Dear Families

To our new families, welcome and I hope you have become a little familiar with Red Hill and staff throughout this term. To other families, it has been lovely to meet and speak with many of you again. We do have a number of new students throughout all areas of the school.

This year we have six junior classes, two middle classes and two senior classes. Total enrolment is 56 students. There has been a change to criteria for entry to Early Childhood Development Programs (ECDPs) this year. ECDPs no longer provide prep aged programs. We provide playgroup and pre prep programs for eligible students. This year, children enrolled in prep programs receive support through either the school in which they are enrolled or through an advisory visiting teacher service. Currently we have 30 students enrolled in our ECDP.

One new teacher - Jess Wallace - has joined us this year. Jess is teaching in the middle school. Jess transferred to Red Hill from Townsville. Caroline Smyth-Kenyon has returned to us from Ireland (working in the senior area) and Lisa Fleming (senior teacher) has taken leave to travel overseas this year. We are fortunate to welcome four Danish students who have joined us to support classes throughout semester one this year. Class snippets throughout this newsletter will introduce you to staff and students.

We have had some staffing challenges throughout the latter part of this term due to illness. A number of students have also succumbed. It is looking like a particularly nasty flu season this year. Thank you for your understanding where your child’s class has been affected by staff illness. We have attempted to keep disruption to a minimum and replacement staff have continued the class programs and routines to maintain consistency for children. Thank you also for keeping your child home if unwell. As you each know, we have a number of students with compromised immune systems.

Class programs have established throughout the term. The majority of school classes have determined camp dates for the year and received approval from your P&C to engage in these. Depending on a number of variables (age, health and staff availability) students will have camps ranging from an overnight at school up to 4 nights (usually our senior classes). A number of
camps are booked for either the Sunshine Coast or Gold Coast. Your P&C is currently considering how it can financially support camps this year to minimise financial costs to families.

This week school photos are occurring for a number of classes. Remaining classes will have their photos during week two of term two. Mel Noonan is the photographer again this year. You will have seen past school photos by Mel in the foyer of the administration area. The children stop daily to check them out and name students and staff.

Term one has as usual been busy. The school’s Annual implementation Plan (AIP) derived from our Quadrennial School Review has been completed and approved. This provides our goals as a school for 2014. You will have seen through the media, that over the next years almost $800million will be invested in Queensland state schools. Red Hill Special School through a written agreement - Great Results Guarantee - with the Director General of Education will receive $21 622.00 this year to support literacy and numeracy. Both the AIP and Great Results Guarantee may be viewed at the school’s website: www.redhillspecs.eq.edu.au

The Staff has been meeting with families throughout this term to develop the Individual Learning Plans for your children. Your children have been engaging in a range of programs to support their learning. Literate classrooms are obvious to all that enter our school. Classes are visiting libraries both at Ashgrove and/or in the city. Some students are horse riding at the McIntyre Centre while others are attending Splitz Gym or Sporting Wheelies to support their individual programs.

The school will undergo a Discipline audit later this year. Through our Responsible Behaviour plan three school expectations were developed last year. You will be hearing more about these expectations as we develop your child’s understanding of them. We will be sharing with you each expectation as we introduce them to your children. The three expectations are: I communicate, I look listen and learn and I make good choices.

Swimming has been a little slower to become operational this year. This was due arranging classes according to swimming needs rather than by class group. Some groups do swim as a class but because their swimming needs are similar. Other swimming groups combine students across classes. Essentially we have developed ‘learn to swim /swimmers/ hydrotherapy based classes. David Oram our physiotherapist has been able to engage the support of physiotherapy students from the Australian Catholic University to support the programs. We have also approached two specialist hydrotherapy therapists to work with classes and develop programs based on hydrotherapy. By gosh we are hoping for a successful fundraiser through our P&C to fund/support programs for your children.

Last Tuesday March 25th, along with a number of parents and friends the senior classes thrilled us with a most amazing performance at Flipside Circus Alderley. For the past three terms flipside Circus have been ‘Artists in Residence’ at school, developing circus skills with our seniors which culminated in a performance last week. Each week I would see students twirling plates on sticks or placing hats on heads and I have to admit I had difficulty wondering how ever this would come together as a 30 -40 minute circus presentation.

The student circus performers were astounding. The ways in which flipside staff utilised the strengths and personalities of the students was brilliant. The performance was recorded and I hope that we can share it with many in the near future.
To all our families, thank-you for your continued support throughout this term. Happy Easter to all. Have a safe holiday and see you in term two, beginning Tuesday April 22nd.

Pam

General News

P & C Update

The AGM for your P&C was held Wednesday evening March 20th and a new Executive elected. Your new P&C executive is:

President: Emma O’Donoghue
Vice President: Phillipa (Pip) Finter
Secretary: David Kingston
Treasurer: Gerard Reardon

Congratulations to your newly elected executive and a sincere thankyou to Alistair Brown (outgoing President) who has been immersed in all aspects of school life and advocated strongly on behalf of parents of Red Hill Special School whilst President. Alistair is continuing to volunteer within the school when possible and will continue a close association with us. Alistair actively engaged in discussions with EQ staff when a representative of the P&C was required. We look forward to continued contact with Alistair.

We have a very small P&C that works tirelessly to support your children, their educational needs and the needs of our school. A very small group (six) is working hard on the P&Cs only fundraiser to be held Thursday May 1st - An Evening with Matt. The success of this evening will determine the extent to which camps and other programs in which your child engages can be supported. Thank you to all who are able to assist through either donations of items for raffles etc or through attending the evening.

An Evening with Matt

Red Hill Special School’s P&C presents

An Evening with Matt

Thursday 1 May 2014
6:00pm for 6:30pm til 9:00pm

Queens Arms Hotel
James St, New Farm

Dress Code: Smart Casual
Fine finger food, Piper Heidsieck Champagne on arrival and open bar until 9pm
Cost - $120 + GST inclusive
Limited 200 tickets only

Matt Golinski is a highly regarded Queensland chef, co-owner of Rolling Dolmade Catering, speaker, runner, aspiring rock star and soon to be cookbook author”.

An Evening with Matt is an opportunity to meet this extraordinary and talented person whose self-determination is an inspiration to anyone facing seemingly insurmountable challenges.

Terry Hansen from 97 3 FM breakfast crew will be the host for the evening which will include a silent auction.

Registration and Payment Details:
By Credit Card (automatic registration)
Log onto www.trybooking.com/ELTF
tickets and receipt will be issued automatically

By Cheque
In favour of Red Hill Special School P&C Association
Mail Cheques to Red Hill Special School, 72 Waterworks Rd, Red Hill Q 4059

Provide names of people attending. Receipts will be emailed. No tickets provided. Verification on entry

Cancellation Notice
Cancellations must be received by 5:00pm (AEST) Thursday 24th April. Full payment required for cancellation after this time.
We have been very busy this term in Playgroup and Pre Prep classes 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. We’ve been getting to know our new friends and learning to share and play together. We are working very hard on communication and fine motor skills each and every week too.

Our literacy focus this term has been centred around a much loved book called “Brown Bear, Brown Bear What Do You See?”. We have been matching animals and colours and counting the animals that brown bear can see. We’ve also been pretending to be some of the animals and making funny noises!

Clancy visits us on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and we love engaging in singing and using instruments. On Wednesday our Pre Prep 4 class visits the Multi Sensory Room for switch use and relaxation.

We are looking forward to a relaxing break and wish everyone a Happy Easter!

**Teachers:** Caron and Jo  
**Teacher Aides:** Shelley and Ellie
The students of Junior One have had a fantastic start to the year! Term one has been full of fantastic learning experiences as well as an opportunity for students to settle into their new class. As this is the first year of schooling for our five students we have become familiar with our routine and our visual schedules have helped us to do this. Our learning experiences throughout the week include various literacy & numeracy activities, music therapy, swimming, art, morning greeting, gross motor tasks, computer tasks and incidental learning throughout the school day.

Many activities throughout the school week are based on our picture book. This term we have enjoyed reading the Gruffalo, Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? and Polar Bear, Polar Bear What Do You Hear? We have enjoyed the repetitive nature of the texts and students have built up their language and sentence structure skills to assist in the reading of the text.

All students have become such great school friends and it’s lovely to see the relationships develop. We couldn’t be happier with how the students have adapted to the school environment and the rapport that has not only been developed between students but also with students and staff. Without the amazingly supportive team of Junior One we would not be able to achieve all that we have this term. This includes Alicia, Criddy, Julie and Danya. Thank you not only to these lovely ladies but the support of our physiotherapist Dave, occupational therapist Rebecca and non-contact teachers Tracy, Jocelyn and Michelle.
The students of Junior One are now starting to feel the effects of a full term of school and are ready for a restful holiday. I hope everyone has a lovely Easter break!

**Teachers:** Caya

**Teacher Aides:** Alicia, Criddy, Julie and Danya

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**Junior 2**

It has been a very big but very fun start to 2014 in Junior 2!

This year we are continuing with our Four Blocks Approach to literacy, and Junior 2 has had a swash-buckling time reading our stories which have all been about pirates! In ‘Tough Boris’ by Mem Fox we learned that pirates are huge, greedy, mean and scary but that they also have a soft side... in fact all pirates cry! We have used our imagination and donned our best pirate attire when reading “I Wish I Had A Pirate Suit” by Pamela Allen, and we’ve shared in Pirate Pete’s adventures. It has been fun to explore this theme during our sensory and art lessons, and the hallway to our classroom looks fantastic with our colourful creations! Once again we have incorporated a very multisensory approach to this topic, and this has really enhanced the learning experiences for both students and staff alike!

In addition to our literacy work, all of the students have been working very hard towards their other programs and individual goals. A big thank you must go out to our school therapy team for assisting us to design and implement standing and gross motor, swimming, meal time, communication and sensory programs. We have been incredibly fortunate to receive lots of wonderful resources to help us with all of these areas, and it is exciting to see the students already making progress!
We have also been very fortunate to have Annabella working in our classroom this term. Annabella is one of the school’s Danish students for this semester and we were over the moon to have her in our class. Already there is talk of plans to try and make her stay with us all year! All of the students have taken a shine to Annabella, and we are very excited to have her for another term.

And what a big term it will be! Plans are in full swing for our upcoming school camp, which will be held from the 3rd to the 5th of June. This year we are going to be staying at the lovely Windward Passage in Caloundra, with a trip to Underwater World planned, as well as some other exciting activities. School camp is always a wonderful experience for both staff and students and we are all going to be very excited when the time arrives!
It is so hard to believe that this term is drawing to a close and that the Easter holidays are already upon us. I hope that everyone has a wonderful break! Looking forward to lots more fun and hard work in Term 2.

**Teachers:** Kate  
**Teacher Aides:** Christine, Deb, Caitlin and Michelle  
**Danish Student:** Annabella

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**Junior 3**

Well, it is hard to believe that term 1 of 2014 is coming to a close. It feels like yesterday that we were just returning to school. The junior 3 class consists of Matthew Cule, Charlotte Finter, George Walker, Fred Kelly and Minseo Hong. Our amazing teacher aides are Michele Watt, Sam Shannon, Michelle Connell and Belinda Chadwick-Jones. Term 1 has flown by as it has been jam packed with fun, games and learning while getting to know each other.

This term, as a part of Red Hill Special School’s 4 Blocks literacy approach, Junior 3 students have read the books Dinosaur Zoom and Hello Dinosaurs. The focus of reading these stories has been to immerse students into a literacy rich environment, develop students’ interest and enjoyment for books and reading as well as to develop students’ literacy and communication skills by incorporating each child’s communication system into guided reading sessions. We have also participated in a number of Art activities based around our theme of Dinosaurs!

This term we have started visiting Woolcock Park with the Junior four class. This has been such an enjoyable time for all of us where we get to socialise with other members of the school, enjoy our morning tea or lunch in the outdoor environment and develop our gross motor skills by climbing, crawling, rolling and sliding on the playground equipment. On one particular outing, George enjoyed socialising with a group of senior citizens having a party in the park.

A highlight of our week is the music session with Clancy. Each student looks forward to this time with much enthusiasm. All of the students have been working hard in these sessions to stay engaged, have a go at some of the actions and play the instruments. Another important aspect of these sessions has been to develop each of the students’ choice making skills and requesting for more.
We have also been enjoying our weekly sensory play time with our friends from Junior 2. During these sessions the students explore a range of textures and communicate their like/dislike of the sensation.

Weekly horse-riding lessons at the McIntyre Centre have also been a worthwhile and fun day out in our program. The focus of these lessons is to develop and enhance students’ core strength, agility and balance. Horse-riding also works on strengthening the students’ spine and pelvic muscles, improving their posture and coordination and increasing their joints’ mobility. The bus trip out is always a highlight as George entertains us with his amazing singing voice and repertoire of songs.

A big thank you goes out to Sam, Michele, Belinda and Michelle for their hard work, enthusiasm and persistence throughout the term. Your consistency, eagerness and passion help the daily running of our classroom and ensure that the students get the most out of their school day. Thank you!

Have a safe and happy Easter break and try not to eat too much chocolate! I look forward to seeing you back in term 2.

Teachers: Amanda
Teacher Aides: Sam, Michele, Michelle and Belinda

Junior 4

What an amazing start to Term one. It has been wonderful getting to know Darbi, Flyn, Will, Maisie and Lewis. All students have settled in well to the new school year, particularly our new student Lewis who joined us mid-term. Already it is pleasing to see friendships form. Also we have Karen our lovely Danish student join us this semester. Welcome Karen!

Our focus this term has been embracing literacy at each student’s individual level. We have been immersing the students in all things literacy including reading, writing, typing, being read to, listening to and engaging in stories on the iPad or Interactive Whiteboard and experiencing the different stories through sensory elements as well. Our class theme was ‘Wacky witches’. The students have seemed to really enjoy engaging
with classic stories such as Meg and Mog and more modern stories like Room on a Broom. Role play and dress up have also been a big hit with all the students this term. Each week we explore literacy through a range of sensory activities and cooking. Our little class of witches and wizards have had lots of fun making spells.

New adventures and programs have also been part of term one with many of the students experiencing community access for the first time. As part of our community access program we catch the Brisbane City Council Bus each fortnight and travel into the Botanical Gardens for morning tea before enjoying the fabulous Brisbane Square Library. We also love visiting our local Ashgrove library too. The students show awareness of their surroundings while out in the community and want to explore the environment and engage in shared reading while at the 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.

Our classroom began to take shape with all the wonderful activities and art work the students created each week. In staying with the literacy focus, we practise letters of the alphabet and introduce different high frequency words. 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.
We have continued to work on other programs which include, horse riding, music therapy, cooking, gross and fine motor, art, functional maths skills as well as the communication, academic and individual goals for each student.

Teacher: Casey  
Teacher Aides: Megan, Aimee and Susan  
Danish Student: Karen

Junior 5

Junior 5 has been very busy chasing Dragons and Monsters and enjoying new experiences this term with new friends who have joined our class and school.

The focus this term in Literacy has been the Imaginary and Make Believe world of creatures weird and wonderful. We started looking at the Chinese New Year Traditional story of the animals who entered a race and how the cycle of years was then named after them. We looked at how the Chinese community in Brisbane celebrated the New Year and some of us went to watch the celebrations and see the dance of the Lion who moved around the crowd. We then made our own Chinese Lion in class and played drums and shakers to create dance music too.

Dragons then became our theme as we enjoyed the story Zog by Julia Donaldson and used the story to write sentences and create our own stories. We made dragons out of play doh and masks and puppets too. From Dragons we moved on to the imaginary world of Monsters and we enjoyed making our very own monster machine and concocted our own special Monster Mixtures with special ingredients such as red worms, black snakes and sheep’s eyes! We cooked soap in the microwave and made our very own imaginary monsters creating amazing models. We wrote our own stories, starring ourselves and managed to scare some staff as we prowled the corridors! The Hotel we made housed many a monster which we decorated and named depending on who was living there. We certainly unleashed our wild side!

We have also been focusing on learning some of the 100 high frequency words in the literacy curriculum and have started to take home

Although it’s been a busy term, it has also been fantastic and I anticipate the next to be the same with many more shared experiences and exciting activities and programs to participate in.

I wish everyone a safe and happy Easter!
to focus on maths concepts and are learning to count on from any given number and record missing numbers on a number line without counting from one each time. We have been exploring sequencing and repetitive patterning and have

Clancy has been visiting us and we have enjoyed singing and playing musical instruments and using the microphone to magnify our voices. We have been working on friendships and sharing and have enjoyed playing team games competing against each other learning how to take turns and encourage others with positive praise. We have had fun visiting Woolcock Park where we go running and work on cardiac exercises which usually involves chasing an adult around the circuit!
Visits to the library are most enjoyable and we have incorporated the trip to the City Library using the free loop bus to the Botanical gardens and enjoy a walk around along the river after eating our morning tea. The city library is an exciting place to visit where we enjoy looking at different books and playing on the interactive table which has many different activities to enjoy and play with a friend.

It has been a fun term if not a long one and we are all looking forward to a break, hopefully enjoying some pleasant autumn weather. A big thank you to all the hard work and dedication to the staff who help and support Junior 5 and make it a great place to come to learn and play.

Happy Easter Everyone

Teacher: Hilary
Teacher Aides: Mary, Aimee, Sam and Alyssa

Junior 6

It has been a great start to the year for Junior Six. We are all friends from last year so we got straight to work, and of course some fun. We have been looking at Fantasy this term and have loved learning about and pretending to be giants, pirates, monsters, and witches and wizards. The books we have covered are Jack and the Beanstalk, Portside Pirates, The Monster Machine and Room on the Broom. Our classroom walls are covered in some of our fantastic writing and art work on these books.
In mathematics this term we have been looking at comparing sizes and weights, as well as our usual number work. We have looked at things that are smaller and bigger, taller and shorter, and heavier and lighter. We have been measuring with blocks, our hands and rulers to find the length or height of things, and using blocks and weights to find out how heavy they are.

In social and personal development we have been roleplaying our stories and pretending to be different characters from the stories. We are taking turns and becoming very supportive of other people trying their best.

Every second Monday we have started going to Splitz gym, as we did last year, and our enthusiasm for the foam pit and trampolines has not changed. We are practising what we learnt last year and developing some new skills also. We have recently started swimming in our new swim groups on Mondays and Thursdays and these are working well for us so far.

We were disappointed to not have Mike (our Danish student from semester 2 2013) in our room this year, so we wrote him some letters to send to Denmark. We have been lucky enough to have another student from Denmark for this semester who is also named Mike. He is fitting in nicely and we are happy to have him working and playing with us. We have had our first visits from our student teacher, Pip, who will be doing a 4 week practical placement with us in May next term. She is very excited to be able to work and play with us also.

We wish you a very happy Easter and a safe holiday,

Teachers: Nicole
Teacher Aides: Alyssa, Criddy and Nicole
Danish Student: Mike

Middle 1

In Middle 1, we have had an amazing start to the first term. I can’t believe how quickly everyone has settled back in to school life. We have all had a great time getting to know each other and the students have enjoyed forming new friendships. Our class consists of 6 enthusiastic students; Gus, Jazper, Madi, Leah, Clay and Lyam. We have an exciting and active classroom. Some of the students’ favourite activities include swimming, bike riding, going to the park, using the sandpit and trampoline and of course working hard on our curriculum and IEP goals! Our theme for this term was the sea. Clay enjoyed our craft and desk work activities. Leah liked participating in our ocean animal yoga. Jazper had fun learning new Auslan signs and constructing our aquarium and beach collage. Gus liked to listen to stories and use switch programs to hear songs about sharks. Madi enthusiastically participated in our singing and painting activities and Lyam enjoyed story time and computer activities. We are off to camp at the Gold Coast early next term to consolidate our learning about the sea.
I am feeling very settled at Red Hill and would like to take this opportunity to thank all the students, families and staff who have made me feel so welcome. Red Hill is truly an amazing and supportive school. A special thanks to our very hard working teacher aides Jenny, Sam, Susan and Criddy.

I hope you enjoy looking at our photos!

Teacher: Jess
Teacher Aides: Jenni, Sam, Susan and Criddy

Middle 2

Start of a new year and start of a slightly different class. We said goodbye to Troy as he moved up to seniors and we got 2 new recruits, Abbey White from Juniors and William Turner from Geebung school. Abbey has been with some of these students before. William has fitted in very well with his new classmates Lily, Will, Seth, Darah and Abbey.

This term we have been exploring a series of books known as the Lighthouse Keeper series by Ronda and David Armitage. The benefit of following a series is the characters can be really established and explored. The concepts they bring into play can be used for a number of activities. We staged a picnic day with races with some other classes, followed by picnic food with a sea theme, like blue jelly with divers (jelly babies) at the bottom, and the series culminated in a visit to a local lighthouse at Cleveland. It’s only a small lighthouse, but it’s the real deal.

Seth received the Quota award for 2013 in February, as he was already on holidays when we had our Christmas break-up. He had a great year, learning to transfer himself from chair to floor or other chair and back, and learning to walk on his knees with a walker. He has been very positive and has a go at anything we try him with. Well done Seth.
One of the highlights of the term was meeting two of the Broncos footballers at The McIntyre Centre - Riding for the Disabled. The Broncos Club support the McIntyre Centre. We met Corey Oates and Mitchell Dodds, and what a lovely couple of guys. They walked around with Seth and Darah on their horses, and met and spoke with all the students. The session was filmed and televised on March 30th.

Abbey just loves the blender!

Darah uses the blender in cooking.

William helps grate the potato.

Seth with Broncos player Corey Oates.

Lily’s dad James came to horse riding.

Will comes second in the egg and spoon race.

It’s been a good first term in Middle 2 and we are looking forward to more fun and adventures in term 2.

Teacher: Nicki

Teacher Aides: Stephanie, Deb, Micelle, Sharon and Alyssa
Seniors

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, visit parks, catch public transport and undertake a multitude of jobs throughout the Red Hill Special School community.

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 immersed ourselves in our major unit - The past, present and future. As you can imagine, this topic has lent itself to many and varied learning experiences- especially around our future for those of us who are graduating this year.

Our jobs and responsibilities around the school are rotated regularly so we all get to experience these important skills. These jobs include: collecting compost bins from classrooms, recycling throughout the school, raising the flag each morning, closing the school gates, taking part in the banking program, shredding paper for the school community & admin and finally presenting a weather station for the school.

As one term comes to an end, we look towards the exciting events we have planned for term two. These include, more trips on the City Cat, lots of community access & catching public transport on our PATH day (each Thursday), Sporting Wheelies, swimming and following our individual goals.

We have continued to perfect our circus skills each Wednesday at school with the staff from Flipside Circus. Excitement hit fever pitch amongst the seniors as we prepare for our big production concert at Flipside Circus on Tuesday 25th March. We had the rehearsals and finally it was time for the spotlight to turn on and the curtain to be raised. We can’t wait to share the photos and videos with you.

Thank you for a wonderful start to 2014 and a fantastic term. Have a safe and happy Easter break and we will see you all in term 2.

Teacher: Therese, Rachel and Caroline
Teacher Aides: Glenis, Tim, Susan, Deb, Sonja, Jenne, Lisa, Julie and Christine
Danish Student: Louise