Dear Community,

Welcome back to 2014- This promises to be a great year. Thank You for choosing Hermit Park School for your child’s education. We take educating your child incredibly seriously and will continue to innovate our curriculum this year to ensure our school performance remains in the top bands for the country. I am proud to say my own four children attend our school because of the community, teachers and curriculum.

A super welcome to all of our new students and Prep students. Our Prepas have settled in beautifully and are working hard. The Preps are magnificent group.

Faces on the Data

A major piece of work our teachers are working on this year to continue our curriculum development is titled ‘Faces on the Data’ by Micheal Fullan and Lyn Sharrat – this research outlines 14 parameters that research has shown great schools have in common – I will let you know more during the year.

Our School Goals

Every year we choose to shine a spotlight on certain aspects of our school. For this year we will be focusing upon Reading, Writing and Attendance. For our teachers, they will be focusing upon Collegial Coaching and Faces on the Data.

In the upcoming newsletters I will outline our targets and aims. I am pleased to report that last year we reached our attendance goal of 94%.

Our Behaviour Goals

We have also set some goals around our behaviour this year. Our students are wonderful learners and always demonstrate wonderful behaviour – therefore, we will be considering positive acknowledgements as well as an awareness of the 3 school rules which are Be Safe, Be Responsible and Be Respectful.

Uniform

Our new uniform looks absolutely fantastic! Thank you to our hard working P and C and our uniform shop volunteers who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes for the last two years to develop our uniform. I am fully aware that we did sell out of shirts, but we have received another order and things should start to settle down. Remember if you own old uniforms you are most welcome to use these until they wear out.

New Tuckshop Starts This Monday

Our tuckshop for 2014 will be operated by a new company- Café on the Run. I am very excited by Nick’s enthusiasm and his determination for no child to go hungry with his food. Nick has attached the new menu to this newsletter.

Tasty Tuesday

Tasty Tuesday will return for 2014 this term. I will let you know further details as we develop our calendar. The goal of Tasty Tuesdays is for students to taste fresh produce and ingredients that are healthy and that they may have never tried before.

Building Work and Money To Do Things!

I am pleased to announce that we have been awarded $200,000 for the construction of a sound proof music building. The building will be constructed later this year once we have approved plans and completed tender. A big thank you to the P and C for the support of this project.

Over the holidays we also worked with Townsville City Council to cement a new walk path along McKimmon road. This is a well needed addition to our school.

Finally we have also been awarded $42,000 for new air-conditioning works which will replace air conditioners in Prep Manns, Yr2OH and Yr3GD. I expect most of these works to happen during weekends.
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Staffing

For our 2014 new year I would like to welcome and introduce a number of faces around our school including –

- Mrs Kathy Holden – 2HO – Kathy comes to us from Brisbane.
- Mrs Merrin Manns – PYM – returning from maternity leave.
- Mrs Keriann Reissenberger – PYHR – working between Western Suburbs C and K and our school.

I am very proud to say that all of our staff from 2013 have returned meaning that our staff remains very stable around our school.

Assembly

Our whole school assembly is held each Wednesday in the Hall from 2.30pm until 3pm. For the first term our preps don’t attend whilst they are settling into school life.

String lessons for continuing students will commence Tuesday 4th February. Lessons for students new to the program will commence Tuesday 11th February. String orchestra for continuing students will commence Tuesday 11th February from 3:10-3:45pm in the hall.

Brass, Woodwind and Percussion lessons will commence Wednesday 5th February and band will commence 8:00am Wednesday 12th February in the hall.

Classroom teachers and the office will have a list of all students and their lesson times.

Paper Levy

Our paper levy is due once again for 2014. Our levies are payable to the office and are $30 for years 1 to 5 and $35 for years 6 and 7. This levy covers the use of photocopiers, paper, art and craft, incidental teaching items. For years 6 and 7 this also includes items for German.

Tennis Lessons

Tennis lessons will begin next on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings from 7:45 – 8:30 am. For more information please contact Brad & Taylor on 0404155492