Dear Families

Semester one of our school year is nearing completion and what a busy year we are having. Throughout this term two of our school classes have been to camp. From all reports each camp was very successful. Students and staff had lots of fun and many stories and photos have been shared. Next term other classes will venture to camp also. South Coast and Sunshine Coast have been the venues.

Thank you to all families entrusting your children to our care. We realise how difficult it is for many of you to make this decision to allow your children to leave you, especially little ones who are only 6 and 7 years of age. We learn so much more about your children during these times in an environment away from school. It provides us with greater understanding of family demands and needs also.

The costs for camp this year have been minimised due to the generous support of your P&C Association. As a result of the Erin Brokovich fund raising evening earlier this year, the P&C has sponsored each camp to the value of $500.00. The amazing efforts of a small group of parents and supported by a number of families on the evening has resulted in benefits to all families and children of Red Hill Special School. In addition to sponsorship of camps, specialised equipment has been purchased. The P&C Executive continues to work hard to fund raise for the additional requirements of our school.

Next term we will have four new families join our community - two families moving to our area from other parts of Brisbane or surrounding areas and one family moving here from New Zealand. The school enrolments have grown to 51 and ECDP currently has an enrolment of 45 little ones. In addition the school is regularly supporting up to six students from other special schools attending respite at Halwyn Centre.

It will be wonderful when the two new classrooms are completed and staff and students can be better accommodated. The building program has had some setbacks with weather and unanticipated delays but it is taking form quickly now. If you have been into school you will have seen the external structure forming and the following weeks external and internal cladding will
occur. With a range of setbacks the original completion date of end of June has also been pushed back. Hopefully term three will see handover at which time some classes will relocate, the Multi-Sensory room will be resumed and outfitted for use, ancillary staff (therapists and advisory visiting teachers) based at our school will be located to new office space and our lovely nurses will also return to their office space.

Once again, a sincere thank you to parents, students and staff who have continued to remain positive throughout this project and maintained a focus on teaching and learning for your children.

Staff has continued with development of curriculum and reporting across ECDP and school with prep and school engaging with the Australian Curriculum in the areas of Maths and English. For the school-aged students, teachers have also consulted and developed a new 5 point scale being used throughout this semester reporting period. Your P&C viewed the scale at our last P&C committee and were positive towards the work undertaken. We would be interested in comments from school aged parents regarding the new scale once you have had the opportunity to view your child’s report.

A great number of staff has undertaken a range of professional development activities throughout this semester to better meet the needs and programs for our range of diverse learners. Professional development has included hydrotherapy, communication, technology and disability specific areas.

As we near the end of term the flu season is affecting us. We have had a number of staff and students succumb over the past two weeks. As with your children, when staff is unwell they too stay away until well, to reduce infection across the school. Thank you to parents who have kept your children home when unwell. This assists greatly in reducing illness across the school. As you are aware, many of our children have reduced immune systems and are more susceptible to illness.

I hope these beautiful sunny, winter days continue for the holidays and that you and your children enjoy the well-deserved break.

Look forward to seeing you all at beginning of term 3 which begins Monday July 9th.

Pam
General News

School Times
For parents who bring your child to school/collect your child, this is a reminder that the school day begins at 8.45 am and concludes at 2.45pm.

The school doors open at 8.30 am and teaching programs begin at 8.45am. Where children arrive after 8.45 it means that programs are either disrupted or unable to begin on time.

As you are aware, it is extremely important that structure and routine be followed to support your children’s learning. Where programs are interrupted it can be very hard to regain student attention and focus. It is of utmost importance as educators that we optimise teaching/learning time.

Thank-you to all parents who bring their children to the office when arriving after 8.45am /leaving and returning after appointments. This is school policy and ensures not only that classes are not disrupted but that we can account for all students in accord with evacuation procedures.

A reminder also, that if you need to speak with a teacher, please arrange a time outside of 8.45 am and 2.45pm. Teachers willingly find time for you and appreciate discussions with you to better understand your child’s needs. We value these discussions but are equally aware of the time needed to implement individual and group programs throughout the day.

Should you have any concerns re this please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Pam

Bluecare Continence Advisory Service
CORRECT CONTACT DETAILS
Families recently received a letter regarding support for completion of continence aid funding applications. Blue Care Continence Advisors can provide advice about your child’s needs, and assist you to complete funding applications for continence aids through MASS (Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme) and CAPS (Continence Aids Payment Scheme). The service is offered to children aged 5 years and older. The cost of a visit by a Continence Advisor is $10. A Blue Care Continence Advisor is able to come out to the school and meet with parents/caregivers for appointments, or they can come to your home.

In past years Red Hill Special School OT and Nurse have supported families to complete MASS and CAPS applications. With the changing roles of these professionals (outreach services) and in compliance with their Education Queensland roles, this is not able to continue. We have been able to source the Blue Care continence service to offer an alternative for you.

The original letter you received had the incorrect contact details. If you are interested in registering with Blue Care for continence advice and completion of funding applications for your child, please contact the Blue Care Intake Officer on PH: 3722 1740.
Another busy term for all the students in the ECDP. Some of our students have increased their days at their main prep schools which is wonderful. Aleasha and her playgroup class have been swimming a lot this term which has been great fun! The weather has still been great (if a little chilly) so we have been able to get outside and enjoy the sandpit and obstacle course. We also often have a little shop running from the “cubby” house where students take turns at selling and buying all manner of things – ice cream and toys are the most popular!

Our focus this term has been our Community. We have been learning about those in the community who help us with a focus on Doctors, Fire-fighters, Police Officers and others. We love to dress up and pretend to put out fires or help those who might be sick by tucking them up in bed and taking their temperature. We have been pretending to drive buses and fire engines and we have been learning to share the driving and ticket taking duties! Students have been making “neighbourhoods” by first building paper houses and then adding to a map of our neighbourhood. We really enjoyed drawing the roads, the traffic lights and stop signs and even a roundabout. We also added those important buildings like schools, hospitals and police, ambulance and fire stations. This was a great opportunity to negotiate placement, use our visual perception skills, share tasks, increase our fine motor skills and of course, to use our language to describe the things we see in our community.

We still have our wonderful specialists who spend time with us each week - Dave our physiotherapist and Clancy our music therapist. Dave makes us work hard by climbing, balancing and jumping (just to name a few activities). Clancy helps to bring out our inner rock star by letting us explore our voices as well as her wonderful musical instruments. During music we also learn to wait, to share and listen carefully to instructions.

The Interactive Whiteboard is still one of our most popular activities during our school day. Using the whiteboard is a great teaching tool which works across all levels of ability - from learning to isolate our index fingers and increasing our attention spans through to counting and even spelling! I’m sure most of our
prep and pre-prep students can sing “The days of the week” song too! There are some fantastic websites that you may want to try at home. One of the sites we have been looking at is the government website TripleZero. This site teaches us (through story mode) about what to do in an emergency. Technology is ever present and ever changing in our lives and the ability to navigate and understand it will be a huge advantage to our students in many ways as they grow. Please see your child’s teacher if you would like to know about some of our favourite websites.

Have a great winter break and we look forward to seeing you all next term.

Teachers: Hilary, Caroline, Caron, Aleasha, Jo & Jocelyn
Teacher Aides: Mary, Shelley, Deb, Danya & Tamara
Danish Students: Daniella

Junior 1

This term we have continued our theme of “What’s Your Job?” We have been gardeners, growing our own grassy heads and growing cherry tomato plants for mother’s day. We can name a number of gardeners’ tools. We had a belated visit from postie Noah from our work on posties last term and learned a bit more about his job and checked out his bike. We became bakers and made chef hats. We made bread in a bread machine and went to the Red Hill Brumbys and met Wayne the baker. He showed us his big mixing machine and ovens, bins of ingredients, baking tins and loaf slicers. Then we learned about farmers. On our camp to the Gold Coast we visited Currumbin Farm and fed lots of farm animals, learned about bush tucker and cracked macadamia nuts. We also learned about pirates while on camp and went in search of buried treasure. Keanu found it and started digging before we could even give him the last clue of X marks the spot!

Throughout this semester I have had wonderful assistance from all my teacher aides and relief teacher Tracy. Many thanks to Laura, Jenni, Sharon, Tracy and many others who have helped in our room. My special thanks go to Rebecka our student from Sweden who will be leaving us to go on travels before heading back to study in Denmark in a few weeks. She has been a great asset to my team and has worked really hard and with great patience. The children are genuinely fond of her. Thanks Rebecka and all the best for the future from Red Hill Special School and Junior One.

With Baker Wayne at Brumbys Red Hill
Rebecka with Will
As well as our classroom programs, we have participated in a fortnightly gymnastics program through Splitz gym and weekly visits to Woolcock Park and swimming. Through these programs, the students have had the ability to build on their gross motor skills, social and play skills as well as learning beginning swimming patterns and pool safety. A special mention to Braken and Clement who have improved dramatically with swimming. Braken is now able to swim the entire length of the school pool independently.

The highlight for this term was our camp to the Gold Coast. This occurred from the 4th-6th June and five of our students were able to attend. Whilst away we visited Sea World, Abrakidazzle, McDonalds and the all abilities playground at Kurrawa. The students all slept fairly well and were so well behaved whilst out and about. Whilst at Sea World we enjoyed watching both the Dolphin show and the Dora the explorer show. We also had a great time playing on the rides and going for a trip on the Monorail.

On a sad note, it is time for us to say goodbye to Julie, our amazing Danish student. Julie joined us in February and quickly formed a special bond with students and staff alike. Julie has been a very valuable member of the Junior two classroom and we will miss her very much. We want to thank her immensely for everything she has done for us over the past six months and wish her all the best for her future.

We wish you all a very safe and happy holiday period and we look forward to another busy and successful term three!
Another term has passed and we have engaged and explored a range of programs to enhance the learning experience for all students. We have enjoyed exploring our senses through programs such as fun with food, sensory play, interactive stories, music therapy and art. The use of our senses to explore our environment assists students to make sense of their world and the various sensory inputs that we face from day to day.

We have not only been working on our senses but also developing and extending our physical strengths through various programs such as swimming, individual gross motor programs and for some students horse riding. During these programs students work on developing trunk and head control, maintaining their physical abilities as well as core stability and balance.

Communication is a very important part of our everyday lives and as a group and individually we work to develop our strengths in our various modes of communication. Our daily morning greeting is a wonderful opportunity not only to begin our day as a whole class but also to use our communication skills to engage with others.

Throughout our programs we have also been exploring our theme, community helpers. We have looked at our librarians and began working on creating a book about ourselves and our families - the things we enjoy and the important people in our lives.

We have had a lovely semester enjoying a variety of activities in a fun and supportive environment. Each day is a busy one and we couldn’t do it without the hard work, enthusiasm and positive nature of our wonderful teacher aides – Pauline,
Amelia Page, Amelia Phillips, Michelle and Julie. Unfortunately we have to say farewell to Amelia Page who is off to travel and explore other parts of our world. Thank you Amelia for your supportive and fun nature. You will be sorely missed. We wish you all the best in your future!

I hope that students and families have a relaxing and rejuvenating mid-year break. We are all looking forward to a new semester with new adventures!

It is so hard to believe that we are already halfway through the school year! It really does seem like the time is just flying by in the Junior Four classroom.

We are coming to the end of our ‘Community Helpers’ theme. We’ve all had a lot of fun exploring the people who help us around the community, and the interesting aspects of their jobs. We have immersed ourselves in art activities, stories, songs and videos relating to people and occupations such as soldiers, policemen and farmers.

The boys have continued with their horse riding programs each week at the McIntyre Centre. This is such a wonderful experience for the students, and the benefits for their physical wellbeing are phenomenal. We have worked really hard at learning to ‘stop’ and ‘go’ this semester, and some of the boys have moved onto learning to steer their horses. We have been fortunate to welcome Alistair to our class this term. Alistair comes with us each week as a volunteer and we greatly appreciate his help!

We have also continued to travel to Woolcock Park each week with Junior Three. It is so lovely at this time of year to be able to get out and soak up some of the winter sunshine. As always, we get lots of moving and exercise done during our trips to the park. It is a highlight of our week.

Of course the boys have all worked very hard towards their goals this semester, and they have earned a nice break! It’s important that we all get plenty of rest because term 3 is going to be huge for Junior Four! As well as all of the exciting and fun activities happening at school, we will be embarking on our school camp at the beginning of September. It is always such a lot of fun to get away as a class for a couple of days and get to know each other even better. It will also be fun counting down the weeks and then the days until we go!

Teachers: Caya
Teacher Aides: Pauline, Amelia, Julie, Michelle & Amelia
We’ve seen a lot of progress and have had such a wonderful time celebrating the boys’ successes this term...I can’t wait to continue the fun for the second half of the school year!

I don’t think I am alone with being amazed at just how fast this term has gone. It seems like yesterday that we were welcoming our new Danish student, Jesper into our classroom and it’s now already time to say good-bye. Jesper has been a fantastic addition to our room. He has learnt quickly and is dedicated to doing his best for the kids each and every day. I know the students have very much enjoyed having him in the room and they all have gained a little something and will miss a little something I’m sure. Lyam will miss his super loud whistle, Jordan will miss her partner in crime and chatting buddy. Kodey and Jazper will miss watching his great photo slides from home. Clay will miss learning different Danish words and of course all the staff will be sad to see him go. However, we are very, very lucky as Jesper has volunteered to come to camp with us next term, which is something we are all excited about and looking forward to.

We have been continuing with the theme ‘Our Community’ although our focus this term has been on places in our community. We have been having lots of fun exploring things we see, hear, touch and smell within different places of the community and creating our own community story booklets. A multi-sensory approach is always used and 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 also been cooking up a storm, practising kitchen skills, discovering new textures and finding new recipes.
Middle 2

In term 2 middle 2 continued with horse riding lessons at the McIntyre Centre and our fortnightly visits to the library which has been great fun for all.

We have continued work on our community activities collecting leaves and items from our local nature park to include in our art attack hand-made mother’s day gift. We started our food appreciation cooking sessions this term and we have made some wonderful delights to send home from sushi to the good old Aussie meat pie.

We welcome a new staff member on Tuesdays. Alyssa joined our team during the term and it has been a joy to welcome her to our class. We have also welcomed our new classroom interactive white board this term which has been a wonderful educational tool for our good morning sessions, choice making, music, as well as interactive and independent cause and effect opportunities.

Middle 2 has also begun preparation for our school camp in term 3 which is very exciting. There will be more news about our camp and Sea World visit next term.

Term 3 will of course be as busy, fun and exciting as the last two. We are off to Labrador at the Gold Coast for 2 nights and 3 days from the 25th-27th July for camp. Middle Two will be joining us so it will be 3 days of fun, adventure and amusement.

We will spend a day at SeaWorld, which I anticipate will be a student favourite or maybe that is just me!

It has been a fantastic term and I look forward to an even better one next term!
Happy holidays!

Teachers: Casey
Teacher Aides: Tim & Caitlin
Danish Students: Jesper
We wish all our families a safe, enjoyable and fun filled semester break and we will see you in term 3 for more horse riding, swimming, cooking sample delights, music with Clancy and library outings.

Teachers: Jenny
Teacher Aides: Sheridan, Nicole, Paul, Michele & Alyssa

Seniors

This term our topic “Our Community” has continued. This has included visiting some favourite places in our local community such as New Farm Park and riding on the City Cat, The Gap shopping centre using the local bus, walking to Woolcock Park. We have cooked up some tasty treats in our sensory lessons and did our part for the local ecology by making paper, making our own soap and planting some herbs.

Our Senior Enterprise program has continued as we get our fruit and vegetables from the Ashgrove Fruit Shop. We sort these out into bags and distribute them to the school community.
Even in the colder days we love getting in the warm pool and relaxing, doing our movement programs and splashing our teacher. The trampoline continues to be a fun part of our day also. Our outside area has been great to sit in the sun to have morning tea or just relax.

We have had a fun term with lots of new and interesting activities, and we have enjoyed interacting with and learning more about each other.

We are looking forward to our big 5-day Senior camp next term at Caloundra.

See you in term 3.

Teachers: Lisa, Therese & Rachel
Teacher Aides: Jenny, Paul, Glenis, Sam, Criddy, Lisa & Julie
Volunteers: Faye & Jane

Special Announcement
Coles - Sports for Schools

Dear Parents,

I’m writing to you again this year to ask for your help. Our school is taking part in both the Coles Sports for Schools community program and the Woolworths Earn & Learn community program. We ask that if you shop with either of these companies could you please collect and deliver their vouchers/stickers to Red Hill Special School. We will redeem the vouchers/stickers at the end of the year for sporting equipment and school resources.

Last year Coles supplied $17million worth of sports gear to schools who participated. Red Hill Special School received three large bags full of sporting equipment, valued at more than $1000, when the school community was involved in the program. This year’s program, which is now up and running, will see Coles customers receive two vouchers for every $10 spent at Coles, Coles Online, BI-LO and Pick’n Pay supermarkets.

Until July 22nd 2012, Woolworths will give you one Earn & Learn sticker for every $10 you spend in store (excluding the purchase of cigarettes, alcohol and gift cards). All you need to do is save your stickers, fill up their sticker sheets and bring them to school. This year Woolworths is giving away more than $5 million worth of educational resources to Primary, Secondary and Special Schools all over Australia.

Red Hill Special School is a very small school. If you and/or your relatives/friends are able to assist in the collection of these vouchers/stickers it would be very much appreciated. There’s no limit to the number we can collect, so your participation will really make a difference. The more vouchers/stickers we earn, the more resources we can order!

Regards

Ian Healey
Deputy Principal