Welcome to a very warm Week 2 at Ballandean State School. Despite this warm spell, everyone is working to the best of their abilities—thank goodness for air-conditioning which really does help educational outcomes for everyone.

After our great start to last week (please see photos), we have moved into our formal studies. We commenced spelling and reading groups and will be refining these over the coming weeks. We have also conducted a number of diagnostic tests to help inform our teaching in areas that there are gaps. Great effort on all students part, as we are really encouraging having a go and learning from our mistakes—most important lesson for all.

In the next few issues we will include a ‘who’s who in the zoo’ for you to see the staff at the school in particular our specialist teachers that you may not have encountered. I have worked in a number of schools and can honestly say that this is by far the best staff I have ever worked on and the school is very blessed to have such a talented and caring group of people.

On that note, we would like to welcome to our staff—Mr Texas De Vries, our new grounds person. Texas, is a past student of the school, so has a good understanding of our community and brings to the position experience he has gained from his previous employment. We look forward to the school returning to its previous former well kept state.

Hope you all had a chance to read the article in the Border Post this week—the caption was—‘things are looking up’ - which they certainly are. Great photo—many thanks to Mr Andersen for his photographic ability. Sadly this week we say farewell to Mrs Maple Egerton who is leaving us for maternity leave—very exciting and looking forward to lots of cuddles with Baby E, when she arrives! Wishing her all the best from the school community.

Next week we will start lunch orders for 2017 and this year we will be asking for them to be returned to school on a Monday. Wishing you all a productive week.

Kind regards

Julie Barber
Acting Principal
Attached to this Newsletter
P&C invite
Book club
Tuckshop order form
Transport forms for cricket and softball
Religion note

Making The Grade

A photographer from the Border Post will photograph the prep and year 1 students on Thursday 2nd February at 2:30 pm. Please return the permission note which was sent home last Friday.

Religion for Term 1

Religion will commence in week 3—please see attached note.

Term 1 Sport

This term the school will participate in cricket and softball. A draw and transport request forms for both is attached to this newsletter. Please return transport request forms as soon as possible to enable us to organise transport.

Swim

This year the school will have 2 blocks of swimming sessions. One block in term 1 and the second block in term 4. Swimming will commence this term in week 6. Swimming sessions will be 45 mins duration. Students will travel to the Stanthorpe pool by Crisps bus. Parents or an adult of prep students will need to attend swimming sessions each day. Students will need to wear a sun smart swim shirt over their swimmers. Swimming and swim bus travel is offered free of charge to students.

Monday 27th February 11:30-12:15, Tuesday 28th February 11:30-12:15, Wednesday 1st March 10:00-10:45, Thursday 2nd March 11:30-12:15, Friday 3rd March 11:30-12:15.

Please return permission notes to school as soon as possible.

Welcome back for another fantastic year of books!

Ballandean SS will continue to have Book Club during 2017. We receive a total of 8 catalogues throughout the year, about 2 a term. I will send them out as soon as is possible and give families/students/ friends about 2 weeks to put in their orders. I will put a due date on the catalogues. The turnaround time is quick with Scholastic and the items are of excellent quality. The great thing about ordering with Scholastic Book Club is that every order earns 20% back in rewards for our school. If you have any questions regarding Book Club I am usually at school helping out in the library on Thursdays or phone 4684 5189.

Thanks Sarah Betts (Ewan Keith’s mum in Year 4).
Who’s Who

**Support staff**

**Special Education Teacher**

My name is Kathy Hopgood. I am the Special Education Teacher for Ballandean State School. At this stage I will be working at Ballandean on Mondays and some Tuesday mornings. My time is allocated by the number of students who have a diagnosis from the Paediatrician. I not only work with these students who have a diagnosis but I also work with other students as well. I work one on one, in small groups or in the classroom with the teacher. If you see me, please feel free to introduce yourself to me and have a chat. Regards Kathy Hopgood

**Support Teacher Literacy and Numeracy STLAN**

Hi my name is Brett Adams. I am the STLAN Teacher based at Ballandean SS. I also attend other schools in the district. My role is: Diagnostic Testing, data collection, to drive teaching focus and teaching specific focus skills around Literacy and Numeracy.

**Leanne Edwards**

Hello everyone. My name is Leanne Edwards. I work at Ballandean State School on Thursdays and Fridays. On Thursday mornings I will be taking the year 3-6 class for handwriting, grammar and punctuation. In the middle and afternoon sessions I will be teaching history in Semester 1 and geography in Semester 2 across all year levels. On Fridays I will take the year 3-6 class for weekly testing, writing and sport. I will be organising the Ballandean softball team and we will train together on Thursdays and compete in the district competition on Friday afternoons. I can always make time on Thursday afternoons for parent meetings if necessary. I look forward to another enjoyable year of fun and learning.

**Jenni Holmstrom**

Hi most of you know me as I have been on the Granite Belt for 10 years now. I am based at Ballandean State School and have the best teaching job possible. I am an Itinerant Music teacher which means I get to sing and play instruments and teach children how to read and write music. I travel to 7 different schools on the Granite Belt. It is an exciting year at BSS as we will be not only competing at the Eisteddfod and sing for Anzac Day but for the first time in the small schools we will be learning Ukulele. I’m looking forward to another exciting musical year.

*Watch this space for more staff next week*

Watch this space
New Preps

Australia Day Celebrations

RESPECTFUL  RESPONSIBLE  A LEARNER  SAFE