From the principal...

Welcome back everyone, and a special welcome to all of our new families to our school this year.

I hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year, it seems like we only just finished school, and then we are back. In 2017 we have hit the ground running as we formulated new class groups and welcomed new staff to our wonderful little school.

Our classes are a great size and have had an incredibly settled start to the year. I have spent a fair bit of time in each room in the last couple of days. In EVERY room I am seeing ALL of our students smiling, ALL of our staff smiling, EVERY student is engaged and trying their best with their learning. It makes me incredibly proud to be the principal of our school!

Please don’t be surprised if your child (especially the little ones), are really tired in the afternoons when they get home from school at the start of the year. It sometimes takes it out of them when they work so hard at school with their learning and behaviour that they want to collapse at the end of the day (some get so exhausted that they might cry and take it out on the ones they love). Give them some food, give them a cuddle and if you’re concerned then please give me a call.

Thank you to all of the families that have sent all of the required books and stationery with their children, it certainly makes the start to the year go very smoothly. If you haven’t yet managed to get all of the resources, please assist your students learning by getting them as soon as possible. The school levy is $100 per student, and includes our swimming program that occurs in term 4. Thank you to the families that have started paying off the levy. If you would like to set up a payment plan, please give me a call or pop in to the office.

As usual, we are waiting to submit our students numbers to Education Queensland to finalise staffing and classes, but it is looking like there will be no changes to how we started the year.

Our classes include:
- Prep/1: Mrs Burstow (19 students)
- 2/3: Mrs Drew (19 students)
- 4/5: Mrs Ratcliffe (20 students)
- 5/6: Mr Isaac and Bu Lumbi (21 students)

Mr Bruce is working with all of the classes, supporting student learning, as well as running our “Futures” programme. Futures has become an integral part of our school curriculum and is our key driver for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) across our school.

Bu Lumbi continues to teach Indonesian across the school to all of the students, so that our whole school can continue to develop their knowledge of languages. She also continues in semester one to deliver the Physical Education curriculum across the school. Jenni Jackson will be returning from maternity leave next semester. Our students also learn music each week with Mrs Burstow.

Chappy Travis is our new Chappy in 2017 and he will be with us on Tuesdays and Thursdays this year. He has already spent time in classes getting to know the students.
and finding his way around the school.

Absences
Just a reminder that the new legislation kicks in this year around 'same day student absence notification'. Please remember to call the school if your child is going to be late or absent from school. Our school will contact you if your child is not at school, and we don’t know why.

Have you moved or changed numbers? There are many reasons that we may need to contact families. As a priority, please ensure that you have updated any new details with Mrs Rattazzo in the office.

Meet and Greet
On Thursday the 23/2, we will be hosting our annual Meet and Greet. Parents and carers are invited to come to the school, visit in the classrooms, meet with the teachers and see what is happening for teaching and learning in 2017.

After school, stay for a cuppa and biscuit and join us for the P&C AGM. Getting involved with the P&C is a great way to find out what is happening at the school and to show your child that you value their education.

Bus travel
The majority of our students catch the bus to and from school. Students should have their bus passes on them every day. If your child needs to be dropped off at a different bus stop in the afternoon, please ring the school, or write a note for the office. Both Mr Jackson and I want to ensure that every child is safe.

2017 Strategic Direction

School Improvement Agenda for 2017

To build on our school culture of engaging learning that continues to improve student outcomes, where 85% of our assessment literate learners achieve a ‘C’ level or above in the learning areas of English, Maths and Science.

To achieve this Rollingstone State School will focus on:
- Developing a whole school differentiation program;
- Continuing to improve attendance;
- Focusing on improved literacy and numeracy results;
- Employing high quality, explicit teaching practices, aligned across the school; and
- Continuing to embed STEM opportunities and whole school language study.

School Values:
We work together, as a community of learners, to ensure that every day, in every classroom, every student is learning and achieving. We strive to encourage and support every student as they strive to achieve their full potential.

“Aim High”

“Respect yourself
- Respect others
- Be Responsible”

Kasey Constantine
Principal

A note from Chappy Travis:
Welcome everyone to 2017! A huge warm welcome to all those new to Rollingstone State School.
For those who don’t know me yet I am Chappy Travis the new school chaplain for Rollingstone as Chappy Jess has moved on to a whole new amazing adventure. I am currently at school two days a week, Tuesdays and Thursdays. I would like to give a big shout out to Principal Kacey Constantine for allowing me to join the Rollingstone team and I am very touched by the big warm welcome I have received from Rollingstone staff. I am so looking forward to what 2017 has waiting for us and look forward to travelling down the road of life with the kids and community of Rollingstone. Let us journey on this road together and continue to make this community a wonderful place it is.

Just a little information on myself I have a CERT4 in youth and currently studying my Diploma in community services. I have also worked for Anglicare with youth in extreme situation. I have since been the Chaplain at TCLC (Townsville Community Learning Centre) and on my second year as Chaplain at Bluewater State School.

As we have many new families to Rollingstone I thought this would be a great opportunity to outline what a school chaplains’ duties are. They care for students and their families struggling with a wide range of issues, including: friendship, peer pressure, self-esteem, bullying, stress and anxiety. They are also a person of faith; trained in offering care and acceptance to all, regardless of faith, race, gender or cultural background.

School chaplains are safe people for young people and their families to connect with at school. They do this through listening and interacting with the students. They are caring, offering support where needed and will keep all things confidential. I am also here to support students exploring their spiritual beliefs and world views, along with facilitating and providing pastoral care.

If you have any questions don’t hesitate to contact me at school. I will leave you with this great quote I heard to start your year: “Having a rough day? Place your hand over your heart. Feel that? That’s called purpose. You’re alive for a reason. Don’t give up.”

AFTERSCHOOL YOUTH (ASY)

Sadly we had leaders move on to new adventures during the school break so we currently won’t be running ASY and are on the lookout for new leaders to join us on Tuesday afternoons help me run this great program once more.

I will keep the Rollingstone community updated on ASY and when we will start up once again. Until then if you’re interested in your child being part of a fun program don’t hesitate to contact me at school.

It is a fun filled after school program that is run outside school hours on Tuesdays from 3:00 – 4:30pm for students in grades 4 – 6. ASY is a perfect option for parents/guardians that wish for their children to gain a good understanding of the Christian worldview whilst being cared for by a great team of qualified leaders. If you would like more information or a permission form, then please contact me.

Blessings, and have a great week,

Chappy Travis