From the Principal

This time last year as I was writing to you I was explaining that the roof was about to come off the school for beginning of new classroom construction. I also indicated it was to be a 24 week project. Well……... 24 weeks have become in excess of 52 weeks.

Although we have achieved practical completion stage and as of today (December 4th) we have moved two classes into the rooms, there are many aspects that are still incomplete or require rectification. It is lovely however, that the children and teachers can now work from new surrounds. Staff has been very supportive and positive throughout this process. Children have coped very well and thank you to the many families who at times have been disrupted with parking etc. It has been a challenge.

As we now head toward Christmas everyone is looking a little tired. Your children are certainly showing signs of fatigue and the need for a rest. I am sure the Christmas break will benefit all.

In 2013 we have continued growth within the school. We will be starting the year with 52 students in the school. We will begin the year with 5 junior classes, 2 middle classes and 2 senior classes. ECDP will begin with 34 students, and as is usual, grow as the year progresses.

Red Hill will have some staffing changes for next year. Libby Howard is getting married over the Christmas break and although we are very happy for Libby, she will (sadly for us) be moving to Melbourne. Jenny Hawker has received a transfer - not too far away - to Geebung Special School. Caroline Cooper is moving with her family to Canberra. Transferring into our school are two experienced special education teachers - Nicole Mooney (from Mackay and currently teaching in the UK) and Amanda Hall (currently teaching in Woorabinda). Both these teachers will be part of our junior team.

A number of our very talented teacher aides are reducing hours to take up further study. Sadly, we will be farewelling Tamara Dwyer from the ECDP. Tamara is “going west”.

Many of you are aware that Kate Russ has been acting Principal at Rosella Park in Gladstone this year. The principal position was advertised throughout this term and I have the pleasure of announcing that Kate has successfully gained the position. Those who know Kate understand her passion for
working with children and for special education. I am sure you join with me in wishing Kate the very best in this next stage of her career.

On behalf of our community I would like to take this opportunity to thank our very hardworking and small P&C, which again has fund raised a significant amount of money this year. The P&C supported each of the school camps this year to reduce the financial costs to families. It has supported the purchase of a range of specialised pieces of equipment to support your children’s programs.

The P&C has been working very hard to raise funds to purchase a new mini bus for the school. Our old Coaster bus increasingly costs us more money to maintain it. The cost of a new mini bus, similar to the one we currently have, costs approximately $75 000.00. At the same time as the P&C has been trying to raise funds the AMAQ Foundation with which we have been associated for some 4 years, has also been trying to assist us reach our goal.

Today we have received the most incredible Christmas present! AMAQ Foundation have a sponsor - Sullivan Nicolades Pathology which is going to sponsor the cost of the mini bus for us. This is amazing and the impact for your children and access to learning environments indescribable. So often your children have had to forgo activities if the old bus is off the road. The flexibility for a class group to attend horse riding, gym, community programs will be easier.

As a small community we have had some wonderful people and organisations support us throughout the year. Such support enables us to provide required resources for your children’s learning programs. Not only has this support been in a monetary capacity though. We have had a number of schools interact on a regular basis with your children. These schools have included St Laurences, Brisbane Girls Grammar and more recently, Brisbane Boys Grammar School. The benefits of these relationships are innumerable and often not readily measured.

Regardless of the form of association with our school it is the continued links and partnerships that are formed that we value.

As we look toward 2013 there is another big year looming. During the pupil free days in January staff will join with Geebung, Aspley and Mitchelton Special Schools to focus on literacy for our schools. Curriculum for our students will again be a priority.

We are also due to undertake our Quadrennial School Review throughout 2013. This process will help set our directions for the following four years. We will be seeking your input throughout this process.

School for your school aged children begins on the 29th of January 2013. Jacinta will be forwarding to parents of children in the ECDP the individual start dates. Our P&C is hosting a coffee morning for parents who will be bringing their children to school on the 29th of January. This will be held in our new staff room. Please come along if you can.

Finally......
Enjoy your Christmas break. Stay safe and have a restful time with your families.

Pam
We are looking forward to celebrating our successful year at the ECDP Christmas Party on Wednesday 12 December.

Term 4 is often a time of change for many students who prepare to move onto new classrooms, teachers and schools. We have already farewelled Campbell, Declan, William, Isaac, Bobby and Elias. They have transitioned to
A Big Thank You to you all

Another year is over and we would all like to thank students, parents and volunteers for their hard work and support.

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

Junior 1

This term we have been furthering our work on looking after our bodies for our unit on HEALTH. We went on an excursion to the dentist, (Will Barton’s father) taking our toothbrushes and showing the dentist how we brush our teeth. We also showed him our two books we’d each made on foods we can eat a lot of because they’re good for us, and foods we can only eat a little bit of, as too much may make us feel sick. We have explored and role-played using all the things we need to look after our bodies, e.g. nail clippers, hair brushes, shampoo, soap and washer, towels, band aids, and so on. These activities have helped de-sensitise some children to dentist visits and having nails cut.

This term we took photos of ourselves at home doing all the routine jobs we do each day to look after our bodies and keep ourselves healthy and happy. We then put these photos in order on a poster. This poster was then used as a key to find the correct photo in the photo folder on the computer and then put them consecutively into a power-point. This was a challenging but worthwhile activity.

Other things we have learned about are:
- numbers in the teens,
- how to identify coins and notes in our pretend shopping sessions,
- how to present and talk about an item in Show and Tell,
- learning about night and day for science and going to the Planetarium,
- going to Splitz gym and learning many new and challenging ways to use our bodies,
- playing with basketballs at PCYC,
- doing a little play called “Andrew’s Loose Tooth” in which the children take turns to play different characters.

We are always constantly learning how to do good sharing, how to be nice with our friends and how to make good choices to get a prize for Student of the Day. That’s just a snapshot of the myriad of things we’ve done.

Thanks to Pam, Ian, Jacinta and the admin team for their great support throughout the year, to the P&C, all the teacher aides who have worked in Junior One this year and to the cleaners who go above and beyond to help out. I want to give a special accolade to Jenni Bateman, who has been a great support to me this year. She knows how grateful I am to have her in class because I tell her every day. You’re tops Jen.
I have enjoyed getting to know the families of Junior One students over the last year and a half. Working on goals together for your children makes progress so much more achievable. I’d like to take this opportunity to wish my students and their families a safe wonderful and relaxing holiday.

Teachers: Nicki
Teacher Aides: Jenni, Sharon, Caitlin & Paul

Junior 2

This term has proved to be another busy one for Junior 2.

Term 4 has seen us continue our regular classroom programs as well as begin a shopping and cooking program. The shopping program has occurred at the local Ashgrove shops and enables us to practice a range of communication skills and behaviours within the community. Over the term, it has been wonderful to see the students gain confidence when requesting for items from the bakery or shops using their words or PECS.

This term we have also participated in a basketball program through the Special Olympics organisation. This program was aimed at developing student’s ball skills and gave some students the opportunity to learn basic basketball skills including ‘shooting hoops’ and ‘dribbling’.

Our fortnightly visit to Splitz gym, has continued to be a highlight for all students. This program is fantastically run and provides challenges and new experiences for every child. This term the favourite activity has been monkeying along a bar and swinging into the large foam pit.

As a culminating activity to our science unit, we visited the Brisbane Planetarium earlier this term. This was a fun day out for everyone. We watched a video tracking the paths of the sun and moon, saw photos of moon landings and took our photo with an Astronaut. Once finished in the
Planetarium we went over to the Botanical gardens for a picnic lunch.

As 2012 comes to an end we reflect on the year that was and the gains each individual child has made throughout the year. While some of these gains may appear small, for a child they may be significant. It has been wonderful to be a part of these achievements and to once again have the opportunity to work closely with the students and families.

On a personal note, I would like to thank the wonderful children and their parents I have had the opportunity to work with over my years at Red Hill. It has been an amazing journey which I will never forget. I leave with mixed emotions - Sad to say goodbye, yet excited at my new adventures! Thankyou particularly to the junior two class this year, for making my final year so enjoyable!

We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas break and look forward to seeing you back at Red Hill in 2013.

Teachers: Libby & Janee
Teacher Aides: Holly, Laura & Christine

Our last term of 2012 has been another busy one for junior three! We are all looking forward to our break after a productive and enjoyable term. We continued to learn about parts of our body which are involved in our senses. This term specifically exploring what we can see with our eyes and hear with our ears. We engaged in a number of multimodal texts including our interactive stories, tactile storybooks, stories on the iPad and animated stories on the interactive whiteboard. We also explored various instruments and music genres during our weekly music therapy sessions.

Our weekly programme continued with swimming, visits to Woolcock Park, music therapy, horse riding as well as the many other activities we participate in as part of our sensory based program. We are very fortunate to have a number of people to assist us with our programs including Dave our physiotherapist. He is always on hand with an allen key to adjust our equipment but more importantly to assist with gross motor and swimming programs. Thanks Dave! We also had the expertise of Kath McCulloch, the schools Occupational Therapist, who has assisted us with appropriately accessing our programs. This includes switch access, iPad and equipment modification to ensure all students are able to access the program. Thanks Kath! Clancy has made our weekly music therapy sessions an enjoyable and rewarding experience. Thanks Clancy!
The people who have worked with the students each day to access and participate fully in the classroom program are the best of the bunch and we have been so fortunate to enjoy the year with them. Thanks go out to Pauline, Amelia, Michelle, Criddy and Sonya. Each of these ladies bring individual skills to the classroom but have all put the needs and care of each of the students of Junior three as their top priority. Thank you so much ladies!!

It has been so lovely to work with each of the individual students and see how they have grown and developed throughout the year. Each and every one of them has been a valued member of junior three. I wish you all a happy, safe and restful Christmas and New Year’s!

**Teachers:** Caya

**Teacher Aides:** Pauline, Amelia, Sonya & Michelle

### Junior 4

Is it really possible that this school year is drawing to a close already?! It is hard to believe that the Christmas holidays are fast approaching!

Once again this term has been very busy and productive for the students and staff in Junior 4. The boys have all been very busy participating in their programs, and it is wonderful to see the fantastic progress each student has made towards their goals over the year. We have also continued with our ‘My Healthy Body’ theme and have looked at all the cool things our bodies can do, such as dancing, jumping, crawling and even talking.

Perhaps the most exciting event to occur in the Junior 4 realm this term was our big move into our beautiful brand new classroom! We have wasted no time in making ourselves at home in our new home and we have made wonderful use of all the new space available to use. The boys (and staff members) have coped remarkably well with the changes this move has brought to our routine, and I think we can all agree that it has definitely been worth it.

Please allow me to send out some huge thank you’s to all the fabulous people who have helped out our class throughout the year. We are so
fortunate to be a part of such a wonderfully supportive school community. Thank you must go to our therapy team- Dave, Kath and Melissa who have provided so much support for our programs, and who have continued to work closely with each of the students throughout the year. Thank you to Clancy for our fun-filled music-therapy sessions each week (staff and students alike look very forward to Wednesday mornings!). Thank you to our volunteer Alistair who has continued to accompany the boys to their horse riding sessions each Friday. Thanks also to the various other staff members at Red Hill who have helped us in so many ways throughout the year, including Administration, the nurses, our non-contact teachers, facilities, and our EPO. I hope I haven’t missed anyone!

Thanks must also go to the students of Junior 4 and their families. It has been wonderful getting to know you all, and I am very grateful for the support received from all of you!

And of course the biggest thank you of all has to go to the magnificent group of teacher aides who have been there for all of our adventures this year. They have been an invaluable support to myself and the students throughout the school year and I can honestly say I don’t know what I would have done without you all! So thank you to Stephanie, Alyssa, Michelle and Deb for being so incredibly awesome!!! Your input into our class has been greatly appreciated.

I hope that everyone is looking forward to the holiday season. The students have all earned a very well-deserved break after their busy school
Middle 1

The end of the school year has arrived, and what a year it has been! Our focus this term has been ‘Healthy Living, Healthy Food and Me’ where we have investigated and learnt a lot about fruits and vegetables and their different characteristics, which foods are good for us and which are not and healthy ways we can get our bodies moving. Similar to previous terms we explored these concepts through a multi-sensory approach which includes gross and fine motor programs, art, functional literacy and maths skills as well as the communication, academic and individual goals for each student.

The students have continued to participate in their regular weekly programs, which include swimming, visits to Woolcock park, music therapy, PCYC sport and cooking. Cooking this term has been wonderful, as the students have learnt to sequence the recipes before starting to cook, which encourages independence. They have also loved finding simple, healthy fresh recipes. They have also worked hard making their own theme related story book, a modified version of our class favourite ‘The Very Hungry Caterpillar’ or in our case “The Very Hungry and Healthy ______ (Student name)’. 

Teachers: Kate
Teacher Aides: Stephanie, Deb, Alyssa & Michelle

Clay, happily showing off his fruit kebab
Kodey and Jordan passing ingredients in cooking
Jordan, enjoying her swim
Lyam and Jazper working on their theme booklets
As part of our community access program this term, we have ventured out onto the Brisbane City Council Buses and each week travel to the Ashgrove Shopping Complex or into the Botanical Gardens for morning tea before enjoying the fabulous Brisbane Square Library. I think this program has fast become the students’ favourite. It has been excellent to support the student’s while out in the community and watch as they interact with the different folk we come across while exploring the city.

I would like to thank the Middle One parents for such a fabulous year and for supporting me in my first year at Red Hill. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know and work with each student of the Middle One team. It has been a pleasure to observe all their individual successes this year as well as whole class successes. They have absolutely earned the fast approaching Christmas break.

Again, thank-you for a wonderful year, it has been great. I wish you all a safe, happy and very MERRY CHRISTMAS! I look forward to what next year will bring.

**Teachers:** Casey

**Teacher Aides:** Tim, Caitlin, Laura & Seb

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**Middle 2**

Where has the year gone! In term 4 Middle 2 has continued to explore healthy food produce and prepare our healthy culinary delights. We have also continued to visit the McIntyre Centre for horse riding or the Ashgrove Library each week. Some students have participated in a weekly outdoor obstacle course with Dave (Physio), Michele and Paul with delightful reports of ongoing improvements. Music on Tuesday with Clancy is always an enjoyable highlight of the week. Thursday swimming is a welcome one to one engagement opportunity between students and their swim partner. We would like to wish all our wonderful Middle 2 families a fabulous Christmas holiday break and a very happy, healthy, safe, 2013.
As Christmas 2012 is nearly upon us, it is a time to reflect on the year of growth, challenge, new learnings, fun and friendship.

The Senior classes have been busy, busy, busy as usual this term. We continued to work on our unit, ‘Healthy Living’ and made some delicious and nutritious treats such as, hommus, fruit kebabs, Greek Kofta and fruit smoothies. We ventured out to New Farm Park, South Bank Parklands and our local Woolcock Park. During these outings, we experienced tranquil rainforest walks, beautiful sunshine and fun-filled time exploring the playgrounds.

We were busy keeping our bodies healthy (and raising money for our school) by partaking in the Swing-a-thon and Bounce-a-thon, as well as our swimming and movement programs.

Senior graduation was the highlight of our term and it was a wonderful day for all involved but especially the graduating students and their families- Corey, Patrick, Keya and Tim. The graduates were presented with medals from Saxon Rice - our local State Member of Parliament. A beautiful song dedicated and written for them by our music therapist, Clancy was presented at the ceremony. What a wonderful day and ceremony for these young adults, who looked dapper, charming and very mature in their finest outfits.

In 2013, Tim will be spending some time at the CP League and Keya, Patrick and Corey will be spending time engaging in their local community.
Amongst the cake cutting, flower bouquet presentations and viewing the power point presentations, we can honestly say - it was a wonderful ‘bon voyage’ to our graduates and we wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

Finally we have been busy with Christmas craft-making wrapping paper, Christmas cards and a few sweet treats!!

It’s been a busy, productive and most importantly, enjoyable year for all of us working in the Senior classes. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the teacher aides for their enthusiasm and dedication throughout the year. The senior team would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a safe holiday. See you in 2013.

**Teachers:** Lisa, Therese, Rachel & Chana  
**Teacher Aides:** Jenny, Paul, Glenis, Sam, Criddy, Lisa, Julie, Maxene, Sonya & Tim  
**Volunteers:** Faye & Jane  

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**General News**

From January 25th 2013 you will be able to purchase all uniform needs from the Ashgrove West Drapery.