Dear families and friends,

I’m most grateful for the warmth of your welcome since my arrival last week at this lovely school community of Coalstoun Lakes. I’ve already met most parents, along with several other family and community members. Thank you for going out of your way to drop in and meet me.

Thank you also for the excellent manner in which you prepared your children for the start to this new school year. The importance you place on your child’s education is obvious. By sending them well presented in their uniforms, well equipped with their books and stationery, and most importantly, well prepared mentally with a positive attitude to learning and school in general, you have demonstrated to them that you value education, and this is contagious.

It’s going to be a great year at Coalstoun Lakes State School!

As I’ll only be here for a further three weeks before Ben returns, I thought I’d put you in the picture with a little of my background, so as to hasten the orientation process. So here goes………

My teaching career has taken me all over Queensland, and I have been principal of schools from Brisbane (Hamilton SS) to the Torres Strait (Badu Island SS). The last 22 years, until my retirement at the end of 2012, were spent as principal of Hampden SS just north of Mackay, and Mackay is where my wife and I now call home.

In the three years since “retiring” I have worked in this current capacity of “relief principal” for almost two and a half years and have come to love the educational diversity the role brings, and
the interactions with the many new people I become acquainted with.

Variations
Some of the following school procedures may have changed from last year’s timetable. The following will apply at least until Ben returns.

Newsletters: Mondays
Assembly: Mondays
Swimming: Wednesday afternoons
LOTE (Chinese): Thursday and Friday (from this term Year 4 students will also have LOTE lessons.)

Swimming
SWIMMING – will commence this week and be held on Wednesday afternoons. Students will depart the school at 1pm and travel by bus to the Biggenden Swimming Pool to undertake their weekly swimming lessons. Students who reside in Biggenden may be collected from the Biggenden swimming pool at 2.30pm. All other students will return to school for collection at 3.00pm.

Students will require the following items:
- Swimming togs and swimming sunshirt
- Goggles
- Towel
- Sunscreen
- $1.50 pool entry if you don’t hold a seasons pass.

Staffing
WELCOME TANIA: It’s my pleasure to officially welcome Tania Fraser as teacher-aide replacing Karen Edwards, who is on leave. Tania is doing a fabulous job with the children and will have a major role in the Arts/Music domains this semester.

Gayndah Visit
A reminder to families that staff and students will be travelling by bus to attend Gayndah State School this Thursday, 4th February. Students are requested to be at the school by 8am as we will now leave here at 8:15 for Gayndah this Thursday. The children will be required to wear their usual school uniforms (including hats) and bring along their lunch boxes and water bottle. All other school requirements that the students may require will be arranged here at school. Students will return from Gayndah ready to be picked up at 3.00pm.
Chaplaincy
We were pleased to receive notification that our application for Chaplaincy funding throughout this year was successful and we have been granted $5000 to continue our partnership with Scripture Union Qld to continue to provide a Chaplaincy service for our students, school and community. Chappy will be visiting our school fortnightly on Mondays commencing with her first visit at the school today. Welcome Chappy!

Student of the Week Awards
On our weekly Assembly, we present our Student of the Week Award, which recognizes positive student achievements and can be nominated from any of our staff for many reasons - personal learning goal improvements, outstanding achievement, demonstrating leadership, or an attribute that exemplifies our motto, through compassionate and thoughtful acts that embody - Integrity and Industry.

2016 Student of the Week awards will commence at next week’s parade.

P178 Bus Conveyance AGM Meeting
Date: Wednesday, 17th February, 2016 at 4.30pm at Coalstoun Lakes State School. All welcome to attend. For more information please contact Shane Johnson – 4127 1514 or Kayleen Medew on 4127 5198.

Homework
Students will receive homework each week. Homework is marked, along with home reading, daily. Students are also given time to go through their sheets to ensure they understand the activities and this will support them in completing most activities independently when at home.

Homework this week all students have:
- Reading
- Words
- Homework Sheets


Bookclub
Throughout the year, students will be provided with leaflets from Scholastic Bookclub. If families wish to purchase items, please complete the order form and return to the school with payment. Bookclub leaflets have now been provided to students and all orders and payment are to be returned to the school by 12th February, 2016.
AUSTRALIA DAY: With the official Australia Day holiday on the day immediately before school commenced this year, we took the opportunity to celebrate our great nation’s history with several activities. These included COOKING (pavlova; lamingtons; vegemite sandwiches); GAMES (thong throwing; Mintie wrapper tearing); LITERACY (story reading; activity pages); MUSIC: (singing; bush dancing; indigenous instruments and costumes). But as they say, a picture is worth a thousand words, so until next week, here are several for you to enjoy.
Explicit Improvement Agenda

**Literacy and Numeracy Aims** - All students to be above the National Average in NAPLAN and improving at a rate greater than the nation. Increase percentage of students achieving in the Upper 2 Bands to greater than 50%.

**Australian Curriculum Aims** - All students achieving C+ or better in English, Mathematics and Science and making Adequate Yearly Progress or Value Adding in achievement.

Improve writing for all students through consolidation of student friendly marking guides and explicit teaching of the ten elements of successful pieces of writing and literature

‘Integrity and Industry’
Howard Frost
A/Principal – hfros5@eq.edu.au

P&C News

Our next general meeting and Annual General Meeting will be held Tuesday 9th February 2016. All welcome to attend.

As a way of supporting the school, families are requested to mow the transpiration area on a rotational basis according to your family’s surname. There is a push mower, which was purchased by the P&C, available for families to use. With the recent rain and the warm days, the grass has now started growing at a rapid rate and the transpiration area now needs mowing by the Cuthbertson Family. This request is generally only made once or twice to each family per year and each families assistance is greatly appreciated.

Community Information

Please send community information for the newsletter to admin@coallakess.eq.edu.au