**Principal’s Desk**

Thank you to all of the Two Mile State School community for the warm welcome that has been extended to me since commencing this year. I’m looking forward to exciting challenges and rewarding times at this fantastic school. Already I have been extremely impressed at how families and staff have rallied to support each other through what has been a very difficult start to 2017. My personal condolences go to the Faucett family for their recent bereavement.

I am still familiarising myself with many aspects of the procedures and organisation of Two Mile State School. Over the coming weeks I hope to have a keen grasp of programs and structures that are already in place. Next week, we will commence Spelling Mastery and Reading A-Z programs within our classrooms. No doubt there will be many more routines that we will continue to implement and we will always strive to determine areas for improvement.

**ENROLMENT**

Enrolment numbers as of today (Day 8, Thursday Feb 2) will be considered by the Department as the figures which will determine many aspects of our funding for 2017. At this stage our enrolment is 84 students which is great news in terms of preserving our current staffing levels and class make-ups.

**SCHOOL LEADERS**

At parade on Wednesday (Feb 1) our aspiring school leaders presented speeches to pitch for votes from fellow students for the leadership roles. We have quite a large cohort of Year 6 students this year, so our school leaders will be elected from the Year 6 class. There will be nine students chosen to be leaders, three for each of our three houses. Depending on numbers nominating from each of the houses that the leadership nominees are already in, Sadowa (green), Araluen (red) and Dawson (blue), some nominees may be asked to volunteer to join a different house to ensure that we have our appointed student leaders filling the role for which they have been elected. The successful students will be announced within the next week and formal presentations of badges will occur at our parade in the coming weeks.

**COMPUTER USAGE FORMS**

Agreement forms on proper use of Education Queensland computers and internet access will soon be sent home. Please ensure that these are returned promptly so that students are able to commence using our ICT equipment.

**PRINCIPAL’S EMAIL**

It has been a quite lengthy process to set up all of my accounts for my own use of Two Mile State School computer and OneSchool access. Please understand if you have sent any emails to the generic Principal email at school that I am still in the process of being able to receive these emails. If you haven’t received a reply that you may have been expecting, I apologise and hope to have this rectified as soon as possible.

**SAME DAY ABSENCE NOTIFICATION**

As from this year, it is a requirement of the Department that all schools have reasons for student absences and that these are recorded on the day of absence. We have implemented an SMS service to help with this obligation. To make it easier to follow up absences and late arrivals or early departures, could you please direct all advice of absence, late arrival or early departure through the school office. Processing all information centrally like this should help to reduce the instances of receiving an SMS requesting a notification when you have already notified the school (apologies in advance if this should happen, there may be some ‘teething’ problems to start with). If you notify teachers at class rooms, they may be absent or get side-tracked before they get a chance to inform the office. For this reason, we ask that you notify the office directly, taking the onus off teachers. If students are late, they should report to the office for a slip. If the office is unattended, please ring our absence line with details that our office staff can record later.

I’m looking forward to a great year in 2017.

Yours in Education,

**SCHOOL WATCH 13 17 88**

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<tr>
<th>Student Absence number</th>
<th>54890266</th>
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<td>School</td>
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**Dates for Your Diary**

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<th>15/01/17</th>
<th>School Photos</th>
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Please - remember send a note or ring the school office 24hr answer service on 5489 0266, if your child is absent for any reason.

**Consent Form**

Some families will receive a consent form today. This will cover using students’ full name on school photos etc.

**Prep/1**

It has been great welcoming the new Preps to our school. I have been impressed by the way they have settled into school life so quickly. The Year 1’s are also doing a good job looking after them and are being good role models.

This term we are doing a unit in Science on living things. Mrs Z has kindly allotted us a garden bed in the Kitchen Garden. Yesterday morning the students were busy preparing the garden so we can plant some seeds and watch them grow. In English we are doing a unit on retelling narratives. The Preps have enjoyed acting out some of the
stories we have read. The Yr 1’s are focusing on writing simple sentences when retelling a story. Mrs Z and I are looking forward to the year ahead with our class after a fantastic start to the year.

Year 2/3
Excitedly arriving back at Two Mile after their holidays the 2/3 class has been exploring a narrative about a fox and writing their own individual stories about a fox. Eagerly learning a range of Gubbi Gubbi words the whole class is using Gubbi Gubbi language on a daily basis. Soaring above the oval our camera hovered, while the students arranged themselves into the word Ngara to create a whole class photo to adorn the class wall. Surprise, surprise, student have even been enjoying their maths, making calendars and telling time.

Year 4/5
The year 4/5 class have had a tremendous start to the 2017 year. The whole class has been focusing on our classroom rules and expectations. We love for everyone to have a go and not be frightened of making a mistake. Everyone makes them, no matter what your age, and it’s really good to learn from them. Routine is a big part of our daily classroom operations. A class note was given to all students and should have come home, outlining what will be happening in the class this term. Students loved telling stories about their holidays and as with most 9 to 11yr olds, the more disgusting the better. Below is a story that the whole class helped Jorja write.

My Present From the Cat
By Jorja McIntyre (with a little bit of help from the rest of the class)

The other day when my sister Rhianna and I were playing on the veranda, we looked down and saw our cat, Boots, digging a hole in the garden close to one of Mum’s favourite plants. Rhianna and I were amazed, we had never seen Boots digging a hole in the garden.

Rhianna was worried that Boots would get in trouble when Mum found the hole in her garden, so she decided to go downstairs and fill in the hole. Rhianna put her hand in the hole to start filling it and she let out a terrible scream. I thought she had been bitten by a spider.

Rhianna immediately jumped up and held up her hand for me to see, and at the same time she screwed up her nose as if she could not bear the smell. I could see yucky brown muck on her fingers and I instantly knew why Boots had dug the hole.

Rhianna raced upstairs and washed her hands with plenty of soap. She nearly used the whole bottle. Then she dried her hands, and smelt her hands, and her nose screwed up again. She got a scrubbing brush and lots more soap and finally Rhianna got rid of the stink.

Mum came into the bathroom to see what was going on and Rhianna told her what had happened. Mum just laughed and laughed and so did Rhianna and I.

That night when we told Dad he laughed as well.

Mum still likes gardening but I don’t think Rhianna ever will.

Year 6
Welcome to Year 6. This information was in a class letter that students took home earlier this week. Apologies for doubling up, but we would like to reiterate the following:

At the beginning of each term we will endeavour to send out a letter outlining what we will be doing in class and any events planned for the term. Mr Teagle will be in class from Monday to Wednesday and Mr Wood will be in class on Thursday and Friday.

Class work -

English – This term the students will be studying short stories, including structure and language features of short stories compared to novels. The assessment task will be to write a short story of their own.

Maths – Students have been given diagnostic tests which indicate how well they understand the key areas, and there will be a focus on areas where understanding is lacking.

Science – The science unit will investigate properties of matter and the changing states of various materials.

History – Students will be studying the development of the Australian nation.

The Arts – This term, students will be studying the visual arts, including drawing and design.

Computer Technology – Students will be using word processing to publish and present some of their work in English.

Homework – Students will have a homework book that they will bring home each Monday. Homework books are then due back in on Fridays. This is to allow for occasions when students are busy or unable to complete tasks on particular nights. Homework can be completed over the course of the week. The homework consists of writing out the weekly spelling list at least once, completing a short maths task, and filling in a reading log (15-20 minutes each night).