Dear Families

Half way through 2013....... Scary!

Term two has again been busy. All classes have been immersed in English, Maths and Personal Social Development (PSD) through our developing curriculum framework. As indicated in the term one newsletter we are aligning English and Math with the Australian Curriculum. Literacy continues to have a major focus. If you have visited the school throughout this term you will have seen signs of this throughout the school with drawings, writing, sensory activities and word walls related to the books which have changed fortnightly.

When you receive your child’s report you will note reference to a number of the stories with which your child has engaged. I am sure reference will also have been made through your child’s communication book.

The staff has again been very active this term further developing our school curriculum framework and aligning it with the Australian Curriculum. This term we have enabled teachers to visits other schools to observe teaching practices and reflect on their own practices. Teachers have shared their observations with colleagues at weekly staff meetings. Areas of further professional development will be identified, addressed and supported next term. As part of our Quadrennial School Review this year we will also have a Teaching Learning Audit, scheduled for early August.

This term two of our junior classes undertook camps at Mermaid Waters on the Gold Coast. Both camps were highly successful and enjoyed by staff and students alike. Further camps will be undertaken next term. Your P&C has supported camps again this year to reduce financial costs to families.

Your P&C has worked tirelessly again to provide another amazing fundraiser in May -“An Evening with John Eales”. A small group of parents organised the evening which I know many of you supported through donations. Over 180 people attended the evening at the Queens Arms. John Eales was an engaging, informative, humorous, and sincere speaker who gave his time for the evening. The final dollar amount raised is not yet available but I believe it could be in excess of $30000.00. Thank you to all who supported the event in
any small way. This is the only fund raiser the P&C runs and the outcomes enable each and every child at Red Hill Special School and ECDP to benefit.

From the funds raised, the P&C supports camps, running costs of the school buses, Christmas Functions, senior graduation, library, other school resources and the Children’s Christmas parties at end of year. This year your P&C also has a goal of removing the garden beds outside of the junior classes to extend the play areas – similar to that of the ECDP. As a number of services run through this bed the cost of this seemingly small venture could be in excess of $40000.00. The benefits to your children though are numerous in terms of additional play space.

As we near the end of term two we sadly have farewelled three of our students. Roly from junior 5 is returning to NSW with his family. Tom from middle 1 has returned to Melbourne and Isla from junior 1 is engaging in a new educational program. We will miss these young people and their families. The three students became very much a part of our school community in the short time they were with us. We look forward to hearing of their progress from time to time.

A couple of our students have been hospitalised throughout this term. I hope that over the break they recover well and look forward to seeing them well and back to school next term. Thank you to all families that have kept their sick children at home when unwell. This reduces infection of students and staff and enables your child to hopefully rest and recover quicker.

With regard the vacant Deputy Principal position at Red Hill Special School which was advertised in March with interviews in May, I am very pleased to advise that the successful candidate is Jacinta Xavier. The Deputy Principal position became vacant as a result of Kate Russ successfully gaining the Principal position at Rosella Park in Gladstone from the beginning of this year. Jacinta is on leave for the remainder of the year, undertaking another very important role –motherhood….

Jacinta was to take leave from Friday, June 7th but baby Quinn arrived on Sunday June 2nd. All are well and we have seen some lovely photos.

It is certainly baby time at Red Hill. Clancy, our music therapist, is due to have her baby any day now. Clancy has ensured that Music therapy will continue in her absence. She has recorded a number of sessions for use by classes each week. It has been interesting to watch the children’s reactions when Clancy’s face comes up on the whiteboard screens for their music sessions.

Next term is already shaping up as BIG. In addition to daily curriculum activities and camps for some groups, the annual Fun Run at Darling Point is planned for July and the mini ekka at Yatala in August. Senior two will experience exhilarating moments on a sailing boat suited for people with disabilities on Wednesday July 10th. The vessel is sailing up the east coast of Australia from Sydney and has offered limited sessions at a number of places along the coast. Seniors will travel to Southport for the experience. The students are very excited to have been successful in gaining one of the limited sessions.

In the meantime, put away the lunch boxes enjoy some quieter times during the cooler weather and rest up. Term three resumes on Monday July 8th.

Pam
Another busy term for all the students in the ECDP. Jill and her playgroup have been busy doing music therapy and having lots of fun learning through play. Jo’s class have also been busy with music therapy along with literacy, number and story work. This term Caron and Jo’s Prep class have been reading “Hairy Maclary”, “The Gruffalo” and “Who Sank the Boat”. The students have been doing some great art work and sequencing based on the stories. We have been working on the alphabet and number concepts with lots of different classroom activities. Jo’s Monday welcomed a beautiful new student - Sacha. Jo and Caron have welcomed Alan to their Prep 1 and Prep 2 class.

In the other ECDP room Jill and Kelly are kept busy with pre prep and prep 3. Jill’s class has been busy learning about farm animals and doing all sorts of fun counting, sensory play and art work. They have been reading the story “The Green Sheep”, learning Old MacDonald’s farm and the students made a beautiful big sheep from cotton wool. Kelly’s class has been busy reading “We’re going on a bear hunt” and “Hairy Maclary”. The students did some beautiful work on the bear hunt along with some letter of the week art work. Prep 3 has been doing some great number work and playing number games. Like Prep 1 and Prep 2 we have a new student in Prep 3 all the way from Ireland. Welcome to Odin, a chatty addition to our class.

All the students are really enjoying outside play in this cool Queensland winter climate. They are especially enjoying dress up play and role play. We see a lot of fire-fighters, police men and ambulance drivers, princesses and superheroes in the ECDP play area so watch out!! This is a great way for the students to learn about sharing and playing with their friends.

A big favourite of the kids is our IWB, iPads and computers. They enjoy nothing more than playing some educational games from Sunshine Online and Helpkidz Learn.
Each week we are visited by our specialists - Dave and Kirsten our Physios and Clancy our music therapist. Dave is working the students hard, getting them moving and strengthening their bodies. Clancy keeps us rocking with her amazing music therapy sessions and on behalf of all the staff in the ECDP we would like to take this opportunity to wish Clancy every success as her due date fast approaches! We’ll miss you Clancy!

Finally a special shout out to all our fantastic teacher aides Shelly, Mary, Deb, Danya and Ellie. Thanks for all your hard work throughout this semester.
It has been a busy term for Junior 1. We have been looking at 2D and 3D shapes in our environment and have had fun learning new words and using them in our maths tasks. We have used cameras to photograph different shaped objects around the school when we went on our Shape Hunt in readiness to make a Shape Book in class. Each week we explored the possibilities of different 3D shapes from building tall towers and interlocking the bricks, playing Ten Pin Bowling and rolling and bouncing on fit balls, to threading and rolling large cylinders to see how far they would travel. We have learnt a lot and enjoyed using the interactive white board and the iPads to support our learning.

A big focus this term has been working cooperatively with our friends and learning to share and take turns. We have been using ‘good manner’ phrases to work positively and thoughtfully considering the needs and feelings of others.

We have continued to look at different story books and focus on sequencing the stories using pictures and simple sentences. We had great fun joining in the National Read a Book Day when we shared in the great story, The Wrong Book. We especially enjoyed the interactive app which brought the book alive whenever we touched the different characters in the story. This resulted in us writing our own stories using pictures of ourselves and we soon learnt the repetitive phrases to retell the story with our friends.

Our visits to the Library have been a highlight in our school programme and we enjoy sitting, choosing books and having them read to us. We also have great fun playing, after we have eaten our lunch, in the playground before returning to school. Our interest in books and love for stories has increased this term and we have also benefited from the wide variety of books we bring back to school to put in our reading corner.

A big thank you also goes to the young men from St Laurence who have worked with us on a Wednesday as we have focused on our Gross Motor skills using the obstacle course and music and movement tasks, developing the activities in our Brain Gym Program.

We sadly had to say good bye to Isla in our class who has left our school to explore new avenues of learning. We wish her well and we will miss her beautiful dance and singing routines which have entertained us all.

May everyone enjoy this school holiday and find some time to relax, play and enjoy some quality time at home with friends and family. See you in two weeks!
Junior 2

This term Junior 2 has been busy reading books about foods. We started the term reading The Lamington Man and enjoyed making our own lamington men by pressing a man shaped cookie cutter into a sponge cake and then rolling him in chocolate sauce and coconut. We made sandwiches after reading The Lighthouse Keepers Lunch and some of us tasted turnip soup after reading The Enormous Turnip. We love our interactive stories and enjoyed being the characters in The Enormous Turnip and pretending to be farmers by planting some vegetables and pulling up some enormous vegetables. We made our own character masks for role playing and have some great turnip printed art works.
This term we have also been continuing our programs from term 1. This includes swimming on Fridays and going to Splitz Gym every second Monday. We have enjoyed music on Tuesdays and will be sad to not have Clancy with us next term, but we wish her all the best for when she has her baby.

We have also started going to the Library every second Tuesday. This has been exciting as we love choosing books to bring back to school. We also particularly like eating our lunch in the park beside the Library.
Have a happy and safe holiday and we will see you again next semester.

**Teacher:** Nicole  
**Teacher Aides:** Alyssa

### Junior 3

This term in junior 3 we have continued to focus on developing each student’s literacy at their own level by exploring a range of exciting and engaging books about food and cooking. We have read and explored *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, *Possum Magic*, *The Little Red Hen who makes a Pizza* as well as *The Red Ripe Strawberry*, *The little mouse and the Hungry Bear*. We have looked at a different letter each fortnight and participated in early writing tasks around activities that we participate in at school.

Each fortnight we have participated in a cooking activity that has linked with our story for the fortnight. We have had a great time cooking and eating fruit skewers and chocolate cupcakes from *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, Anzac biscuits for *Possum Magic* and Anzac day, mini pizzas from *The Little Red Hen who makes a pizza* and strawberry and banana smoothies to go with *The Red Ripe Strawberry*, the little mouse and the Hungry Bear. We have started to develop “Junior 3’s Recipe book”. Our favourite part of this activity is of course eating!

Another favourite activity of all of ours is horse riding at Pinjarra Hills. Students have been learning how to steer the horse, trot and stop. We always enjoy the day out!

This term we have started to travel each fortnight on the school bus to Ashgrove Library. We love being able to choose books that interest us to read with a teacher or teacher aide. We then choose 2 books to borrow out to read in the classroom or take home. We have also really enjoyed being able to have morning tea in the park followed by a play on the playground.
Thank you to all of the staff that have worked in Junior 3 this term. Your support and dedication to both myself and the students is invaluable and so appreciated.

Have a great holiday and see you next term

Teacher: Amanda
Teacher Aides: Aimee, Jenni, Alicia, Laura (filling in for Holly)

Junior 4

Junior 4 has enjoyed a productive, creative, engaging, explorative and a fun filled term two! We have continued with our weekly programs including swimming, music therapy, outings to Roma St, technology sessions, gross motor and reading some fantastic picture books. We have especially enjoyed some beautiful books illustrated by Eric Carle including ‘Brown Bear, Brown Bear. What do you see?’ and ‘Polar Bear, Polar Bear. What do you hear?’ The repetitive language and lovely illustrations make these books an enjoyable experience for the students of Junior 4. We have also incorporated many sensory experiences into our reading of the texts. Our trips to Roma St have been an enjoyable mid-week break from the classroom and give us an opportunity to explore what the park has to offer. This includes the liberty swing, listening to the waterfall, smelling the herbs from the herb garden as well as seeing and smelling the beautiful flowers. The highlight of the term has been our trip to the Gold Coast for our two night camp. We took a day trip to Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary where we were able to have a one on one experience with a possum, snake and a bird. The lovely staff at the Wildlife Sanctuary presented us with the animals to touch and feel. We also got to touch and feel a koala when we had our photos taken with one. Feeding the kangaroos was an adventure with the rest nibbling feed out of the student’s laps. We were all pretty exhausted after our adventure and were happy to return home to our families.
Our term has been busy but eventful and we couldn’t have done it without the support of our fantastic teacher aides. We have welcomed Nikki, as a teacher aide, to our team and she has fitted in so well to our dynamic class. Thank you to the teacher aides of Junior 4 for all your support! Unfortunately, we will soon farewell a valued member of our class. Adania Evans and her family will be moving to Sydney early next term. She will be missed from our group and it will no doubt be a tearful farewell. We wish her and the Evans family all the best!

Teachers: Caya
Teacher Aides: Nikki, Sonya, Criddy and Tim

Junior 5

It is so hard to believe that another term is drawing to a close already! Once again the students and staff of Junior 5 have had a jam-packed ten weeks. We have continued to enjoy our unit of work on books and story-time has become a favourite activity for us all. The boys have all painted, glued, cooked, written, played and created their way through several classic children’s books, and the results of their hard work can be viewed in the hallway near our classroom.

Of course we have fitted all this in around our other programs, including horse riding, swimming, music therapy and our fortnightly visits to Roma Street Parklands. In particular it has been lovely to spend some time enjoying the sunshine and fresh air at the parklands, and we have been blessed with beautiful weather on each of our visits. These visits have provided a lovely opportunity for the students to work on their gross motor and sensory programs, and to enjoy a setting outside of the classroom.

Perhaps the biggest event of the term was our recent school camp. For two nights and three days we had fun enjoying some of the attractions of the Gold Coast. We once again stayed at the wonderful Barney’s Place at Mermaid Waters which was a fantastic base for our adventures. We spent our first afternoon away from home running, swinging, sliding, rolling and playing at the Kurruwa All-Abilities playground. This is a fantastic all-inclusive park complete with swings, slides, flying-foxes, a big ship see-saw, sand pits and a big castle to play in. Staff and students alike had a very happy few hours enjoying everything that the park has to offer, and it was a very tired group of boys that finally managed to go back to our holiday house. The following day was spent at MovieWorld, and despite there not...
having been a huge amount of sleep to be had the previous night, we were able to enjoy a very full and active day. Everyone in our group enjoyed the rides and attractions in Loony Tunes land, and some brave students and staff members went on the mini rollercoaster. We all had a chance to meet Bugs Bunny and some of the characters in the grand parade, and also the members of the Justice League. We all loved the Justice League ride so much that we had to go again, and the bravest few also went on the Scooby Doo Scary Coaster! The following morning saw us all enjoy a leisurely breakfast and morning tea before packing ourselves into the bus to return to Red Hill. It was such a wonderful time to spend all together, and it is safe to say that students and staff alike all had a fantastic time. A big thank you must go to the Red Hill Special School P&C for their very generous donation towards our camp. It was greatly appreciated. Thanks also to our wonderful teacher aides Steph and Tim who came along, and also to Lea for volunteering her time for our camp. Thanks also to Kitty for helping us out at MovieWorld!

Of course we would not get by each week without the wonderful help of our teacher aides. Once again Steph, Michelle, Ellie, Sonya and Tim have worked tirelessly to help the students reach their goals. This term we have also been fortunate to have had Lea to help us out, and we will miss her terribly when she leaves us to return to Denmark early next term!

Another sad goodbye we have to make is to our friend Rolly who is moving interstate with his family at the end of this term. It has been an absolute pleasure to have Rolly in our class and to see him making such wonderful progress towards his goals. It will be hard to find another classroom helper! We are all going to miss you Rolly!
I hope that everyone has a very happy and restful break. I look forward to seeing you all back for Term 3!

**Teachers:** Kate  
**Teacher Aides:** Steph, Ellie, Sonya and Tim

**Middle 1**

It has been a successful end to a wonderful Term 2. The boys have worked hard towards all their goals this term and all have enjoyed success each in their own way. We have continued our learning through our ‘Hooked on books’ unit which includes all things literacy. The students have enjoyed participating in activities including writing, reading, being read to, listening to and engaging in stories on the iPad or the Interactive Whiteboard. Also, the opportunity for students to experience the different stories through sensory elements was available and encouraged. Our class books this term were Rosie’s walk, The Gruffalo, Who sank the boat?, Possum magic and Crunch the crocodile. The stand out favourite this term would have to be The Gruffalo. The students loved reading and engaging with this book either with a teacher, friend or watching the movie version of the book. That was definitely a favourite afternoon activity for a few weeks.

**Lyam spelling letter of the week words**

Our classroom walls are almost full with the great activities and art work the students have created each week. In staying with the literacy focus, the students create an art piece to represent the book of the fortnight. It’s been great to see the
enthusiasm of the students increase towards this activity each week. It has a little something each student enjoys to do. We have continued learning the alphabet and each week we discuss, and explore a different letter. It has been exciting to observe all the students working at their individual pace and participating to the best of their ability in all the different activities which are presented through a multi-sensory approach.

As always our weekly community access adventures are still a Middle 1 hit. The Brisbane City Council Bus drivers are starting to get to know us now and always smile and are happy to help when they see us waiting at the bus stop. Similarly, the staff at the Brisbane Square Library enjoy when we visit often asking us to join in with their group story time, which they have on a Wednesday. The students are showing so much more awareness of their surroundings while out in the community particularly when shopping for cooking ingredients at Ashgrove shopping complex. It has been excellent to support the student’s while out in the community and watch as they interact with members of our wider community.
The students have continued to work on developing their movement, sensory and independent skills through weekly programs such as swimming, horse riding, music therapy, exercise/movement programs, cooking, and gross and fine motor programs.

Although this term has come to a close, we already have so much to look forward to for next term. It will include fun runs, fairs and more excitingly camp. We will be staying on the Gold Coast at Barney’s place for 3 nights and 4 days. We have included an extra night this year as the students are older and able to manage a longer period. We are arranging to have 2 days exploring what the Gold Coast has to offer and enjoy ourselves at a few different theme parks. Look out for more camp information early next term!

Unfortunately we had to say a sad good-bye to our new friend Tom who returned to Melbourne with his family. We also missed our friend Gus, who fell ill during the final weeks of term. We all wish him a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing him next term. I wish everyone a safe and happy winter break!!

Teacher: Casey
Teacher Aides: Megan, Seb, Kelly, Sam, Caitlin and Tim

Middle 2

All students in Middle 2 have made good progress towards their IEP goals and some of their curriculum goals. With our literacy focus we have covered 5 books and have made some fun presentations in Assembly of our work. We have presented two of our stories to another class and they have presented one of their stories to us.

Our stories this term have been “There Was An Old Lady Who Swallowed A Fly,” “A Very Proper Fox,” “The Frog Princess,” “A Bit Of Company,” “The Wrong Book,” and “Over in the Meadow.” These have helped us to create familiarity with a text and pictures, to anticipate climaxes in the story, to recognise familiar characters, and to recognise some repeated words within the story. We have practised our fine motor skills by doing colouring of characters, making animals in the story through art mediums, sor-ng princesses and frogs, and trying to choose one of two nominated characters. It has been rewarding to note increased focus and attention by the students and their improved willingness to participate.

There have been small personal gains in horse-riding which the staff at the MacIntyre centre have been really enthusiastic over. In swimming also there have been some noted improvements in water confidence and the learning of survival skills, such as when coming in from the edge of the pool in the deep end, turning around and holding onto the handrail.
In cooking there have been some big improvements in attention and the ability by two students to turn the blender on and off by themselves. In first term the smoothies went down well, but now we are doing potato and sweet potato soup and this is definitely a hit!

The most exciting improvements have been in choice making in our first session of the day. All the students are now capable of making considered focused choices and are more often correct than incorrect.

Thank you to my wonderful teacher aides, Belinda, Deb, Christine, Michelle, Sonya and student Yoko who are very much a part of the success of Middle 2. To all families, have a brilliant break and see you again next term.

Teacher: Nicki
Teacher Aides: Belinda, Deb, Christine, Michelle and Sonya
Student Teacher: Yoko

One area that has caught our attention (and others that have visited our Senior One class) is the wonderful interactions and communications between our students and staff. There have been many occasions when we have witnessed two or more students moving closer to each other’s physical vicinity in order to reach out and communicate. These beautiful interactions have caught many of our staff’s eye - and have been a real highlight for everyone to witness this semester. The interactions have been gentle, friendly and authentic communication occurrences. It has been a positive and bonding experience for all and a great prelude for our Senior One Camp later in the year.

Senior 1

As the weather gets colder and the days become shorter, we know it’s time for a good rest after such a busy term 2 in Senior One. This term has kept us all active, productive and engaged in many wonderful learning experiences. We continue to participate in a variety of fun classroom activities as well as venture out into the community and visit parks, catch public transport and attend workshops.

This term we continue to focus on our love of literature and we are all enjoying the many experiences that follow our shared reading experiences. By using books as our stimulus - we have undertaken 2 major focus units, recycling and music. During our recycling unit we all became eco warriors for Red Hill Special School. The students collected cans, paper and cardboard from our school classrooms and administration area and we sorted items, crushed cans and shredded paper. We promoted our environmental efforts by making posters and advertising around the school.

Our music unit was a popular one for all involved and who knew Senior One staff and students were so musically talented! We studied different genres of music and explored these through a variety of ways. Our music genres included classical, jazz, rock, rap and country. We would listen to these different types of music, dress up to match each one and explore a variety of sensory activities that lent themselves to each music genre. During this unit, any visitors walking into our classroom would discover an interactive jam/group session, some great tunes playing, perhaps some interpretive dance and most importantly, lots of wonderful interactions between students and staff.
We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and enjoyable holiday. We thank you for your ongoing support throughout the semester. Your children have been a delight to work with and we’ve enjoyed seeing them actively engaged in real learning experiences and forming wonderful friendships.

**Teacher:** Therese and Rachel  
**Teacher Aides:** Jenne, Lisa and Christine

Our literacy focus has been on rhyming and patterns, and we have loved exploring these in books, poems and riddles. One poem was about ‘5 Little Pirates’ and this led us on a school-wide pirate treasure hunt in which the clues had where embedded with rhymes and riddles.

We have also been learning some new tricks while engaging in circus activities during our fortnightly outings to Flipside Circus. At the circus the students have been challenged by a range of new activities such as plate-spinning, scarf juggling, parachute games, trampolining and trick sticks. During the sessions at Flipside, the students have been encouraged to try new things, work as a team and in pairs and interact with new adults. Great fun has been had by all at these sessions and the smiles are priceless.

**Senior 2**

This term Senior 2 has been enjoying a school-wide focus on books. We have been engaging in shared reading and completing activities based around different stories including ‘The Diary of a Wombat’, The Lost Treasure’ and ‘I Know a Rhino’. All the students particularly enjoy a PowerPoint slideshow of the book, where it can be viewed digitally and interacted with on the Interactive Whiteboard. This term our school also participated in the National Simultaneous Storytime and enjoyed reading “The Wrong Book” by Nick Bland.

**Teacher:** Lisa  
**Teacher Aides:** Julie, Tim and Glenis