Firstly I would like to extend a welcome to all new families of Red Hill Special School. We have, for our small school, had a significant growth in our school-aged program this year. We currently have 49 enrolled students in the school program and 41 in our early childhood program.

This growth in our school over the past two years has seen the necessity for extra class space. Many of you will have seen the stages of demolition that have occurred throughout term one in order for construction to begin. The school has been cut in two this term and many classes have relocated into spaces generally utilised for activities other than classrooms.

We have also lost our middle play space for the duration of the building project. The staff has worked together to find alternative activities for your children. Everyone has worked to maintain structure for your children and continue our core business of providing educational programs.

Our site is not an easy one for a building program. Many changes have needed to occur to ensure primarily, the safety of your children throughout their school day. I realise that these changes have also impacted on families for drop off and collections as well. Again, thank you for your understanding and continued support throughout this period.

The project was set as a 24 week program but there have been many rain interruptions. I am hopeful that we will see a handover of new buildings to us in the June/July period of 2012. The concrete slab on the third level has been poured. Steel work is arriving as I write this. Weather prevailing over Easter, we are hopeful of seeing more structural work as we return to school on April 16th.

At completion of works the school will have 2 additional classrooms, toilets, staff room and office space for therapists and advisory staff. There will also be the inclusion of a small meeting room. It will be a time of celebration for all of us when we take possession of the new areas. Until then, we all remind each other to keep smiling and to remember that we are enduring the pain in order to gain.

Whilst the building has created some additional work for us, we are as I indicated earlier focussed on providing educational programs for your children. Thank you to the many parents who were able to attend class
evenings over the past month. This enabled you the opportunity to discuss with your child’s teacher the structure of the day, timetables and goals. I hope that you found the evenings as valuable as staff did.

At these evenings you would have heard that, as a school, we too are engaging with the Australian Curriculum in English and Maths prep through school age. Teachers would have discussed that for many of our students we are using the Working toward Foundation Australian Curriculum in English and Maths. We will continue to update you with our curriculum journey throughout the year.

Our P&C held its AGM on Wednesday March 21st. Your incoming Office Bearers for 2012 are:

President: James Donnelly
Vice President: Alistair Brown
Treasurer: Gerard Reardon
Web support: Jonathan Walker

At this point there was not a nominee for Secretary of the P&C. In the near future I will be writing to families to seek nomination for this position. It is not an onerous task – our P&C meets once a month for approximately an hour and a half. The major task is to take the minutes.

On behalf of our school community I would like to congratulate the incoming Office Bearers and to also extend our sincere thanks to both the P&C and many parents who planned and hosted an incredibly successful fund raising event on Tuesday evening March 27th- An Evening with Erin Brockovich. Last year our P&C raised in excess of $30000.00 to provide specialised resources for your children. This has been an amazing result for such a small school community. It has been made possible by both the hard work and support of many families. Thank you.

Whilst we will be receiving new class spaces, money raised will support resources required for the new classrooms as well as, over time, development of new play spaces which have been demolished to enable construction of rooms.

It has been a busy term for everyone. Your children are beginning to tire and I hope that they and you have a restful break.

The changes to pupil free days in Qld this year mean that your child will return to school on Monday April 16th for the beginning of term two. We will look forward to seeing their eager smiles as they enter the doors.

Have a safe and happy break.

Pam
It has been a busy term for all the students in the ECDP, they have all managed to settle into their new classes and adjust to their new routines. We have all had fun getting to know each other. We welcomed Jocelyn and Danya to our team and are lucky to have Daniella from Denmark who helps to support some of the groups as well. Jacinta Xavier has also stepped into the deputy principal role for the ECDP unit this year and has been supporting us all and getting to meet as many parents as possible along with getting to grips with a new job...no mean task!

We have four Prep classes this year and the students are all working towards transitioning to their main Prep school towards the end of the year. There have been a number of new students join the Pre Prep classes and we all enjoy playing with them on the days they visit the unit during outside play. Everyone benefits from the social interaction of a mixed group of students which helps to promote turn taking and sharing along with role modelling and language development. We also have a huge Playgroup Class on a Tuesday and Aleasha always manages to provide a varied and interesting programme every week come rain or shine! It is evident that the parents who attend each week welcome the opportunity to meet other parents and to watch their children enjoy interacting with others.

The weather has been great so we have been able to get outside and enjoy using our new basketball hoop and climbing equipment. Water play has been a great activity, learning to pour and squirt spray bottles, trickle and splash - all great language opportunities. We have also been using large paintbrushes to water write on the ground and walls and practice our letter writing.

We have missed our big playground sessions and look forward to it being reinstated soon.

Our focus this term has been All About Ourselves and we have been looking at our family and our homes and looking at relationships. Students have made social story books and pictures about their families and school friends and have been learning how to greet friends and visitors when people visit the class. Students have also been learning to address friends and adults by names and work in paired activities, sharing and turn taking collaboratively.

Dave our resident physiotherapist has been helping us to explore how we use our bodies and how to travel and climb over different height obstacles. We have also had fun taking part in the Brain Gym exercises to develop our fingers and finer body movements and especially enjoy doing it all to music. The Bubble wrap Rap and the Funky Feet Songs are two of our favourites. We have also been keeping fit when bouncing on the Fit balls and riding our bicycles outside.
The interactive white-board has been used a lot to support choice making and turn taking as well as introducing new learning concepts. It is a highly motivating tool to have in any classroom and it has helped to support counting and language concepts within our teaching programme. Our students enjoy their music sessions with Clancy who supports them through structured learning. She always brings new and different instruments and music for us all to experience and enjoy.

We enjoyed meeting many of you at our Parents Open Evening where we shared our teaching programme and concepts with you. It offered the opportunity to ask questions and meet all the ECDP Staff. We also hope to see many of you at our Easter Bunny Extravaganza on the last Thursday of the term. It is always a great morning event and there are always plenty of chocolate eggs to be found around the park!

Hi all. We’ve had a busy start to 2012, changing classrooms and working around the building that’s going on. Our class has changed a little with Keanu Brown joining us from ECDP and Leah moving to another class. We also have Will Barton full time now.

Our theme this semester is Our Local Community, but we have re-phrased this to “What’s your job?” We’ve been having a lot of fun exploring different aspects of the 4 professions we have studied so far. Within this theme are incorporated all the gross motor, fine motor, academic and social goals that we have decided upon for each student. Throughout the day students earn smiley faces towards Student of the Day. It is encouraging to witness good choices being made in order to achieve the Student of the Day prize. It is also working on one of our major goals for maths - counting and comparing numbers for more, less and the same.

We have had firemen and police visit, and after the elections are over, we will have a postie visiting us. We have had an excursion to the post office to post our parcels that we addressed ourselves. We used these addresses to play pass the parcel; to unwrap, read the name and address and give it to that person. We then practiced saying our name and address for our police role play for what to do if you get lost.

The gross motor program includes visits to the gym, Woolcock Park, the swimming program and a recent bonus to our post office excursion, a trip to the Enchanted garden in Ashgrove. The Splitz Gym is particularly enjoyed by the children as the

### Teachers:
Hilary, Caroline, Caron, Jo & Jocelyn

### Teacher Aides:
Mary, Shelley, Deb, Danya & Tamara

### Danish Students:
Daniella

Have a great Easter break and we all look forward to seeing you next term.
instructor Julie sets up a different course for us each week and she has great rapport and a “you can do it” attitude.

There are lots more great things coming up for Junior One, including a camp in term 2, (Details still being finalized) so watch this space for our next exciting episode.

**Teachers:** Nicki  
**Teacher Aides:** Jenni, Laura, Sharon  
**Danish Students:** Rebecka

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**Junior 2**

Welcome back to what has been another busy term in Junior Two. This year we welcome Amy, Angus, Braken, Ashley, Thomas, Clement, Abishek and Leah as the Junior Two class. Laura and Holly as well as Julie our Danish student, help make the classroom the fun and enjoying learning environment we want it to be each day.

This term we have been busy learning about community helpers and how they can help us. We have enjoyed visits from the police, fireman and Ambulance as well as went to the post office to deliver our own letters. All students are enjoying this theme and enjoying the range of learning activities that have been associated with each different helper.

As well as continuing our class programs, we have also been fortunate to continue gymnastics at Splitz Gym working on our balance, coordination, flexibility and overall enjoyment of movement. The students get so much enjoyment out of this program and they frequently surprise us with what they can do when given the opportunity. We have also been participating in a swimming program on a Friday and it has been great to see the improvements in all students and the fun each of them have whilst in the pool. On a Thursday we have been visiting Woolcock Park. Every week we comment on how nice it is to see the interactions between some of the students. Some of these interactions we don’t see occur in the classroom, so it is lovely to see them come alive down at the park.

A big focus for our program this year is communication and Independence. We have a
range of communication systems being used including ipads, PECS as well as increasing children’s verbal language. We look forward to working with the children and families throughout the year to establish greater communication skills. We wish you all a very safe and happy Easter and look forward to another fulfilling term ahead after the break.

The beginning of the year has been a busy but productive one, full of various discoveries through exploration and engagement in a range of activities. The students have settled into a good routine and participate in various activities such as swimming, a visit to the park, music therapy, fun with food, art, exploring cause and effects materials, interactive stories, sensory play and individual programs.

The theme for the term has been ‘People who help us’ and we have been exploring various occupations that work to help our community. These have included fireman, postman and the police. We have been fortunate enough to have a visit from the fire truck and to meet some real fireman as well as a visit by a police officer on his motorbike. We have been involved in interactive stories that depict us as posties, delivering mail to our family and friends.
It has been lovely for all students to interact and get to know each other and we enjoy our group times as an opportunity to work together towards a common goal. The opportunities we have to do individualised work means that each and every child is able to learn and grow while working towards their personal goals.

We have welcomed a new student to our class recently; Carl will be with us for the semester and has been a lovely addition to the group.

Staff have noticed that the students of Junior 3 are becoming more and more weary coming to the end of a busy term. We hope you all have a restful and recuperating holiday and that the Easter bunny finds you all!

**Teachers:** Caya  
**Teacher Aides:** Pauline & Amelia

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### Junior 4

It is hard to believe that Term One is already drawing to a close. We have had a great start to the year in Junior 4, with all of the boys settling in to our daily routines with ease.

We have explored the topic of ‘Community Helpers’ this term and the boys have had a lot of fun learning about the people who help us, including firemen, posties, paramedics and policemen. Each fortnight we have learned about a different helper, and we have listened to stories, made artwork, played computer and whiteboard games and role played different aspects of that particular helper. A definite highlight has been the opportunities we have had to meet some firemen and a motorcycle policeman. It was a lot of fun to get dressed up like real life firemen and explore a fire truck. Likewise, we greatly enjoyed getting up close and personal with the motorcycle policeman, and of course it was very exciting to hear the sirens of both vehicles! We look forward to learning about more helpers next term.

In addition to our weekly theme activities, we have hurtled head long into our other programs. We have greatly enjoyed our weekly trips to the McIntyre Centre for horse riding and each of the students has shown great improvement in being able to mount, dismount and sit up tall on their horses. Each Monday is swimming day and we have all worked hard at our swimming programs. Each Wednesday we have music therapy with Clancy. Communication is a major focus in our classroom and all of the boys continue to work hard to develop skills in this area.

Earlier in the term we had to say goodbye to our friend Jackson as he and his family moved to Ipswich. We hope he is enjoying his new school! We were very excited to welcome Rolly to our class a few weeks ago. Rolly has joined us from Pine Rivers Special School, and he has very quickly settled into our class and is great friends with his classmates.
It has certainly been an action packed term and we’re sure all of the boys will enjoy having a restful Easter break. We have lots of learning and fun organised for next term- it is sure to be an exciting time! Please everyone have a very happy and safe Easter and we look forward to seeing you all next term.

Teachers: Kate
Teacher Aides: Stephanie & Deb

Middle 1

It’s hard to believe that we are at the end of Term One already! It has been an exciting and busy start to the year joining the Red Hill team, working with the students and getting to know them. We have also been lucky to have Jesper our Danish student join our team. This has been wonderful.

Our focus this term is ‘Our Community’. We have been having a lot of fun learning about the different people that help us in our community and the role that they play. We have been engaging in meaningful experiences which centre around real world situations such as going to Woolcock park, the Ashgrove library and Ashgrove shopping complex. A multi-sensory
The approach is embedded into the unit which includes gross and fine motor programs as well as the communication, academic and individual goals for each student.

We have been lucky enough to have firemen and a police visit which all the students just loved. The students have really enjoyed dressing up each fortnight as a different community helper, role playing and exploring the different aspects of that job. It’s great to see that none of our students are camera shy! Each fortnight we research and make a different item that relates to our helper. Some of the items we’ve made include a police badge, a fire truck and doctor’s bag.

The interactive whiteboard is a special favourite of all the students and we use it daily to practice our literacy and numeracy skills such as counting to 5 particularly when we are singing to ‘The 5 little fireman’ song. A definite class favourite!

Engaging with the interactive whiteboard

It has been lovely to meet and get to know everyone and I look forward to another busy term. Our focus will be ‘Places in our community’.

I wish everyone a safe and happy Easter!

**Teachers:** Casey  
**Teacher Aides:** Tim & Caitlin  
**Danish Students:** Jesper
Middle 2

Term one 2012 is coming to a close and we have had a jam packed term in Middle 2

We began our horse riding which has been great fun for all. There has been a lot of improvement with a few trotting sessions that tested the core strength of students and side walkers alike.

We have started work on our community activities which has included regular visits to our local Ashgrove library where we have searched the shelves and looked at many books. There is a wonderful deck at the library where we enjoy our morning tea and when the weather is fine we wander to the park next door to the adventure playground.

We have also started the journey into our community at school with visits from the local firemen, fire truck and policeman John with his police motor bike. We wish you a safe and happy Easter Break and look forward to a fun packed term 2.

Middle 2 Student of the week awards

Teachers: Jenny
Teacher Aides: Sheridan, Nicole, Paul & Michelle
The seniors enjoy our swimming program on Mondays/Wednesdays. All students thoroughly enjoy their individualised swimming programs and reap the benefits of hydrotherapy such as relaxation, stretching and improved mobility.

Our movement program continues each day and our senior students can often be found walking around the school, delivering notices to the administration block, enjoying relaxing massages or participating in gym activities with Dave, our school physiotherapist. Each Friday Dave works with some of the students to complete a variety of gym tasks- sit ups, push ups and tug of war....the competition is fierce and we’re just not sure who’s enjoying this more....Dave or the students?!

The staff in our senior classes have thoroughly enjoyed term one and all it had to offer. We are all looking forward to an exciting term 2 where we will continue with our unit, ‘Our Community’ and immerse ourselves further into new and exciting community based activities as well as continuing our school programs. All the senior staff would like to extend to you and your families a very happy Easter period and a safe and wonderful holiday filled with plenty of sunshine!

See you in term 2.

**Teachers:** Lisa, Therese, Rachel, Caroline & Maryan

**Teacher Aides:** Jenny, Paul, Glenis, Criddy, Lisa & Julie

Sporting Wheelies is a popular activity for Jack and Braedy each Tuesday- here they get to use specialised equipment to utilise their strength and endurance.

Head ‘em up and move ‘em out.....each Monday sees our resident cowboys Timothy Mooney and Ethan saddle up for horse riding.