From the Principal

Writing this today, a beautiful spring day which hopefully is indicative of the weather we are hoping for during the September holidays. The prep, junior and middle classes are enjoying the Fun Run in perfect weather down at the Bay. Hopefully with this change in weather, all colds and flus will vanish and you will have a great break with your children. Thank you to families who have kept your children home when they have been unwell.

We have continued to have very challenging times with staffing. Some staff is on recreation leave while others have experienced health or work injuries requiring time away from school. We have just completed our staffing for term four which is reflective of our challenges.

Replacing Libby Howard from Junior 1 is Nicki Reid. Nicki is an experienced teacher who joined the junior team early this term. Nicki will be joined by Gareth Emblen in term four to support the educational programs of these young students. Nicki and Gareth will plan together and co-teach. Junior one has grown in numbers and this additional teacher time is reflective of the needs of the group.

In Junior two Caroline Cooper will be teaching the class full time throughout term four. Lucy Hirst who was team teaching with Caroline in terms one to three is returning to the Gold Coast.

In ECDP, Jenny Hawker will have the first six weeks of term four on long service leave. Trudy Duffy, an experienced teacher who has worked with us previously, will replace Jenny throughout this period. Caron Watt will also be returning two days a week to ECDP. It will be great to have Caron back on the team.

Jill McDonald from ECDP has taken up a position Playgroup Australia. Jill has vast experience in this area and her skills, whilst sadly missed from Red Hill will be a wonderful asset to this Queensland based project. Aleasha Francis, a teacher here three years ago, has returned to take our playgroup.
Two new Danish students, Julie and Maja, have arrived to spend semester two with us. Maja is working in ECDP and Julie in juniors. They are settling well and enjoying working with your children.

We have been very fortunate to have employed a new music therapist, Clancy Cullen. Clancy started with us three weeks ago. She will be working Mondays and Tuesdays until the end of term four. Her days may change next year and Clancy is considering an option of also offering private lessons one day a week, similar to Rebecca. Clancy has been providing sessions to each class and is already getting to know your children, staff and student goals.

The Building status for our new classes is again delayed unfortunately. I have been advised that the project is going to Tender this Friday, September 16th. In reality, this means that building will not begin until early next year, with an expected finish date of June/July 2012. This is frustrating for all of us but we remain assured that the gain will outweigh the disruption and extended time frame.

Next term staff will engage more with the Australian Curriculum and particularly the work being undertaken in the areas of Maths and English for students with disabilities unable to partake in the regular curriculum. The writers of this key work will be providing Draft documents to us for consideration and feedback. More on this exciting work as it comes to hand......

Thank you again to our hardworking P&C Association which has been continuing to raise funds to purchase expensive equipment required to support your child’s programs. An order for $7000.00 worth of multisensory room equipment has just been placed.

On August 30th the P&C funded a 25th Anniversary Celebratory Bush dance and BBQ for families and staff. The band was great and food exceptional. Unfortunately the storm in the early evening kept some families away but all who attended had a great time.

Finally, thank you again for your continued support. Enjoy the September break. Stay well and see you all Monday October 3rd. Remember, Pupil Free Day is not until Monday October 17.

Pam
This term in the ECDP has been another great one! We have continued our theme of traditional and well loved stories and fairy tales. Each class has been reading different favourite story books and using them to continue their learning of shapes, colour, number, size, days of the week, and having a lot of fun at the same time!

We have been lucky enough to receive some wonderful new gross motor equipment and have been focusing our programming, with the help of our physiotherapist, Dave, on gross motor to get full use of our new equipment.

A big welcome back to Jenny Hawker and Hilary Murphy – the students and staff are very excited and happy to have them back.

We are also lucky enough to have another Danish student with us for this semester, her name is Maja. We are enjoying getting to know Maja and seeing her engaging with the students as she gets to know them. She is working with two of the Prep classes and one pre-prep class across the week. She is very happy to be here and we are very happy to have her. Welcome Maja!

Unfortunately Jill McDonald has left us this term. Playgroup Australia is fortunate enough to have her join their team. She will be greatly missed by all staff and students and we wish her luck in her future endeavours! Chana Peacock has been teaching Jill’s Monday class, and Carolyn Smith-Kenyon has been teaching Jill’s Wednesday classes since she left and will continue for all of term 3. Thank you both. Both Teacher’s are non-contact teachers in the school regularly and therefore are familiar faces in the ECDP. Caron Watt will be returning to the ECDP next term to teach Jill’s Monday and Wednesday classes in term 4 for the remainder of the year. It will be great to see her back! Aleasha Francis has returned to Red Hill Special School after maternity leave to teach playgroup on Thursday mornings. It’s lovely to see her smiling face each week. Welcome back Aleasha!

Thankyou to the families who attended the bush dance. There was plenty of great dancing and everyone had lots of fun.

We also celebrated Teacher Aide Day on the 2nd September, spoiling our Teacher Aides to say THANKYOU for all they do. The programs would not be able to run without their great work and support.

We will be saying goodbye to four of our prep students at the end of term 4. They will be transitioning to their respective mainstream school’s. We celebrate all their learning achievements here at Red Hill ECDP and wish them all the best in there future schooling.
Teachers: Kate, Hilary, Jill, Jane, Jenny, Jo, Carolyn, Chana & Aleasha
Teacher Aides: Mary, Shelley, Deb, Christine, Tamara, Michael & Danya
Danish Students: Maja

Junior 1

Junior One is cultural!

This term our crew has been finding out what it is to be Australian and what it might be like to be from Indonesia like Oka. We have built a city like Brisbane; we have had a cowboy come in and sing us songs and crack his whip; we have made an Australian flag. We have made an Indonesian flag, made an Indonesian house with stilts and straw for the roof. We found out all about Indonesian animals like the Komodo dragon, the tiger and the orangutan. We played along with a Gamelan percussion orchestra on youtube with our percussion instruments. Now we have begun Greece which is Leah’s cultural background. Next term we will investigate Japan for our new student Kaito Oshige, Italy for Harry Vincenzino and England for George, Will and Harrison. So much to do!!
Enjoy your break everyone and see you back ready for ACTION AND FUN IN JUNIOR ONE.

Teachers: Nicki
Teacher Aides: Holly, Danya and Julie

Junior 2

As always we have had a busy fun filled term in Juniors.

This Semester we are exploring the theme of ‘Culture’. It has been very interesting finding out all about the student’s cultural backgrounds. We have also been exploring the Australian culture and had fun role playing being on the beach and having a ‘lifeguard’ come to visit.

We have also continued our exploration of books, looking at a range of books which explore aspects of Australian culture. Some of the books we have looked at include Possum Magic.

Our regular external programs have continued as usual. The students have immensely enjoyed swimming, horse riding and outing to the gym. Our classroom programs have also been running smoothly with students participating in a range of programs including communication, gross and fine motor, music and sensory programs.

We welcome 2 new staff to the Junior team this Semester. Nicki is now teaching Junior 1 full time and we have been fortunate to have a Danish student working in Juniors again this Semester. Welcome Julie to Australia and the Junior team. As the term comes to an end, we say farewell to Lucy. Lucy is heading back home to the Gold Coast and Caroline will be teaching Junior One full time for the remainder of the year.

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

Teachers: Lucy, Rachael & Caroline
Teacher Aides: Michelle, Laura & Emma
Danish Students: Julie
This term we are working on our theme of work which is based around the fantastic book ‘My Place’. We have looked at Australian history throughout the ages and the multicultural environment we live in. Throughout the book we discover the adventures of individual children, their families heritage, the similarities and differences we see between today’s culture and yesteryears. We have had the opportunity to look at the Greek culture through the creation of beautiful Greek food called ‘Spanakopita’ while enjoying the music and images of Greece.

We continue to follow our weekly program involving swimming, cooking, gross motor, outings and working on our curriculum goals. Now that the warmer weather has arrived we are happy to be enjoying our fortnightly visits to the library via the botanical gardens where we enjoy our morning tea. We have also recently begun taking orders from the staff within the school to purchase lunch from the bakery on our alternate Thursdays. While taking the orders the students are practicing their communication skills, money skills and the recording of data.

We are all looking forward to the term ahead and the adventures we will be having on camp! Until then hope everyone has a great and restful spring break.

Teachers: Caya
Teacher Aides: Trevor, Deb, Laura & Sheena
Can you believe that another term is drawing to a close already?

The staff and students of Middle 2 have had a fun-filled and busy third term. Our unit of work for this semester is focussed on ‘Our Culture’ and we have spent this term exploring the culture of Indigenous Australians, particularly in the area of art and stories of the Dreaming.

Our favourite story has been “How the Water got to the Plains”, which is an animated story that we have watched on the interactive whiteboard. It is a story from the Butchulla People from Fraser Island and tells the story of how all the beautiful river systems and billabongs came to the arid plains of central Queensland. We have also created some wonderful textured boomerangs, which was an activity we all enjoyed. The most popular activity however (enjoyed by staff and students alike) was creating our rock art style handprints. The next time you are in the school, please stop and have a look at our creations in hall near the office!

In addition to our theme work, we have been working extremely hard towards our goals in other programs. We have all had loads of fun participating in a ‘Fun With Food’ program with our Occupational Therapist, Kath. These sessions have seen us making everything from humble (but delicious) cupcakes to very decadent “Clown Sundaes”. In all of these activities we have explored our likes and dislikes and practiced making our choices. We have also had the benefit of having a weekly session with our Physiotherapist, Dave. He has taken us each Tuesday morning and put us through our paces; climbing, crawling, rolling and walking as we negotiate a different set of obstacles each week. We have also continued to work on our communication, self-help, social and personal wellbeing goals.

Earlier in the term we were lucky enough to be able to host an afternoon of music and dancing in our classroom when the Billy Tea Bush Band visited our school. We sure had a lot of fun clapping, skipping and singing to old favourites such as “Home Among The Gum Trees” and “Click Go The Shears”!

Another highlight was our recent day out for the Darling Point Fun Run. We all relished being able to spend the day out in the beautiful sunshine, walking along the water and then eating delicious sausage sizzles! Everyone had a fantastic day.

We have had the pleasure of welcoming Rhonda and Maxine into our class as extra helpers this term. Rhonda is volunteering each Wednesday, and Maxine is with us on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. We have also had the pleasure of Rachel coming to help us on Thursdays. We are also loving our weekly music therapy sessions with our new therapist, Clancy.
From all of us here in Middle 2, we wish you all a happy and safe holiday. We can’t wait to see you all back here for Term 4!

**Teacher:** Kate

**Teacher Aides:** Sheridan, Nicole, Megan, Stephanie & Pauline

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**Seniors**

This semester in the Seniors our Unit of Work is “Our Culture”. The first culture we studied has been Greece. In this we made and tasted some Greek recipes such as hommus, orange cake and haloumi. We also visited the Greek club and tasted a variety of Greek sweets and enjoyed the view of the city.

The next culture we studied was Australian culture. We visited Mt Coot-tha, which was a lovely day out, again with stunning view of the city. We also made and tasted Anzac biscuits and damper, and wore swagman cork hats.

Within our unit of work we have continued with interactive whiteboard sessions and are becoming more tech savvy by the week. We are now using the interactive whiteboard with our interactive stories to include another sensory input into our exciting adventures.

We visited the EKKA and had a blast. We loved seeing the animals and enjoyed the atmosphere. Of course we visited the show bag pavilion!

Senior 3 went on camp in week 8. Great fun was had by all - they visited the beach (several times!), the shops, the park and the RSL club for dinner and dancing. A big thank you to the staff who dedicated their week to ensuring these young people had the best possible experience.

Senior 1 just returned from camp and we are looking forward to hearing all their stories.

Carmel Cooper has won a Churchill Fellowship which has taken her on a tour of the USA. She will not be back in the classroom this year and is being replaced by Maryann Vickers on a Friday.

Yvette Ferries, a student who has been with us since February, has now found a home in Capalaba. Unfortunately for us she will now be returning to Darling Point Special School. Yvette has been a wonderful addition to our class and we will miss her dearly. We wish her the best luck for the future.
We are pleased to have Lisa Conway and Trish Harvey back on board with us. Lisa will be returning to us 5 days a week for term 4 and Trish will be with us 2 days a week.

A big thank you to all the wonderful staff (Julie, Jenne, Lisa, Trish, Pauline, Sharon, Paul, Glenis, Christine, Carol, Seb, Caitlin, Sam) and volunteers (Faye, Jane) – their endless energy, kindness and sense of humour is very much appreciated and creates a happy, working atmosphere in our classroom.

Teachers: Tracy, Therese, Lisa, Carmel & Maryan
Teacher Aides: Paul, Carol, Christine, Glenis, Julie, Jillian, Trish, Jenny & Sam