Welcome 2013
Welcome back to everyone for the new school year, and a special welcome to new families.

It has been a very difficult start to this year with the recent floods and our thoughts are with those whose homes have been inundated and property lost or damaged. As far as school goes, we will be very aware that families may face challenges around having books and materials for school. Please discuss these issues with your teachers so that we can assist in any way possible.

Thank-you to everyone for your patience with the delay of school commencement, and apologies if you were unable to find out information about what was happening with school. Many staff have been cut off from school due to the closure of the river crossings. Statewide announcements were made last Monday that most schools in the Bundaberg area would not commence until 4 Feb.

2013 Classes
We will commence 2013 with 6 classes, as listed below. Be aware that this is a preliminary arrangement until our staffing levels are confirmed. There could be changes to the composition of classes depending on enrolments.

Our classes start as:
Prep Laura Stack Yr 3/4 Deane Drinnen
Yr 1 Helen Donald Yr 4/5/6 Debra Romans
Yr 2/3 Carmel Rowe Yr 6/7 Jeff Searle/Darren Dunn

Welcome to new teachers, Laura Stack and Debra Romans, and it is great to have Darren Dunn back from leave.

Specialist Staff
This year, it is also good that we have no major changes with our specialist teacher staff. Our Music teacher Shannon Brown will visit on Wednesdays while strings instrumental teacher Christine Buwalda will again be here on Thursdays. PE teacher Nichole Russell will visit on Fridays. LOTE (Japanese) with Susan Alexander for Year 6 and 7 will be on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Uniforms and Book Requirements
Thank-you to families for your efforts in outfitting students in uniform, and preparing booklist needs. Your efforts are appreciated. Please make contact if you need any advice or assistance in these areas.

Term One
With the delayed start to school, we now have a very short 8 week term ahead of us. The term calendar will provide more detail in the next couple of weeks regarding important dates and events.

Contact Information
Parents, please contact the school office if you have any change to contact details, address, phone numbers, etc.

Swimming
This term, students Years 1, 2/3 and 3/4 will participate in the swimming program commencing in the next couple of weeks. Cost this year will again be $3 per week (for 6 weeks). Parents, please keep an eye out for information regarding swimming arrangements. More information soon about swimming.

Toys and Valuables
Parents, please ensure students are not taking toys, sports gear or valuables to school. These items are best kept at home. As well, mobile phones should not be brought to school. If there are special circumstances, please contact the school. Thank-you.

Tuckshop
Tuckshop will likely again be on Wednesdays, commencing in a few weeks. We are always looking for tuckshop volunteers. There will be a request form for volunteers included with the newsletter, soon. Please keep an eye on the Informer for Tuckshop information.

Parent/Teacher Communications
Once again this year, we will be holding parent/teacher interview sessions towards the end of Term One. Please feel free to communicate with your teachers at any time if you have concerns or queries regarding student progress.

School Calendar and Information
Next week, we will send home the 2013 Information Booklet which includes the school calendar for 2013 published by the Education Department. The calendar will provide information on school holiday breaks, etc.

Thank-you to students, parents, and staff, for working through the challenges of back-to-school 2013, particularly given the personal and community wide distress caused by the recent destructive winds and flooding. Please stay in touch regarding any concerns you may have. Best wishes to everyone for a happy and rewarding year.

Looking forward to a positive start to school, this week. Hope it goes well for everyone.

Jeff Searle

School Calendar
Feb 4 (Mon) School commences
Feb 15 (Fri) School and House Captains elections
March 28 (Thur) Last day of term
March 29 (Fri) Good Friday

Weekly Assembly on Thursday morning in the library 9.00-9.30am
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