Welcome to the 2017 school year. I would especially like to welcome our new families and students. I hope that Coombabah State School caters for all your educational needs. Parents - your support is critical to your child’s successful time at school.

Our numbers have continued to grow and some of our classes are already full. This is a direct result of the continued effort our teachers have put into their classes and the welcoming nature of the students, parents and staff.

WELCOME
I would like to welcome to our staff the following teachers-
Kylie Thornton - 3/4
Hannah Sullivan - 6
Chloe Thomas - 1
Samantha Emmerson - Prep and
Nissa Ham (returning from maternity leave) - Prep

DAY 8
In the first newsletter last year I mentioned Day 8.

Day 8 is when our staffing for the year is decided based on the students enrolled in classes. If we have enough students, we will need to make another class and put on another teacher.
If we don’t get sufficient numbers it can mean that we lose a teacher. This is not the outcome we are looking for and we hopefully will not see this happen.
If classes do change this can mean that the teacher your child has for the first 8 days could change if we have to make a new class.
If changes are to be made you will be notified by way of a letter informing you of the new class, who the teacher is and the name of the class.

PARKING
Please ensure that you are considerate and respectful of everyone when driving and parking around the school. Parking is always an issue and we all need to exercise a degree of patience.

Our recently introduced drop and go zone is available for pick up in the afternoon and drop off in the morning. There are teachers on duty in the afternoon and students are required to wait in area I and when they see their car they move down to the gate. This system works very well however it also relies on parents not parking illegally at the front of the school over the yellow line. This endangers the safety of parents and children.

This area is also monitored by the police and you can be fined for parking incorrectly.
ATTENDANCE AND BEING ON TIME

As I do each year I want to encourage you to have your child at school on time each day. This is critical to the routine of the class and making a good start each day.

We contact parents each day by way of text if your child is away and we do not know about it. This is a government initiative. Please respond appropriately and in a timely manner if you receive a text.

1 day away each week means that your child could miss up to 40 days per year. This means that in 5 years of schooling your child would have missed an entire year of instruction. This will severely impact on your child’s results and their ability to cope with learning.

ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL

There should be no students arriving at school before 7.45am. If your child has to be dropped off early they need to be enrolled at Before School Care. All students on arrival at school need to sit in the undercover area outside the tuckshop until the bell goes at 8.20.

LUNCHES

Please ensure you talk to your child about their lunch and check that they have enough lunch for the day. It is not uncommon in the early part of the year for students to eat the majority of their lunch early in the day and have nothing left for later.

Please take the time to read the following article. There are some very relevant and easy ideas to implement with your child to make their school experience positive and rewarding.

MAKE THIS YEAR YOUR CHILD’S BEST EVER AT SCHOOL
By Michael Grose

A new school year means a clean slate for students. Here are 7 ideas to help you make the most of the fresh start and make this year your child’s best year ever at school

A new school year means a fresh start for students. Regardless of your child’s performance last year, they start school with a clean slate. A break offers students the chance to begin new habits and adopt new behaviours.

Here are seven ideas to help you make the most of the fresh start and make this year your child’s best year ever at school:

1. **Commit to your child going to school every day on time.** One of the most important things you can do to ensure your child has a bright future is to make sure he or she goes to school every day – and gets there on time. Kids spend more time asleep than at school, so we need to maximise every day to get full value.

2. **Help kids start each day well.** A good night’s sleep, a healthy breakfast and some words of encouragement from you will help set a positive tone for a day of learning. This may mean that you adjust your morning routine so that kids have plenty of time get up, eat and get ready for the day.

3. **Establish work & study habits.** The most successful students are those that develop regular study habits that suit their lifestyle, their study style and their school’s expectations. Find out the work expectations from your child’s or young person’s school and help them establish a work routine that matches.

4. **Make sure your child gets enough sleep.** Many children and young people are sleep-deprived, which impacts on their wellbeing and their learning. A good night’s sleep consolidates learning, as well as assisting future learning. Children need between 10-12 hours of sleep each day, while teens need a minimum of nine hours. Help kids get sufficient sleep by having a regular bedtime and get-up time each day. Have a 45-minute wind-down time each night, and remove screens and mobile phones from bedrooms.
5. **Insist kids exercise.** The old saying about ‘a healthy body and a healthy mind’ is so true. Exercise releases the chemicals needed for learning and wellbeing. Yet kids today get less exercise than those of past generations, which is an impediment to learning and mental health. Health professionals recommend a minimum of 60 minutes of exercise per day for kids of all ages. Encourage your child to play sport; promote free and active play and look for ways to make moving part of their daily lives.

6. **Focus on being friendly.** Schools are very social places requiring kids to negotiate many different social situations each day. Yet we often only focus on academic learning. There are strong links between social success, and academic success and wellbeing. Encourage kids to be **open and tolerant**; to be **friendly**; to be **sensitive** to others; to be **involved** in plenty of activities and to be social **risk-takers**. These are all characteristics of socially successful kids. At the same time discourage anti-social behaviours such as over-competitiveness, self-centredness and lack of sharing.

7. **Develop self-help skills.** Successful students are often well organised, self-directed and self-motivated. Personal organisation seems to come more naturally to girls than boys, however both genders benefit from coaching in this important area. You can foster organisational skills and self-direction by developing simple, age-appropriate self-help skills related to their every day lives. Such skills as making lunches, packing school bags, and organising after school schedules can be great lessons that impact on how kids perform at school.

At the start of the school year kids are likely to adopt changes than at any other time. Make the most of the opportunity by focusing on two or three areas to really focus on and you’ll find that the rest will fall into place

*Murray Gleadhill  
Principal*

**YOUR CHILD’S HEALTH**

**A REMINDER TO PARENTS/CARERS TO NOTIFY THE SCHOOL ABOUT YOUR CHILD’S HEALTH**

Coombabah State School is committed to supporting students’ health and wellbeing. We would appreciate parents/carers providing the school with any relevant health information that is required to support the student at school. This information is also collected at enrolment but needs to be updated regularly, or if a new health condition develops.

Information about medically diagnosed conditions such as allergies, asthma, diabetes and epilepsy and other health conditions that may require school staff to provide support to students, including administering medication and performing health procedures, should be provided to the school. Additionally, any health need that may impact on school activities such as sports, outings (including camps) should also be discussed with the school.

**HAVE YOU MOVED LATELY?**

Have you moved house or changed jobs recently?  
Do you have a new phone number?  
Have your family circumstances changed lately?  
If you answered yes to any of these questions **we need to know.** Either phone the office on 5501 3888 or drop us a note with all of the current information.  
It is essential that we have up-to-date information in the case of emergency situations, if your child/children are ill or if a member of the staff needs to contact you.

**ABSENCE LINE**

We have a Student Absence phone line – **5501 3860** - which parents can use 24 hours a day to advise the school of any absences.

Simply call this number and leave the student’s name, class, reason for absence and the dates and duration of the absence.  
If any student is to be absent for any longer than 10 school days then you must contact the office to fill out the appropriate paper work.  
Your assistance in notifying the school of any absences is greatly appreciated.
Welcome to all the new families joining our school for the first time, and also the established families. I trust 2017 will be a wonderful year for you all.

**What is the Student Resource Scheme?:** Briefly it is a cost effective, value for money alternative to purchasing expensive software, textbooks and resources that normally parents would need to provide – not to be confused with the stationery packs (which you do need to purchase separately). At $65 per student per year it is a bargain and I hope you will support us by joining the Scheme and paying the contribution.

You will receive from your children a copy of the participation agreement form, and the various easy ways you can make payments. Only one form per family needs to be completed – all children can be put on the same form and returned.

This year we will once again be tracking and following up on the participation agreement forms and would really appreciate the **PROMPT** return of the same to make everything flow smoothly.

Of course, the Student Resource Scheme is not compulsory, and if you choose not to participate, please return the form with the “NO” Participation box ticked and signed. A list of year by year items you will need to provide/purchase can be requested.

Students who are not participating will not have home access to programs such as Mathletics if they do not join and pay the $65 fee.

**Library Borrowing** – Library borrowing rights will be removed if books are lost or damaged beyond repair. Students will not be permitted to borrow until the book has been paid for or replaced.

I do know returning to school is an expensive exercise and all the other outside sports start up at the same time – all demanding money. We do have many payment plans available should you wish to spread your commitment over the year. (All our forms are available from Administration or our school website).

Please feel free to make an appointment with myself or Murray Gleadhill (Principal) if you suffer any financial hardship (we will do our best to assist you to work out a plan).

The old argument that school is free – or used to be – just doesn’t apply anymore. Our school receives money for teachers and buildings – nothing much towards resources. This is where we need your support to help us give your students great equipment, opportunities and resources they deserve from day one in 2017.

*Sharon Johnson*
*A/Business Services Manager*

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**CLASSROOM VOLUNTEERS**

Welcome to a new year. Students are in classrooms learning already and teachers will soon be looking for help. If you are able to volunteer this year, we and the children would be most grateful.

We intend to have a meeting on **Thursday 16th February at 9.15am** to meet volunteers and ensure **essential messages about school processes are passed on**. Please join us if you can. Even if you have helped in previous years or would only like to volunteer occasionally, we need to see you.

If you are able to attend, please contact the office on 55013888.

*Tina Flesser*
*Head of Curriculum*
MUSIC AND MEDIA ARTS INFO

Welcome back to 2017! We look forward to another year filled with exciting performances for our students and the greater school community. We encourage you to be involved as much as possible in your child’s performances and learning within the Arts this year.

WELCOME INSTRUMENTAL STAFF

This year we welcome two Instrumental Music teachers to our school. Ms. Bowen will replace Mr. Ryan whilst he is on leave. Ms. Bowen will be teaching all woodwind, brass and percussion instruments and will direct the school band. Our previous strings teacher Mr. Sue Yek has accepted a transfer and Ms. Inglis will be replacing him as our strings teacher. We welcome both teachers to our school community and look forward to having them on board.

PURCHASE OF MUSIC SHIRTS

At the beginning of the year we will invite students to purchase a music shirt to wear at formal performances and as a uniform shirt to school on their rehearsal days. The shirt acts as a great reminder to students that they have a band, strings or choir rehearsal or lesson that day. Before purchasing any new school shirts this year, you may like to consider whether you would like to take up the opportunity to purchase a music shirt for your child.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC COSTS

We always endeavour to keep costs for the Instrumental Music Program as low as possible, however we have expensive resources that do require frequent maintenance and eventual replacement. These costs and other costs associated with the program are sourced from your instrument hire and levy payments. Your payments greatly contribute to our ability to effectively run the Instrumental Music Program here at Coombabah State School. If upfront payments are not possible, you are able to contact the school and arrange a payment plan.

Please note that we will not allow students to take an instrument home if hire fees or levies are not paid by the due date and you haven’t contacted the office to alternatively organise a payment plan. If your child is enrolled in the program for 2017 you will receive an invoice early term 1 for the hire of an instrument (if applicable) and the levy that covers the cost of extra expenses associated with the program.

MUSIC AND MEDIA ARTS FOR 2017

This year all students will have specialist Music lessons for a semester and specialist Media Arts lessons for a semester. These lessons take place during class time and are not part of the school’s Instrumental Music Program. See the table below to see what subject your child will be involved in each semester. Please note if your child is in a composite class they will be covering the lower year level content. For example, a 2/3 composite class would align with other year 2 classes and cover Music in semester 1 and Media Arts in Semester 2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>SEMESTER 1</th>
<th>SEMESTER 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Media Arts</td>
<td>Music</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Music</td>
<td>Media Arts</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Media Arts</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Music</td>
<td>Media Arts</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Media Arts</td>
<td>Music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Music</td>
<td>Media Arts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHANGES TO CHOIRS

This year we are trialling two separate choir groups. Years 2 – 6 will participate in the school’s Performance Choir that will be involved in major events such as the musical, eisteddfod, ANZAC ceremonies and other events. Prep and Year 1 students will be involved in a new choir group called the Singing Beez. The Singing Beez group will focus on the basics of singing and performance skills and present performances on assembly and at some events. There will be meetings held at the beginning of the year for students to register their interest.

PERFORMANCE CLUB

This year students in years 4 – 6 will again have the opportunity to be involved in Performance Club. Performance Club is an opportunity for students to explore music through singing and playing musical instruments and students have the opportunity to present performances at events. There will be a meeting held at the beginning of the year for students to register their interest.

MEDIA ARTS REQUIREMENTS

Please note that students participating in Media Arts lessons will be required to provide their own headphones as school headphones will not be loaned or shared. Some projects that students are involved in may provide an opportunity for students to bring in resources from home. Please note that it is the student’s responsibility to ensure their items are safely stored in case of theft or damage, and items brought to school are not to be played with during break times. We recommend a lockable storage room in the classroom for storage for any items of value brought in from home.

We’re very excited about the year ahead and look forward to seeing you at our school concerts and events. We encourage you to be actively involved as much as possible in your child’s learning within the Arts and would like to also thank you for supporting your child’s artistic endeavours.

Melinda Kidd
Classroom Music/Media Arts Teacher

CANTEEN NEWS
JANUARY 2017

Welcome to new and returning families. My name is Jennifer Munro and I am the Canteen Convenor at Coombabah State School.

Our Canteen is a P&C operated canteen and we rely on parent volunteers to operate and sustain a healthy five star menu. Attached to this newsletter is the new 2017 Tuckshop Menu.

The canteen is open five days a week from 8.30am to 1.45pm. All food is prepared fresh on the premises.

We operate an online ordering system Flexischools (www.flexischools.com.au). Lunches can be ordered a day, week or month in advance and eliminates the need for sending cash to school. You will find a variety of online only specials and special meal packs.

You can also keep in touch with us via facebook: Coombabah State School tuckshop. This is where you will find new menu items, specials, meal deals etc.

We are currently looking for interested people to add to our volunteer roster. There is a variety of tasks available and training will be given. It’s a great way to meet new people and help out at your child’s school.
Some examples of duties include: salad prep; sandwich making; baking, stocking fridges and of course everyone’s favourite, serving the students.

If you can spare an hour, half or full day we would love to meet you. Just call the tuckshop on 5501 3808 or call in and see us at any time.

COMMUNITY NEWS

HELENSVALE STATE HIGH SCHOOL – IMPORTANT DATES

The first Information Evening for the Helensvale SHS Academy (Excellence) Programs is being held in Week 5 of this term on Monday 20 February from 5:30pm.

The Academy Applications Open Week 5 and close mid-Week 6 for all our Excellence Programs.

The Academic/EXCITE Entrance Exam will occur Saturday 4 March at Helensvale State High and our trials for The Arts, Sport, Japanese and E4E- Education for Entrepreneurs will be held in Week 8 of Term 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term One</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>All week</td>
<td>Yr 5/6 Primary School Visits</td>
<td>Information about Academy Information evening coming up in Wk5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>All week</td>
<td>Before school Academy Directors present outside the Primary School Office (with permission)</td>
<td>Academy Directors available to answer questions of Yr 6 Parents and Students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Monday 20 February</td>
<td>Year 6 Parent Information Evening (Yr 7 2018)</td>
<td>EXCITE 5:30-6:15pm PAC The Arts, E4E, Japanese and Sport 6:30-7:15pm SAC Information and Processes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>23 February</td>
<td>Yr 5 Parent Academy Morning Tea</td>
<td>Information about Academy Programs offered in 2019 Philosophy *Expectations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Tuesday 21 February</td>
<td>Academy Applications 2018 Open</td>
<td>To be submitted electronically or in hard copy to the Helensvale SH Administration Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Wednesday 22 February</td>
<td>Yr 7 2018 Enrolments Open</td>
<td>All general enrolments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Thursday 2 March</td>
<td>Academy Application 2018 Close</td>
<td>Applications must be received by 3pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Saturday 4 March</td>
<td>EXCITE EXAM held at Helensvale State High Discovery Place</td>
<td>Students applying for the EXCITE MUST sit the exam/s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Mon 13-Thurs 16 March</td>
<td>Academy Arts/e4e/Japanese/Sports Trials</td>
<td>A trial schedule will be issued during Term 1. All trials are afterschool- All applicants must trial to be considered for a place.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 10</td>
<td>Friday 31 March</td>
<td>Academy Applicants Notified Scholarship Announced</td>
<td>Via email</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

SUZANNE SWAIN DANCE ACADEMY

The Suzanne Swain Dance Academy provides the following dance classes: Tiny Tots classes 3 to 5 years, Ballet, Tap Jazz, Contemporary, Stretch, Musical Theatre and Hip Hop classes for boys and girls at The Paradise Point Community Centre, Paradise Point.

Enrolment Day is Saturday 28th January 2016 between 10 a.m. and 12 noon at the Paradise Point Community Centre.

For more information please phone 5545 3040 or 0409 517 809
FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

This newsletter will be on paper and sent home to every family. Future newsletters will be sent electronically to those who register email addresses with us. A paper copy is always available from the school office on Thursday afternoons for those without email.

Thank you for such a great start to the year. Don’t forget to register your interest in receiving electronic newsletters by returning the slip below to the office.

E-NEWSLETTER REGISTRATION

Parent’s First Name: .............................................................
Parent’s Last Name: ............................................................
Email Address: .................................................................
Student’s Name: ...............................................................
Student’s Class: ...............................................................