Dear Parents / Caregivers,

Welcome back to 2017!

I trust everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable summer vacation. To our new students and families, welcome. I believe you will find your time at Drayton SS enjoyable, given our core values of Honour and Success. Having been here for a couple of years now, there is an energy and enthusiasm from each and every stakeholder, be that a student, a parent, a staff member or a community member. I am very much looking forward to the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

**Staffing**

In some late staffing news, Jennifer Cartmill has accepted a teaching position at Clifton SS. Whilst timeframes are at this stage unknown, we wish her all the very best in her new role. Hence, backfilling Jen in her Special Education Teacher position this year is Jemma Hicks. Jemma was going to take on our Local Relieving Teacher role, however, she is now able to use her skills in the special education role. Greg Dyer also returns to the classroom for 2 days a week. Also, a warm welcome to the following new teaching staff for 2017:

- **Emma Williams** – Prep/1W
- **Kathleene Long** – Year 2L
- **Megan Krahenbring** – Year 3K
- **Katy Goodall** – Music Specialist

Coupling our teaching staff, Clare Garrells switches roles this year as our Physical Education Specialist. I trust you will have a great year working with a variety of teaching staff.

In some changes to the Office, I can confirm that Chris Jones will continue in the role as Business Services Manager (BSM) from Monday – Thursday, with Lisa Maslen returning to work as BSM each Friday. Lisa will continue in her role as Regional Business Support Manager for the DDSW Region, which is exciting for her. Chris will be out the front on Fridays. Hence, you will see the lovely faces of Vicky Schwerin (mornings and afternoons) and Annissa Ciesiolka (Monday – Thursday through the day) in the office assisting you as per normal.

**Day 4 / Day 8**

We all know the importance of attending school. Likewise, we all know the importance of Day 4 and Day 8. On these days, the 4th and 8th school day of the year, the Department uses the number of active enrolments to calculate our budget, our classes and school staffing. To assist us, please make sure your child is promptly at school for these important days, which is this Friday and next Thursday.

**Still Accepting Enrolments**

Also, please note that we are still accepting enrolments for 2017. If you have a friend or family member who is considering enrolling their child/children at Drayton SS, please direct them to the office, or by phoning us on (07) 4637 7444.

**Routines**

Please note that we would prefer it if students arrive after 8:30am. As you would be aware, there is only limited supervision before this time (and none before 8:15am). By arriving after 8:30am, students have more play areas, and the closer to 9:00am they arrive, the greater chance of being able to get themselves set up in/near their classrooms.

Also, could I ensure that all parents and caregivers assist us by ensuring that no child is on ANY play equipment after 3:15pm. Given that play equipment is on school (Government) property, there is no school supervision after this time. Hence, to avoid any possibility of an awkward conversation at this time, please ensure that your child/ren are not on any play equipment when there is no staff supervision.
Finally, please remember to let the school know by phone or letter, if your child is away. While we do have the text message system, it is preferred if you can let us know the morning of the absence. We will be trying to reduce the number of unexplained absences this year, and your assistance in this would be greatly appreciated.

On That Note …

I would like to thank all staff for their participation in a mammoth week of Student Free Day activities last week. I think you would agree, the school looks good and classrooms look amazing.

Having visited all classrooms a number of times this week, including seeing our very new and excited Prep students, I am proud of the school in which I lead. I consider it an honour and privilege to work in a State School. I am proud of our students and staff, especially seeing the effort that is put in to setting up and achieving goals – especially during Term 1. I am equally as proud of this amazing community – (and I’m still smiling from an amazing end of year concert from late 2016).

We know that we can only learn at school when we are at school. So, given we have 192 school days left for 2017 – together, let’s make Every Day Count so that every student has every opportunity to progress 12 months in their learning journey. Here’s to a remarkable year – extending team spirit, literacy improvement / achievement and whole school community engagement. I’m excited and I’m trusting that you will continue to share my passion and enthusiasm for the great things that we will continue to do at Drayton SS during 2017.

Canberra 2017 Update

Welcome back to the new school year! Our Canberra trip is fast approaching (20 weeks to be precise!) At this stage we currently have one available seat on the bus. If you have recently enrolled at Drayton or a returning parent and are interested in your child (currently in year 5 or 6) attending this once in a lifetime experience, can you please see Mrs. Jones or Mrs Scherwin in the office. This will be a first in, best dressed opportunity. A deposit of $200 and the remaining balance to date will need to be paid within 2 weeks if you wish to secure a seat for your child. We are still taking names on the waiting list.

A reminder to parents currently on the list of students to attend Canberra: please ensure that your payments are update as per the payment plan. We have a number who have not paid the term 3 and term 4 2016 payments. It is important that we get these payments in, as we have invoices due to the bus company by the end of this term.

If you no longer wish your child to be a part of this educational experience, please speak to the ladies in the office so that we can arrange for other students to move up the waiting list.

Please keep an eye out for a note to go home in the next week or two about a mandatory camp meeting for both students and parents.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me on sorms1@eq.edu.au

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Spending money to be discussed in 2017
**Expression of Interest—Contract and Casual Teacher Aides**

From time to time there is a need to employ teacher aides at the school. If you are interested in working as a teacher aide, please collect a teacher aide application package from the office, also names of two referees that can be contacted to discuss your capability. Example: if you have worked in the classroom as a volunteer, then please write about this as an example of work experience. Application close on 3rd Feb 2017 for contact employment. Casual employment is ongoing. Your Expression of Interest application should be delivered or posted to: Lisa Maslen, Business Service Manager, Drayton State School, 55 Brisbane Street Drayton 4350.

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**Uniform Shop**

The uniform shop would like to welcome all families to the new school year. Thanks to our volunteers who gave up their time to open the shop last week before school started to allow our parents to stock up on uniforms ready to hit the ground running. We did run short on polo's in size 6 and 8 due to larger than expected demand, however we are expecting a delivery this week so please be patient—we will have more very soon!!

If any of our returning families have any items (in good condition) that they would like to part with and sell second hand, please bring them in for us to sell for you.

Unfortunately due to a change in work commitments, I am now looking for a volunteer to take up the position of convenor as soon as possible. We would provide all training, and you have some very helpful, knowledgeable volunteers already in place, so if you have a couple of hour a week that you could spare to assist the school in this way, please let me know on 0412675038 or email alisha_oneill@hotmail.com

As always, please remember that the uniform shop can only accept cash or cheque - we have no eftpos facility.

Thanks,
Alisha O'Neill
Convenor

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**Inner Downs Swimming Trials**

Congratulations to the following students, who have qualified to attend the Inner Downs Swimming Trials: Brodie Hilt, Morgan McAleer, Ruby Conn, Reid McAleer, Benjamin Rankin, Mai Lan Ruhle, Jessica Bonnell and Abby Lavers. These students will be swimming at Pittsworth on Friday 17th February and we wish them all the best of luck. These students need to have their permission slip and money returned to the office by Tuesday 7th February. Student Medical forms must be handed in on the night of the carnival.

Yours in sport,
Clare Garrels – crath7@eq.edu.au

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**Instrumental Music Program Information Night**

**Monday the 30th of January in the Library at 5:30pm**

The program is open to students from Grade 4-6.

Instrumental Music Program Application Form to be returned to the office by Friday the 3rd of February.

If your child wishes to join the program but didn't receive a handbook please collect one from the office.

Existing students are already included and do not need to reapply.

Instrumental Music Lessons and Ensemble commence on Friday the 17th of February

Ensemble is for continuing students, beginners will be advised when they have reached a suitable standard.

Not sure what format you need so I have just included the information.

Mr N aden Gray
Instrumental Music Teacher
ngray44@eq.edu.au

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**Tuckshop Open Friday 10th Feb**

The Tuckshop will not be re opening until the 3rd week back due to the renovations being done on the front of our tuckshop. A note and the menu will go out in our next newsletter before we open up.

Thank You for your understanding
Kristy W all
Welcome 2017 at Drayton State School!

For the new families at Drayton, my name is Kate Johnston and I am the Community Liaison Officer here at Drayton State School. My role here is to support families and students, as well as being a link between families, the School, and the wider community.

Our aim for 2017 is to ensure our School has a collaborative Family-School partnership by encouraging involvement and communication between all members of the school community, including teachers, families, and students.

I would love to hear from you if;

- You have any suggestions on how the School can support you and your child to learn and enjoy this year at Drayton
- Would like to volunteer at the School in any capacity
- Would like any information on external services to support you and your child
- You have any ideas or would like to have input into cultural days of celebration, NIADOC Week, Harmony Day etc
- You are a part of any community groups that would like to be involved in our wonderful School

We value your input!

I am at the school on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays so please feel free to give me a call, come say hello or send me an email on kjohn673@eq.edu.au

Kate Johnston

Community Liaison Officer
Drayton State School
Soccer registrations for West Wanderers Football Club are now open. West Wanderers is situated on the southern side of Toowoomba at Nell E Robinson park on Hume Street, between Alderley and Stenner Streets. Please register online by following the instructions on our website www.westwanderers.org

Once registered further details regarding Muster Day will be forwarded to you. Any questions please contact us at juniorvp@westwanderers.org

Thank you

Kind Regards

Krystal Cochran
Junior Registrar
We are expecting 83 Japanese students from Kyoto. These students are 16 years and are bright, bubbly and keen to learn all about the Australian lifestyle and culture.

**What's expected of me?**

You will need to provide breakfast, a packed lunch and dinner and include the student in regular family activities. Transport to USQ. You will be reimbursed $224 per week.

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**URGENT REQUEST FOR JEWELLERY MAKERS AND SELLERS**

**SUNDAY 5TH FEBRUARY 2017**

**OPEN DAY AT THE ROYAL BULL’S HEAD INN**

PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE

'Trains on the Downs' has been moved to 5th March 2017 Open Day

With Valentines Day approaching the Committee would like to have a display at the Inn, on the 5th February Open Day, of both old and new jewellery. Those displaying or demonstrating the making of jewellery, are welcome to sell their jewellery items.

If you or someone you know might be interested to show their jewellery, please contact Debby on 0402 138 751 or reply to this email (Toowoomba@nationaltrustqld.org) for further details.

**Volunteers**

To date we only have a small number of volunteers who have sent through an RSVP for the Workplace Health and Safety Information Session scheduled for Saturday, 4th February 2017 from 1.30pm to 4pm. Please RSVP to Debby on 0402 138 751 or send a reply to this email. We
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Drayton State School Absence Note

Student: _______________________________