Dear families

Each term I have written with the hope that our new classrooms will be complete and ready for classes to move in. Alas term three is coming to an end and still the works are not complete. There have been numerous setbacks and delays. Whilst internally rooms are taking shape and externally you will begin to see some colours appear, unfortunately the classrooms will not be available for the beginning of term 4.

I feel I need to again thank our wonderful staff and students for working under cramped conditions with movement between buildings restricted and lack of play space. They are all to be congratulated for remaining so positive and generally cheerful as the delays have continued. Everyone continues to say “it will all be worthwhile!”

At the end of this term all school aged classes will have completed a camp. Groups have been to the South Coast and Sunshine coasts staying in some wonderful accommodation. The stories told and photos shared indicate that everyone has had wonderful times. Thank you again to our P&C for supporting each camp to the value of $500.00 to reduce costs to families.

During the camps we have not had access to our school bus. Townsend transport has willingly assisted us, thereby enabling programs (horse -riding, library and gym) to continue. Townsend Bus Company supports our students and programs regularly and with no request for payment. Next term the company will provide an annual day out for all students. This is an exceptional generosity which our community has benefited from for many years.

In term four your children will participate in a Bounce-a-thon to raise funds for equipment to use in our play spaces, once the building works are complete. A group of staff has been busy organising the event and forms and information will be sent home before end of term.

Your P&C has continued to be very active with fundraising again this year. The P&C is keen that you and your children share the benefits of their endeavours through such practical support as the camp subsidy. To date the P&C has not requested direct involvement from families into fund raising
throughout the year so the Bounce-a-Thon is a means of your children engaging in an activity to raise funds for our school. During the holiday period if you could assist your child in gaining sponsors it would be greatly appreciated.

On October 12th Saxon Rice, our local member, will be visiting the school. Saxon will also attend the October 17th P&C meeting. If you are free that evening please come along to the meeting. She is keen to visit our school and meet your children.

As we approach term four much planning and preparation is occurring. There will be ongoing program implementation, Bounce-a Thon, semester reporting and Christmas celebrations.

Additionally, throughout the year a number of our students have been transitioning to other schools. This is particularly occurring with our prep age students in the ECDP. A number of the children have been increasing their time in local prep classes in readiness for year one. In the early part of term four the majority of these children will be full time in their prep programs.

While it is sad for us to farewell families it is exciting to see these young children prepared and ready to move into other programs. Good luck to all families and thank you for working alongside us throughout the time your child has been at Red Hill.

On November 24th four of our senior students will be graduating from Red Hill. Corey, Keya, Tim and Patrick will celebrate their graduation with family and friends over lunch at the Broncos. Tim has been a student at Red Hill since ECDP. Recently these young people had the equivalent of a “schoolies week” at Wind Ward Passage up in Caloundra. They experienced a great week of sun, sand, pampering and even a motor bike ride!

Enjoy your September break. School resumes on Monday October 8th. On Monday October 22nd there is a Pupil Free day for term four.

Pam
General News

Protocols for Safe Administration of Medication in School

For school staff to safely administer medication to your child while at school, the following points are for security and safety purposes.

- The parent is to notify the school in writing to administer medication. This may include written guidelines from the prescribing health practitioner.

- Provide medication in original pharmacy labelled container to the school.

- Ensure medication is not out of date and has an original pharmacy label with the student’s name, dosage and time/s to be taken.

- Medication sent to school loosely, in a container other than the original, or premixed in a drink or food, is not able to be administered by school staff.

- It is preferable that morning medications are given prior to school. Medications are designed to be given with specific intervals between doses to ensure consistent therapeutic blood levels. If given at different times other than ordered, the drug may be less effective or may cause side effects.

These are requirements of the Health (Drug and Poisons) Regulation 1996 (Qld).

Classroom News

Welcome to the end of Term Three. This term the ECDP have been learning about healthy eating and the Olympics. Some wonderful art creations of the Olympic rings have been made while enjoying a variety of sensory experiences. We have learnt about sports and have participated in a range of Gross Motor activities with the help of Dave our Physio. We have read ‘Handa’s Surprise’, ‘The Hungry Caterpillar’ and ‘The Enormous Turnip’. The students have recognised the healthy foods in these stories and have learnt about sequencing. We have said “See you again” to friends that have left, thank you to Daniella our Danish student who left at the beginning of this term and “Welcome” to friends that have arrived.
In the Prep classes we have been working on our curriculum goals and have had fun learning new words to compare and label when weighing, counting and looking at size and length. We have measured friends and teachers, and built towers with big and small bricks. We have sequenced stories using language that represents time and have enjoyed the role play activities that supported our learning.

We have also been fortunate to have the use of some more iPads and have explored new apps to support our learning, we can even watch them on the interactive white board which has been very exciting. It has proved to be a very powerful tool for learning.

Many of our social activities have been focused on sharing and turn taking and we have had great fun playing with the basketball ring and some of the students have become very skilled when scoring a basket! We have made pretend ice-cream cones requesting different flavours and made healthy food in our café using our words, we have also loved riding our bikes and scooters using the large traffic lights which we could operate with a switch, thanks to St Laurence Boys School who made such a fun piece of equipment.

The ECDP wish you all a happy and safe holidays and are looking forward to seeing you in term four.

Teachers: Hilary, Caroline, Caron, Aleasha, Jo & Jocelyn
Teacher Aides: Mary, Shelley, Deb, Danya & Tamara
**Junior 1**

This term we have explored numbers to 20, the concepts of more and less, we are perfecting our presentations of Show and Tell, and of course we found out all about the Olympics for our unit on Health. We followed 2 Olympians, Sally Pearson for hurdles and Sam Willoughby for BMX. They were both medal winners which was very exciting.

We have been learning about the foods we can eat a lot of, and those we can only have a little of. A couple of the kids come in and show me their lunch every day, so the message must be getting home!

We have also been doing a unit on science for the new curriculum on night and day and early next term we will be going to the Planetarium as a summary for that unit.

We have been on a couple of other excursions to the Darling Point Fun Run and the mini Ekka, both of which were much enjoyed.

We also welcome a new student to Junior One this term, Joshua Way. He has easily become a great asset to our little group.

**Junior 2**

Term 3 has been a busy term for Junior 2 indeed. We have worked hard and developed our skills and learning through programs ranging from music therapy, literacy and numeracy activities, science, sensory lessons, art and communication activities.

Inspired by London 2012 our theme for this term has been “the Olympics”. We have enjoyed following the Olympics and watching video clips of athletes competing in the various sporting events. The students have also enjoyed partaking in our very own Junior 2 Olympics where they competed for gold medals in running, gymnastics and basketball events. It has been wonderful to see the students display such good sportsmanship by trying their best,
maintaining a positive attitude towards competing and cheering on their fellow classmates. This theme has been complimented nicely with our existing concurrent programs – fortnightly gymnastics program through Splitz gym, weekly swimming lessons and sports skills development program conducted by Lifestream. All these programs have enabled the students to continually build on their gross motor skills, physical fitness and social skills.

We have also been on several outings this term. Junior 2 went to Yatala for the Mini Ekka - a jam packed day full of sideshow alley games, rides, petting farm, hot dogs and cotton candy. Needless to say, we all had a great time! We also had an equally enjoyable experience at the Darling Point Fun Run a couple of weeks ago. All the students did a fantastic job and congratulations to our student Abishek who was chosen to be the representative of our school to win the fun run award. Thank you to Christine, Laura, Kym, Jason, Adam and Nancy for helping us on these outings.

Also a big thank you to Christine, Laura, Holly and other staff who have helped us in the classroom during this term.

We hope all students, family and staff have a lovely break and see you in term 4!

Teachers: Libby
Teacher Aides: Holly, & Laura

Junior 3

Wow – hasn’t term three just flown past and what an enjoyable time we have had?! We welcomed a new student to our class this term – it has been lovely getting to know our new classmate James and I am sure he has enjoyed being surrounded by a classroom full of girls! Welcome James!
We have been discovering our senses and learnt about the body parts associated with our senses. As a class we explored various flavours with our mouths during fun with food and oral motor activities, touched various textures with our hands during sensory play and art and smelt various aromas during our fun with food and sensory activities. We look forward to learning more about our senses and body parts in the coming term.

We have continued with our busy gross motor activities such as swimming, visits to the park, horse riding and for some of us using various equipment to stand tall (standing frames) and walk independently. Communication is an integral part of the program and each student has worked to develop their communicative skills, in varying forms, throughout the school day.

An enjoyable experience was had by three of the students of Junior three at school camp. We travelled to the Gold Coast and spent three fun filled days enjoying what it has to offer. We had a wonderful day at Sea World where a few of the students had the fantastic experience of swimming with dolphins. We enjoyed rides, saw the dolphin show, touched the sting rays, watched the polar bears swim and travelled on the monorail. We also explored the local all abilities playground which had some fantastic equipment, the girls thoroughly enjoyed using the equipment on a beautiful sunny day.

We have had a busy and productive term and we look forward to engaging further in activities that develop and extend the students of junior three. We hope you all have a fantastic holiday and are able to take some time to relax and recuperate over the break.

Teachers: Caya
Teacher Aides: Pauline, Amelia, Julie, Michelle & Amelia
What a jam-packed term we have had! Term 3 has seen the students in Junior 4 continuing with their busy schedules each week. This term we have explored the topic of My Healthy Body with some added Olympics fever thrown in! A sensory-based approach has been taken with this unit, and the boys have had a lot of fun exploring the parts of their bodies and how they work. We have spent a lot of time examining our senses as well (as these relate to parts of the body). Movement has played a big part in our learning this term, and we have had a lot of fun taking part in movement activities and songs (look out for our upcoming exercise DVD!!!)

Earlier in the term, we were very excited to attend the Yatala mini-ekka. Students and staff alike had an absolute ball on the day. We all enjoyed the side-show alley attractions such as the clowns and fishing games. George, Archie, and Matty all loved having a ride on the train whilst Gus and Corey went and got ‘inked’ (don’t worry, they were only temporary tattoos!). Later on, some of the braver folks amongst us went on the fastest ride at the fair. And naturally, we all thoroughly enjoyed the hot chips, fairy floss, drinks and showbags that were on offer. It is always such a wonderful day and we are extremely lucky to be able to participate! A very special thanks must go to George’s parents Jonathon and Christene, and Gus’ Au Pair, Judith who came to help us out on the day.

Of course the biggest event this term was most definitely our school camp! For three fantastic days, and two wonderful nights, Corey, Rolly, Gus and Matty got to live it up in style at Barney’s Place at Mermaid Waters on the Gold Coast. While we were there we got to spend an afternoon at the Kurrawa all-abilities playground (an absolute must visit!), and feed the very friendly resident ducks that came to visit us at the house. However, the highlight would have to be spending the day at Dreamworld! We were very happy that George was able to come down and spend the day with us (once again, thank you to Jonathon, Christene and Will for your help on the day!). At WigglesWorld we got to meet our favourite characters (Dorothy the Dinosaur was the big hit) and watch the all singing, all dancing spectacular. We all enjoyed the Big Red Car ride, and the spinning saucer ride was also a favourite. Later on, we all had a blast in the Madagascar Madness attraction (so many foam balls!), and all of us were very brave and got our faces wet on the Log Ride! It is so lovely to spend a few days away with the students, and I’m sure we’ve all got lots of new happy memories. A massive thank you must go out to our wonderful Teacher Aides, Steph and Alyssa who came along with us, and to our Occupational Therapist, Kath who volunteered to be a part of our camp.
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 Jasper 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.

As another term draws to a close, it is wonderful to look back and see the progress each student is making. It truly has been a big term, and I know that the boys must be looking forward to a break! I hope that everybody thoroughly enjoys the two weeks off, and I look forward to seeing you all next term!

Teachers: Kate
Teacher Aides: Stephanie & Deb

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.
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

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.
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