possible. Thank you to the parents that did attend – it’s nice to share common questions, and to hear what other families are doing in preparing for 2012.

One last mention to our Danish student Mia - Mia has worked in the ECDP this term alongside Jane in our PREP classroom. Mia has been a wonderful addition to the ECDP, and her enthusiasm, and commitment to the students’ has strengthened classroom programs and enabled more individual support for a number of students. Thank you Mia, and we wish you all the best in your future career in Denmark.

From all the staff at the ECDP, we hope all our families have a safe and happy June school holiday, and we look forward to seeing you all back next term.

Teachers: Kate, Hilary, Jill, Jane, Jenny & Jo
Teacher Aides: Mary, Shelley, Deb, Christine, Tamara, Michael & Danya
Danish Students: Mia & Katrine
Junior 1 & 2

This term has once again been a busy one for the Juniors. We have had a busy term participating in our programs, not only in the classroom but also our community access programs including Swimming, Horse Riding and Gymnastics. Students have all been working hard on building their strength and balance through these programs as well as having a great time whilst they do it!

This term we have continued our focus on books, looking at a range of books which explore early literacy and numeracy concepts such as letters, numbers, and colours. Some of the books we have looked at include, ‘chicka chicka boom boom’, ‘polar bear, polar bear’, ‘where is the green sheep’.

Junior One were very fortunate this term to venture off to Currimundi on the Sunshine Coast for our two night camp. Whilst away we went to a big indoor play centre, Underwater World, an abilities playground and the local park. The students all managed so well, considering some of them had never been away from their families. It was lovely to be able to be with the students in a relaxed and casual environment and enjoy watching the friendships grow and develop.

As the term comes to an end, we need to say a few farewells. Stina, our Danish student has been a wonderful addition to the Juniors, in particular Junior Two. She has fitted into the team so well and has built some lovely relationships with the students and will be very much missed. Libby is also taking leave from Red Hill for six months and venturing off overseas. We wish her a safe and enjoyable trip and will see her back for 2012!

We wish you all a safe and happy holiday and we look forward to seeing you all back refreshed for term three.

Teachers: Libby, Rachael, Lucy & Caroline
Teacher Aides: Holly, Danya, Jenni, Michelle & Caitlin
Danish Student: Stina
We have had another busy and productive term this semester. All students have been involved in various programs that enhance and develop various skills and knowledge. These programs include community access, hydrotherapy sessions, music therapy, sports & gross motor, communication sessions, cooking as well as literacy and numeracy and individual student programs. We were fortunate enough to welcome two new students to the middle one crew. Scarlett & Lyam have adjusted well to the new classroom and program well. We farewelled Brendan who joined our class for a short period of time while staying in Brisbane, he has returned to his home town of Rockhampton.

We continue to travel to the Ashgrove shopping complex on a fortnightly basis. Students each have their own shopping list which pictorially depicts the ingredient they need to locate, with all ingredients being used for our cooking. We have been cooking a variety of sweet and savoury dishes. Our cooking sessions involve numeracy skills such as measuring and following the sequence of a recipe as well as literacy skills of creating sentence structures depicting what we have included as well as what we have left off our pizzas. It is also an opportunity for the students to taste and experience new foods. On alternating Thursday the students of middle one travel to the library.

We are now visiting the Brisbane Square Library and enjoying the opportunity to search through the books and find one of interest for individual students. The students travel to and from the venues on the Brisbane City Council bus.

We have a small group of students access the gym at Sporting Wheelies on a weekly basis to develop and maintain their physical fitness. One of our students also has the opportunity to access Splitz gym on a fortnightly basis to develop various skills including balance and coordination. We have all enjoyed a productive and enjoyable term and are all feeling a little tired and ready for a well deserved break. Unfortunately, we have to say a sad farewell to an integral part of the middle one team. Siri, our Danish student who has been with us for the semester will be leaving us at the completion of the term. Siri has been a wonderful addition to our team, building valuable relationships with the staff and...
students of the class. We will miss her warm and friendly presence in the class and wish her all the best for her future studies and career. We also have another sad farewell for Vince Basa. Vince has worked very hard to develop and achieve various new skills. He is a lovely young man and we wish him all the best at his new school. We have also been supported by various staff who work hard to ensure each and every school day runs smoothly, thanks for all your support. Wishing everyone a happy and relaxed holiday!

**Teachers:** Caya & Midori  
**Teacher Aides:** Trevor, Deb, Christine & Sheena  
**Danish Student:** Siri

**Middle 2 & 3**

It is hard to believe that we are already at the halfway mark of the school year!

As part of the school wide unit of work this semester, staff and students in Middle 3 have had a wonderful time this term exploring “Our World”. Each week we have set sail for another country, and explored the different tastes, smells, sights, sounds and textures that the country has to offer. To date, we have travelled to far off and exotic places like India, Africa, Italy, Ireland. We have made artwork out of pasta, danced Irish jigs, sang Italian opera and walked through the African jungle. Currently, Sille is leading us on a sensory tour of Denmark, before we head back to Australia in time for the school holidays. This term, we have had the pleasure of welcoming Noah and Jordan into our class. It has been lovely having them both with us, and we hope that they have enjoyed our world tour. It has also been wonderful to have extra help from Midori, Deb and Ashley throughout the term.

In addition to our theme work, all of the students in Middle 3 have been working very hard in their other programs. It has been wonderful to witness the progress the students have made towards their communication, fine and gross motor and social goals this semester. Unfortunately, one of our aides, Ashley has to leave us recently as she has moved back to her hometown of Roma. We were very sad to see her go, but wish her all the best.

We will also be saying goodbye to Sille very soon, as she is heading back to Denmark after six months spent with us. It will be very hard to say goodbye to someone who has helped us so much this year, and the staff and students alike will miss her very much! We wish Sille all the
best as she returns home, and hope that she’ll be back to visit some day.

From everyone in Middle 3, we wish you a happy and safe holiday. We look forward to seeing everyone back and ready for term three!

From: Jordan, Seth, Will B, Troy, Will H, Noah, and Kodey
Teachers: Kate and Midori
Teacher Aides: Megan, Jillian, Sandra, Ashley, Sheridan, Nicole, Stephanie and Pauline.
Danish Student: Sille

Seniors 1, 2 & 3

We have reached the end of another busy term in the seniors. We have continued on with our unit of work entitled My World – Pathways and Places. As part of our unit we have explored our local environment using the school bus and public transport. Our program supports the notion that the senior phase of learning (15 – 18 years of age) should focus on the future and assist young people to engage in their local community as much as possible.

This has included visits to New Farm Park, Woolcock Park, horse riding, drumming, GOMA, local shopping centres, coffee shops and a wonderful production of Joseph and his Technicolour Dream coat at Saint Laurence’s College.

The seniors have been extending their engagement in Information and Communication technologies through the use of the Interactive Whiteboard. This assists our students to continue to develop cause-and-effect, communication and attention skills.

Our Enterprise program has continued to be a great success with the addition of coconut ice to our repertoire of offerings on a Friday. Staff and students can enjoy a lovely sausage sizzle, coconut ice and have fun with play dough. This program assists in the development of skills associated with following a routine, engaging in sensory experiences, mixing and pouring ingredients and making deliveries.

Patrick getting into making green play dough!

This term we have welcomed some wonderful volunteers. We have Sharon and Yvette who help us each Friday as part of their studies, as well as Jane Wright who helps us during the week. We couldn’t do it without all of your help.

Corey and Rachel enjoying the sunshine at St Laurence’s with Ian Healey.
Two of our students turned 18 years of age this term. We enjoyed partying with Lisle (30\textsuperscript{th} May) and Stamati (16\textsuperscript{th} June).

Finally it’s time to say Goodbye to our student from Denmark, Katrine, as she heads home to continue her studies. Katrine has worked with students from the senior and ECDP classes and we hope she has enjoyed her time in Australia. Best wishes for the future Katrine.

We hope you have a wonderful mid-year break and we look forward to seeing you in Term 3.

**Teachers:** Tracy, Therese, Lisa & Carmel  
**Teacher Aides:** Paul, Carol, Christine, Glenis, Julie, Jillian, Trish, Jenne, Caitlyn, Trevor, Seb, Pauline & Sam  
**Danish Student:** Katrine