Welcome to 2017!

Dear Parents and Carers,

This year we have started on a high with 100% of students wearing our uniform. The students look fantastic and it is evident that there is a sense of pride in the school. It is also very pleasing to see how many students have taken advantage of the Resource Scheme this year. If you haven’t already signed up, please see the office for a form.

The majority of our classrooms have been repainted and some supplied with new furniture. All classrooms look and feel welcoming and are a great learning place for your child. If you have the opportunity to visit, please do!

This year, like every year, we have set the bar high with our expectations and standards. We expect all of our students to be their very best, academically, behaviourally and socially. This means our students need to be active, responsible and respectful learners. Keeping to our expectations your child will need to make sure they are in school uniform every day, complete their school work in class times, do their homework when given and be respectful to all in our school community. I encourage you to speak to your child about these expectations and how they can achieve these standards.

This year we have created a position of a Wellbeing Officer. This role has been taken on by Mrs Liz Quince who will be working to promote positive school wide behaviour. Mrs Quince has already been very active in supporting some of our students, teachers and parents in making sure they reach our expectations and standards. Please do not hesitate to come and see Mrs Quince if you have a concern regarding your child’s needs.

Notification of Student Absences using Mobile Phone Text Messages

From the 6th February, 2017, parents/guardians or caregivers will be informed by mobile phone message – Short Message Service (SMS) each time their child is away from school.

At Harris Fields State School student attendance and student safety is a high priority.

We know that students who attend regularly are more likely to be successful and safe at school.

To improve our attendance and safety procedures, we will be informing parents/caregivers about any unexcused absences for their child.

The school expects parents/caregivers to contact the school in advance if they know their child is to be absent or late.

From the 6th February, 2017 a SMS text message will be automatically sent to the mobile phones of parents explaining that our records show that your child is absent from school.

The message will read as follows:

Harris Fields SS records show “Students Name” is absent “Date”. Pls reply SMS/MSG student name/absence reason/absence date

The message will arrive on the phone displaying the number “61428937348”. Parents should store this number in their mobile phone under “Harris Fields State School” so that when the message arrives, the parent is aware the message has come from the school. It is recommended that parents create a text message template for each child, to use when advising the school in advance of an absence. Alternatively simply press the reply option on your mobile phone when you receive a message.
from the school and add your son or daughter’s name, year, date of absence and the reason they are absent or late.

e.g. Steven Scott, Year 11 was sick yesterday (Tuesday 15th November)

Text version = “Steven S yr11 sick tues 15 nov”

Parents are encouraged to use the SMS function on their mobile phone as this is the cheapest and quickest way of communicating with the school.

If your child is absent and a reason has been provided, then parents will not receive an SMS.

SMS has become more than a fun way for kids to communicate. It’s become a powerful messaging system that is increasingly being used by government and business around the world.

There are many advantages for parents and the school to adopt this system and they include:

• **Improved ability to reach parents.** At times, it can be difficult to reach parents by traditional communications. Important voice messages left on answering machines at home or at work may be accessed by unauthorized persons. Email messages are hard to receive unless parents have continuous access to a computer. Parents can be at work, in meetings, travelling or simply cannot take a call. It can take a long time before parents are informed to contact the school. Similarly it can be difficult for parents to reach the correct staff member by personal phone call at times when the school phone lines are busy.

• **Faster communication** – it takes a long time for school staff to individually make phone calls to each parent. Using SMS we can get important messages to parents faster. Using SMS, we can send a message to one or a group of people instantly knowing the majority of parents who have a mobile phone will receive the message personally.

• **Expense** – Currently, it’s very expensive, both from a monetary and time perspective for school staff to call parents. The school would prefer to use the savings on better education and facilities for all students rather than on communication expense. It is also less expensive for parents with timed mobile phone plans to send a text message, than phone the school.

• **Personal, Confidential & Discrete** – For a parent, receiving a text message on your phone regarding your child is private, discrete and less disruptive than any other form of communication. Unlike other forms of communication, messages are not left for others to find out about.

**Updating Parent Mobile Phone Numbers**

As part of the process of implementing this exciting new system, the school is seeking your assistance. We already have an extensive list of parents mobile numbers however, we would like to make sure our records are fully up-to-date.

At your earliest convenience, please telephone the school to update your families mobile phone numbers.

Thank you for your assistance and co-operation. We look forward to making this exciting transition, and improving our communication with you.

**Jo Sinclair Jones**

**Principal**

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**Deputy Principal News**

**2017 Student Leaders**

Congratulations to the 2017 student leaders!

**School Captains:**

Lana Jamal
Kelvyn Togia

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**2017 School Captains**

Lana
Kelvyn

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**2017 Vice Captains**

Rutbah
Denziel

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**School Vice Captains:**

Rutbah Chowdhury
Denziel Setema

**Usher House Captains:**

Solomone Fangupo
Chanelle Tauhara

**Usher Vice Captains:**

Peter Su’a
Malaela Su’a

**Ellis House Captains:**

Kelvyn Togia
Abigail Moefa’Auo
**Ellis Vice Captains:**
Liam Hollins
Meaalofa Danny

**Melson House Captains:**
Denziel Setema
Byron Higgins

**Melson Vise Captains:**
Immanuel Setiu
Raiven Cutmore

**Professional Development for Teachers**
On the 19th January our teaching team attended a conference led by Sheena Cameron and Louise Dempsey. Sheena and Louise are leaders in research-based practices for literacy improvement. The focus of the day was oral language development and reading comprehension. At Harris Fields State School we value professional development, stay current with newest research and know that learning is lifelong.

**Parent Information Afternoon**
On Wednesday 8th February, parents/caregivers are invited to attend their child/ren’s classroom to meet the classroom teacher and to hear key messages.

Each class teacher will run two sessions - 2:40pm and 3:10pm. For families who would like to attend more than two sessions, please contact the class teacher to organise another time.

**Head of Curriculum News**
After a very successful 2016 at Harris Fields State School, we are both excited to be starting a new year, working with both teachers, and students to, make 2017 our best year yet.

In our role as Heads of Curriculum, we will be working in collaboration with teachers to unpack and deliver the Australian Curriculum; identifying what our students know, what they need to know, and the steps we will take to help them achieve their goals.

It has been amazing visiting classes over the past two weeks - students are calm, engaged and excited for the learning happening.

*Corinne Bushell and Hannah Wegener*
*Heads of Curriculum*

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**Music and DRAMA News**
Welcome back to all families for what promises to be another exciting year in the Arts at Harris Fields State School.

During Semester One, our students will be studying drama. The focus for all year levels will be improvisation and performance. However, the theme of the work we will be doing is Conflict Resolution where we aim to promote a culture of ‘understanding perspectives’. Role Play will be used to provide students with tools to work through real and imagined conflicts and encourage them to consider the viewpoints of all characters in a given context.

In music news, the Senior Choir has already had its first rehearsal. We had over 100 students from years 4, 5 and 6 attend, and it was great to see some new faces giving it a try. We have also taken steps to formalise rehearsal times for a Junior Choir, open to students in Years 2 and 3. This is a major step in developing the core skills of our young singers, and is further evidence of our dedication to the Arts here at Harris Fields State School.

The lunch time band will continue busting out groovy riffs and smooth beats on guitar, bass, drums and keys. I encourage all interested students to come along and listen and maybe even stick their hand up for a jam!

*Mr Boyle*

**Visual Art News**
Your child will be using and creating art with messy materials this term! Please check which day your child attends Visual Arts class and DO NOT send them in their newest uniforms. Art shirts are provided but accidents do happen.

*Miss Nakamura*

**P & C News**
Welcome to all parents and care givers. Whether you are a returning parent or new to the school the P & C would like to extend a warm welcome. The following is some information, taken from the P & C Constitution, which explains the role of the P & C at Harris Fields State School. The P & C can be contacted through the school on 3387 1222 or email pandc@harrfields.eq.edu.au

The objectives of the Association are to promote the interests of, and facilitate the development and further improvement of the School, for example, by promoting parent participation and encouraging collaboration between parents, students, school communities and non-government entities to foster a commitment to achieving the best educational outcomes for children and young people.

**FUNCTIONS**
In pursuit of the Association’s objectives, the functions of the Association are to:

- Foster community interest in educational matters
First P & C meeting for 2017
Wednesday 15th February @ 2.45pm in the Admin Building.

The P and C Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on Wednesday 8th March at 2.45pm in the Admin Building. All executive positions are up for re-election. All welcome, including children.

Tuckshop

The tuckshop is open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Barbara McMaster is the tuckshop convenor. Barbara is always looking for helpers, so if you can spare a couple of hours to help out drop by and see Barbara or call her on 3387 1232. Orders for little and big lunch are to be made prior to school commencing. Menus are available from the tuckshop and EFTPOS is available (sorry no cash out).

Uniform shop

The uniform shop is open before and after school every Tuesday and Thursday and at other times by appointment. Please contact the school office on 33871222 or email pandc@harrfiless.eq.edu.au to make an appointment. Yellow polos with the school emblem are now available and we would like to apologise for any inconvenience with the delay in delivery. EFTPOS is available, (sorry no cash out).

School Banking News

Harris Fields State School is excited to offer the Commonwealth Bank School Banking program to all students.

School Banking is a fun, interactive and engaging way for young Australians to learn about money and develop good savings habits.

Children who deposit money into their Youthsaver account through School Banking earn Dollarmites tokens, which they can save up and redeem for exciting rewards.

The rewards available during 2017 are:

- Cyber Handball
- Colour Change Markers
- 3D Chalk Set
- Tablet Case
- Smiley Emoji Keyring
- Volt Handball
- Pencil + Tech Case
- Epic Earphones

School Banking is also a great fundraiser for our school. Our school receives $5 when a student makes their first ever School Banking deposit and 5% on every deposit made through the school (to a maximum of $10 per individual deposit).

School Banking day is Friday. Each week you need to place your completed deposited book into either of our 2 School Banking Deposit Boxes located in the Prep Area and in B Block.

We will be holding a School Banking Information Session at our school:

- **Time:** 8:15 am and 2:15pm
- **Date:** Thursday February 9, 2017 and again on Friday morning February 10, 2017
- **Location:** Outside Prep Classrooms

Please join us and find out more about the School Banking program and how your child can get involved.

If you are interested in opening a Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account for your child you can visit the Commbank Website and click on the link to open a Youthsaver account. A School Banking representative will be available at the Information Session to show you how you can do this. In order to verify yourself and your child, you will need your driver’s licence and your child’s birth certificate, but if you don’t have these with you on the day, you can complete verification online at home.


Community News

School Safety around Schools

Council will soon commence with the 2017 school parking patrols and is seeking your assistance in helping make school zones safer.

Thank you for your assistance in making school zones a safer place for children.
School Crossing Supervisor

The Harris Fields Dental Clinic is open to treat your children. Please call 1300 300 850 for an appointment.

Breakfast Club Helpers Needed

Breakfast Club Helpers needed, please contact the office on 3387 1222 if you are interested.

Upcoming events

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<td>Parent Information Afternoon 2:40pm and 3:10pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 February</td>
<td>School Banking Account Opening Day 8:15am and 2:15pm (Prep Area)</td>
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<td>10 February</td>
<td>School Banking Account Opening Day 8:15am (Prep Area)</td>
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<td>15 February</td>
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