Dear Families

Spring is well and truly here. It feels more like summer already. I hope the upcoming holiday allows all the flu bugs to disappear. It has been a terrible term for children and staff with the range of different viruses.

Throughout this term most classes have had their school camps. All have been great experiences for your children and our staff with lots of happy camping photos around the school. Thank you again to our P&C for supporting camps and reducing financial cost to you.

As indicated in the term two newsletter, we had our teaching and learning audit in August. We are very pleased with the outcomes of this audit. It is demonstrated that we are well on the way with the implementation of the Australian Curriculum at Red Hill Special School and excelling with differentiation for our students in teaching and learning. The results of the teaching/learning audit for our school are available at our website: www.redhillspecs.eq.edu.au

Results from this audit, school opinion survey and additional information from staff and families will inform our Quadrennial School Review. A draft of the directions for our school will be shared with your P&C for further input.

Our P&C continues to work tirelessly to support the school and your children’s programs. The major project at the moment is to remove the garden beds outside of the junior classrooms and replace the retaining wall and fence to provide additional playspace. This is a mammoth and costly project made possible through funds raised from “an evening with John Eales”. Below is an excerpt from a letter John wrote to members of the P&C executive following the fundraising evening:

Dear Alistair and Emma,

It was a great pleasure to be asked to present at the Red Hill Special School’s Fundraising event this year.
Today we have a community project through Lend Lease with 5 of their executive staff working to clear the garden beds and brick work in preparation for construction of the new wall by P&C.

Further changes in our facilities will occur over the holiday period in September with a reorganisation of the administration area. Meryl, Kym and Joan are having their spaces upgraded to provide improved working conditions. The area was built at a time where technology was not as advanced as today. Their desk heights and working areas are not conducive to their needs. Hopefully at the beginning of term 4 they will have a new working area and Meryl will have a new office space built in the reception area which currently has seats as a “waiting area”.

This term we have welcomed three Danish students – Jon, Mike and Jay who will be with us for the semester. These 3 men have gotten to know your children and become very much a part of school life at Red Hill. They have each had an opportunity to gain the additional insights into your lives through experiencing camp. Already it is seems like “the boys” have been here forever!

Next term undoubtedly will go quickly. Please put these date claimers on your calendar:

**Tuesday November 19**th from 6.30pm P&C will host a celebration of learning for parents followed by wine and cheese.

**Thursday December 12**th Children’s Xmas concert at school.

In the meantime, put away the lunch boxes enjoy the beautiful spring weather

Term four resumes on Tuesday October 8th.

Pam

Undoubtedly the school’s program provides an extremely worthwhile cause for fundraising so I was thrilled to hear that you had so much success with the result of the evening. Congratulations!

What I enjoyed the most on the evening was witnessing the passionate and close community that your school has developed. Notwithstanding the important efforts of fundraising, it is this important community which clearly makes the school what it is today and affords it the opportunity to service the worthy children who attend.

Cheers
John

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Cheers
John
AHoy There Me Hearties!

This term in ECDP we have been learning about pirates. Through some awesome books, we have learnt various pirate words. This has helped us through our literacy focus to write the words and to construct pirate sentences. We all enjoyed roleplaying; making treasure boxes, telescopes, hats and necklaces. But most of all, we loved going on a treasure hunt to find our own treasure. We have all been enjoying sensory activities, and some of us have been able to explore in the sensory room – which we thoroughly enjoyed!

Pre Prep 1 & 2 have been learning about Big and Small – which has been supported by the story “Goldilocks and The Three Bears”.

Prep 3 has been learning about Healthy Food, and reading ‘The Hungry Caterpillar’ and the ‘Lighthouse Keepers Lunch’. Our literacy focus has been around writing about pictures from the stories. We had fun making healthy lunch boxes and our own pirate costumes with a pirate hat and pirate eye patch.

We have had the pleasure of meeting some new friends to learn and play with in our class.

We look forward to an exciting term four. Happy Holidays from the ECDP!

Teachers: Caron, Jo, Jocelyn and Jill
Teacher Aides: Mary, Shelley, Deb, Danya, Eleanor and Alicia

Junior 1

This term Junior 1 has been learning about Australian Animals. Junior 1 went to Lone Pine during their camp sleep over. Flyn fed and patted the kangaroo. Darbi patted the emu. Minseo tried catching the lorikeet. Zach and Maddy especially enjoyed cuddling the koalas. Charlotte was drawn to all of the animals.

While reading ‘Possum Magic’ and ‘Wombat Stew’ we have been making possum and kookaburra masks as well as long green tree snakes during art and craft sessions. Sentence structure has been a focus for our literacy sessions writing ‘I can see a...’ and ‘Where is...’
the...? ’ ending each sentence with an interesting Australian animal. Also as part of our literacy focus we have been visiting the Ashgrove Library. The students have found a variety of interesting books and have spent time eating morning tea and playing on the equipment.

Thank you junior 3 for joining us during our Music and Movement sessions. We have enjoyed having you visit our classroom. It has been fun to watch everybody wiggle their fingers and toes and pop the bubbles.

We wish you all a very happy and relaxing holiday and look forward to seeing Miss Hilary next term.

Junior 2

This term Junior 2 has been busy reading books about Australian animals. We have read, Possum Magic, Edward the Emu, The Three Kangaroos Gruff and Wombat Stew. We enjoy the interactive stories and playing with the plush Australian animals.

In Maths we have been learning about addition and have been using blocks, playdough and toys to count and add. We especially enjoy maths activities on the interactive whiteboard. We have some new number songs that we love to sing and dance to as well. We are getting so good at waiting our turn to choose a song.

In week 7 we went on camp for 3 days to the Gold Coast. On Wednesday we played some mini Golf and enjoyed the giant jumping pillow at the holiday park. We went to Movie World on the Thursday and had lots of fun on the rides, one of our favourites being the mini taxis, and the mini Giant drop called the Sylvester ride. Most of us enjoyed the Ice Age 4D movie adventure as well. On Friday we went swimming in the pool and some of us really enjoyed the waterslide.

Teachers: Hilary
Teacher Aides: Mary, Aimee, Nicole and Michelle
This term we have also participated in a sports and Rugby program organised by the Strong Hearts Foundation. This has been lots of fun, and we have been getting better at our ball skills, and supporting and cheering our friends.

We have been continuing our regular programs including Splitz Gym and the Library. We have also continued swimming on Friday mornings.

Have a happy and safe holiday and we will see you again next term.

**Teachers:** Nicole

**Teacher Aides:** Alyssa, Nicole and Susan

**Danish Student:** Mike

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**Junior 3**

This term in Junior 3 we have been reading books about sea creatures to prepare us for our trip to Sea World whilst on camp. We have read Smiley Shark, Tiddler the story telling fish and Sharing a Shell. Developing each student’s literacy through these books has continued to be a focus for us this term. Apart from reading the book each day, we complete a writing activity about the book once a week. We have also been working on sequencing the main events of each story in the correct order using pictures and simple statements.

Our weekly program has been jam packed this term with horse riding, swimming and visits to the Ashgrove library each fortnight. While at the library, the students borrow books of interest to them to read at school, and enjoy their morning tea in the park and play on the playground.

Earlier in the term the students were involved in the Fun Run. It was a big day out for the students, but they all participated and had a good time.

We were very fortunate to be able to go to the Yatala Mini Ekka. What a day! The kids had a blast eating fairy floss, snow cones, hot dogs, hot chips and donuts! Maisie loved meeting all of the farm animals, while Keanu, Madi and Will were the thrill seekers having a go on all the rides and games.
The highlight of the term has been our camp! We had a fantastic 3 days away at Barney’s Place at Mermaid Waters. On our first day, we spent the afternoon at the beach where we had a swim in the waves and played in the sand. Keanu and Will were able to catch some waves on the boogie boards while Madi and Maisie enjoyed splashing in the shallow waves! We finished our day off by cooking our own pizzas and chilling out with a movie before heading to bed.

The following day, we ventured out to Sea World. We were able to see a lot of the sea creatures that we have been learning and reading about at school. We saw sharks, dolphins and fish and were able to touch and feed the stingrays. We had a great time going on the rides and watching the Dora Explorer and Dolphin shows. A favourite activity whilst on camp was swimming in the pool and chilling out in the spa bath on the deck at Barney’s Place. A highlight for Keanu was catching a fish with chicken sausages down at the canal! We were not expecting that!

On our last day we had a great time playing at the all abilities playground on the slides and swings. To finish off our fantastic camp we indulged in fish and chips for lunch at the park. As we drove back to school we had a bus full of very tired children (and staff)! A big thank you goes out to Dave, Kath, Aimee and Alicia for giving up their time to come along on camp. We all loved having you apart of our camp and appreciate your help so much! Thank you also to the P & C for their generous donation towards our camp.

Of course we could not get by without the invaluable support and enthusiasm from our teacher aides. Thank you to Aimee, Jenni, Laura and Alicia for your enthusiasm and support in helping the students reach their goals this term.

A huge thank you also goes to Tracy Rowlands who has been teaching the students on Fridays this term. The students have loved having you in the class!
Earlier in the term we said goodbye to Leah Dinoris for a few months while she visits Indianapolis in America for an intensive program. We wish her all the best during this time away and look forward to her return next term.

Have a happy and restful break and I look forward to seeing you back in term 4!

Teacher: Amanda
Teacher Aides: Aimee, Jenni, Alicia and Laura

Junior 4

This term in Junior four we have enjoyed participating in an array of sensory activities based on the books we have been reading. We have enjoyed ‘We’re going on a bear hunt’, ‘I went walking’ and the ‘Very Hungry Caterpillar’. Exploring the mud, grass, snow, river and deep cave in ‘We’re going on a bear hunt’ made quite a mess of us but we all finished with a smile on our faces! We joined in using our BiGmack to the story line in ‘The Very Hungry Caterpillar’ and went on our own adventures through the park while reading ‘I went walking’. The students are very attentive to stories being read to them and it is a lovely opportunity to explore and engage in reading with their peers.

We have also thoroughly enjoyed our continued weekly programs including our trip to the park, swimming, sensory play, technology sessions and the students have had to endure our own type of music therapy while Clancy is away! Our class is just a little smaller after Adania left us earlier in the term, but we have heard that she arrived safely in her new home and school in Sydney.

I would like to thank all the support staff that have worked with us this term to help the Junior four students move forward in achieving their goals. This includes our amazing therapy team as well as each and every teacher aide supporting the students in the class. Thank you! I hope everyone enjoys a well-deserved break after a longer than usual term with plenty of rest and relaxation!

Teachers: Caya
Teacher Aides: Michele, Sonya, Criddy, Tim, Christine and Caitlin
Junior 5

It is hard to believe that we are at the end of Term Three already! Once again we have had a very busy and productive term in Junior Five, with the continuation of our literacy unit “Our Wonderful World of Books”. The boys have all been enthusiastically participating in a range of literacy sessions based on the Four Blocks Model. We have read several books on three-weekly rotations, including “I Went Walking” by Sue Machin and Julie Vivas, “The Wrong Book” by Nick Bland and “We’re Going on a Bear Hunt” by Michael Rosen and Helen Oxbury. It has been a lot of fun for everyone (staff and students alike!) to get really involved in the stories and bring them to life through the use of sensory props, music, sounds and actions. We have also had a lot of fun recreating our own versions of the stories as a class group. We have worked very closely with our friends in Junior Four during our story sessions, and it has been lovely to see the interactions between the students as they have become more familiar with each other.

It hasn’t all been dress ups, messy play and dramatic performances though, and the students have continued to work very hard towards their individual goals this term. All of the boys have made wonderful progress and should be congratulated on their efforts! It has been so exciting to see a lot of the hard work paying off, and to share their (and their families’) happiness at these achievements. In particular we have been very excited to see the progress being made in the area of communication for each of the students, whether it be mastering the use of an iPad as an AAC device, or really beginning to use sounds and speech as a mode of communication, learning that Objects of Reference can be used to request an item, or having the confidence to approach another person to seek a ‘chat’.

We have continued with our weekly outings to Woolcock Park with Junior Four this term, which has been a lovely shared experience for us all. It is great to get out and practice our skills in a different environment (and of course getting to play on the playground isn’t so bad either). The students are becoming so much more familiar with this routine as the year goes on, and it is wonderful to see them showing more independence when it comes time to get ready for the park! This applies also to our Friday horse riding sessions which have been a valuable and fun program for the boys.

As with every term I must thank the wonderful staff members and volunteers who have helped us so much. Steph, Michelle, Christine, Tim, and Sonya have provided invaluable support once again, and I thank you for that! We have also been fortunate to have Susan working in our class on Fridays recently, and it is lovely to see how quickly the boys have warmed to her. Alistair has continued to volunteer his time to help us get to horse riding each Friday, and this has been fantastic! We were also fortunate enough to have George’s cousin Meg help us out at the beginning of term and we are hopeful that she will join us again for another stint at the end of the year!
Middle 1

Yet another term has come to a close and the holidays are already upon us (if you can believe it) and what a term we have had. We have been busy as usual with our weekly programs and our literacy unit ‘Look! I know books’. The boys are still really enjoying engaging with all things books and literacy. It has been pleasing to observe their continued interest towards books, and literacy in general, as the year has progressed. All the students have demonstrated success with their learning on an individual level.

Earlier this term we attended the annual Darling Point Fun Run and the Yatala Mini Ekka which are events the students enjoy immensely. Although they are big days, the students are amazing. They always participate well and bring their best manners which make the events all the more exciting. It is wonderful to assist them on event days like this to watch them interact with not only their classmates and Red Hill friends but with other students from special schools around Brisbane.

Sadly we had to say goodbye to our Danish student Lea at the beginning of the term as she returned home to Denmark to complete her studies. We have also missed our friend Rolly who left us last term to move to Sydney. We have however enjoyed getting to know Joel and Declan who have spent time in our class while at respite.

I hope everyone has a very happy and safe holiday. Looking forward to seeing you all back for Term Four!

Teachers: Kate
Teacher Aides: Steph, Michelle, Sonya, Christine and Tim
However our highlight this term would have to be camp! We enjoyed 3 nights and 4 days at Barney’s Place at Mermaid Waters on the Gold Coast. Barney’s Place was the perfect accommodation. So much so we even had our own private canal with ducks! We had great weather for the majority of the trip and I have to make mention of both the students and the staff. The students were incredible the whole camp, considering for some this was the longest stay away from their homes and families. They all smiled and giggled their way through the days regardless of how busy we were or tired they got. As for the staff without their support and energy the camp wouldn’t have been as successful as it was. Our days were jam packed with theme park visits and visiting local parks which were fully inclusive for students with disabilities. Each student enjoyed exploring the parks and playing on the equipment. A big thank-you also needs to go to the P & C for their generous donation towards our camp.
Middle 1 at Currumbin Sanctuary

Clay and Jazper enjoying our duck friends

Middle 2

Well what a busy term! We have studied a number of books including Walking Through the Jungle, Rosie’s Walk, Possum Magic, Gorilla, and The Rainbow Fish. The most fun we had was with Possum Magic because we got to make vegemite toast, pavlova and lamingtons. We also made our own bodies appear by eating the food. Will was the only one to eat the vegemite toast and we are still waiting for his invisible tail to appear!

We have seen some good improvements in concentration with some students, and new physical skills being achieved by others. With some, just having a go and participating is a big achievement and some days when a student is really on fire there is jubilation all round.

Our camp this term to Barney’s Place at Mermaid Waters was enjoyed by all. Thanks to the P&C for their contribution towards making it more affordable. The highlights of camp were the trip to Seaworld and touching the stingrays’ fins, and at Currumbin Sanctuary having an animal encounter just for our group where we touched a shingleback lizard, a tawny frogmouth, a peculiar stick insect and a python. Two of the staff had never touched a snake before so it was a true group education. Having the wedge-tail eagle fly right over us and going on the little train ride were also highlights. It’s always brilliant going on camp and experiencing life with the kids in a 24 hour period as we grow much closer to the students and gain valuable insights into aspects of their character we wouldn’t otherwise see. We appreciate you entrusting your child with us.

It has been wonderful to see the hard work and continuing successes of each student throughout the term and they have truly earned their break. I anticipate the next to be the same with many more shared experiences and exciting activities and programs to participate in. I wish you all a safe and happy holiday and look forward to coming back ready for the final term.

Teacher: Casey
Teacher Aides: Megan, Seb, Laura and Sam

This term we also welcome a Danish tertiary student, Jon, who is fast becoming a favourite with students and staff alike. I wish to thank all the teacher aides who work in Middle 2. Their dedication and valuable help and suggestions benefit all in the class.
Senior 1

Well it’s been a long term...11 weeks in fact, but it’s been full of fun activities and many wonderful learning experiences. Some of us headed up to Caloundra today for our senior camp...excitement levels were at fever pitch as everyone was looking forward to ‘breaking away’ from our school routines and enjoying a variety of fun experiences in a relaxed setting with our friends. Speaking of friends - we have a new friend in the Senior classes to help out and spend time interacting with the students & of course, learn a lot along the way. We welcome Jay, our Danish student who will be with us until the end of the year.

This term saw us continue our focus on 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- recreation and self-care. These topics came from books entitled, ‘Looking Great’ and ‘Out to Lunch’. The books are written in a simple and repetitive format but the topics are targeted at older children. The students thoroughly enjoy the experience of listening to the rhythmic patterns of the book and the follow up tasks that accompany the shared reading experience. These follow up tasks have included- taking part in a variety of sensory activities such as a pamper session/ day spa, cooking a variety of meals, listening to modern music, visiting local shops, pet shops and cafes, and catching the public bus into the city for morning tea. These activities all bring us closer as a group and again this term, it has been incredible to see real interactions and friendships forming between our students.

As the holidays approach, we wish you a safe and enjoyable time and look forward to more adventures in Middle 2 next term.

Teacher: Nicki
Teacher Aides: Belinda, Deb, Christine and Sonya
Danish Student: Jon

We continue to build our confidence and work towards our individual goals by accessing and engaging with our local community. Outings included a drumming workshop, New Farm park visits, Ten Pin bowling, city and local suburb visits. The senior students are also popular amongst the school community this term for organising a weekly sausage sizzle as part of our
enterprise program. Each Friday, the smell of BBQ sausages and onions waft through the school and the long line up outside the senior classroom to pick up orders is a sure sign of its approval rating amongst students and staff.

Communication is our main focus each term and this term we have been focusing on choice making, using technology (we have 3 new computers in our room) and further developing individual student’s communication systems. There have been many amazing and wonderful developments in each of our student’s communication and often these ‘wow’ moments are caught on video or camera and we are able to share them with parents and colleagues. Those are the moments we all work towards each and every day. Thank you again for all of your continued support this term. We hope you all enjoy the 2 week holiday and we’ll see you all again in term 4.....only 100 days until Christmas!!

This term in Senior 2 we have been reading with enthusiasm. Our class books have centred around expressing how we feel and identifying the things we like to do at school and in our free time. We created our own class book called “Things we like to do at school”.

We would like to welcome our Danish student, Jay, who is sharing his time between our class and Senior 1. He has already initiated great relationships with all the students and brought a new energy to our activities. He will also be joining us on our camp at the end of October.

Senior 2 would like to announce the name of our circus troupe – Red Hill Rocket Ships. We have continued with our fortnightly trips to Flipside Circus where our skills and our involvement continue to improve. Last Wednesday we put on a circus performance in front of a crowd of people. Each student performed a special trick all by themselves in front of the audience. Some of us found it a bit scary, but we all were brave and stuck to our motto “Today is the day for trying things”.

Red Hill Rocket Ships is also the name of our class band, which enthusiastically begins to play when our morning song begins. We all like to use instruments, our voices and our bodies to work together to participate in our morning song and wake ourselves and our neighbouring classes up. We love working together to create something we all enjoy.

We have all been working hard in the pool this term, and Jack finally beat Braedy in a swimming race! Will has been trying hard to swim unassisted. Noah loves to go under water with his goggles on and Dylan delights in playing ball games and splashing. Jordan received a student award for her amazing efforts in the pool kicking hard to swim laps and doing up to 25 sit-ups each week. A great effort by everyone.

Teacher: Therese and Rachel
Teacher Aides: Jenne, Lisa and Christine
Danish Student: Jay
Watch Will go......

Check out Braedy, Noah and Dylan at their regular gym session.

Have a great break and see you in term 3.

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