Welcome, Welcome Back and Farewell

To all of our returning families, welcome back. For anyone joining us this year, welcome and I trust that your son/daughter had an engaging start to the year. I hope everyone had an enjoyable Christmas and school holidays and are excited about 2017 and everything it could bring.

At the end of last year we farewelled several staff members and over the holidays Mike Townsend has made the decision to also farewell Texas P-10 SS. Mike’s dedication and commitment to Texas P-10 SS and the wider community has been extraordinary with many examples of his dedication existing across the school. Bec Townsend will also be taking leave from her position as Teacher Aide and we will miss her contribution in the various areas she worked. On behalf of the school community and Darling Downs Region I would like to thank Mike and Bec for their efforts and determination in providing the best for our young people. We wish them all the best in the future.

I will continue to fulfil the position of Principal (Acting) for the remainder of this term while the required processes to appoint a permanent person to the Principal position are conducted. It is anticipated that the processes will be undertaken during this term with the permanent Principal to begin for term two this year. As further details are confirmed I will communicate to everyone as appropriate.

This year we welcome two new staff members to our team. Mr Steven Krause joins us as our Grounds Officer. Steve began last week and is frantically keeping up with the fantastic growth we’re experiencing through the combination of the hot weather and reasonable rainfall. Over the next month Steve will be attempting to ‘thicken up’ our grassed areas which will require some growing out and less regular mowing than usual. Please be understanding over the next month as we work towards a great outcome.

Keisha Kuskie has also joined us this term as a District Relieving Teacher (DRT). Keisha is also able to be called to some of our neighbouring QLD State Schools, however will spend a considerable time supporting Texas P-10 SS when regular teachers are absent.

Improving on Our Practice, Using Data More Effectively

Last year I referred to the concept of Kaizen (a Japanese business word to explain continuous small collaborative sustainable improvements) which I firmly wish Texas P-10 SS to continue this year. One of our Kaizen improvements for this year is our ability to process and utilise the information we have about our students, your children. All teachers now have a comprehensive ‘data set’ (diagnostic test results, class results, and attendance information) which we will be able to use to better target student learning and collaborate with you at home.

As we progress through the year we will regularly review, update and extend the way we use our data sets to cater for our students. This information will be shared with parents throughout the year, however, if you’re interested to discuss your child’s progress and data at any time please contact their class teacher.

It Starts By Attending

In 2016 our attendance target was 92.5% with our final figure reaching 92.1%. Although very close (I initially believed we reached our target, hence our first school sign message) and an acceptable result I believe an attendance rate of 93% is more than realistic for our school. In 2016 50% of Fridays saw an attendance rate of under 90%. I understand the need to schedule appointments outside of Texas from time to time, however, please restrict absences to the bare necessities.

At an individual level, many of our students attendance was above 95% which is fantastic. Unfortunately some students were only able to attend school 85% or less of the time. Time on task makes a difference. Please talk to your child’s classroom or form teacher if you require assistance in maintaining your son’s daughter’s attendance at 93% or higher.

Feedback and Communication with Parents/Guardians

Last year we modified our reporting processes to simplify certain aspects along with increasing the usefulness of how we communicate and provide feedback to parents. In 2017 we will be increasing the number (from semester to each term) of reports provided along with continuing our regular parent teacher interviews in term two and three.

This coming Tuesday 31 January we will be hosting a parent information evening from 5:00pm – 6:30pm with specific sessions for each year level group. There will be a complimentary BBQ with light refreshments running from 4:45pm until 6:45pm. During the evening we will be providing structured sessions for each year level group (Prep – 3 5:00pm – 5:30pm, Yr4 – Yr6 5:30pm – 6:00pm, Yr7 – Yr10 6:00pm – 6:30pm) where teachers will present a range of general information to assist with be knowledge about 2017. Outside of these sessions teachers will be available to talk with informally around the BBQ. Please come along and join us for this Tuesday 31 January.
Hello and welcome to all Prep/Year 1 parents and family members. What lovely well-mannered children you have. Throughout the day, I had many opportunities to talk or Interact with each child and their manners were spot on! We only had a few tears on the first morning but students very quickly settled into the routine of the classroom. Together, we had a tour around the school and the Year One students were very helpful and caring towards their new friends. Year 1 have been getting used to putting their food in a different fridge and sitting in a different area for their lessons! As of next week, Year 1 students will either walk by themselves to the bus or leave the classroom to meet you out the front of the school (or you can still pick your child up from prep).

Prep will join the Year 10 students for Smash Up—exercise rotations each morning. Prep will be able to get to know the older students who attend our school and they will look to these students not only to assist them, but also as valuable role models. Thank you for sending in Crunch and Sip (piece of fruit) that will be eaten during roll time in the morning. Please read the newsletter each week and look in your child’s diary each day for information. For example, a letter poem will be placed in the diary each week that you can look at with your child. Also the diary is checked each day for any messages that you may have for me.
This year all teachers from Prep to Year 6 will be implementing literacy blocks in their classrooms. This has become a focus due to the extensive work that the school has been doing with the region to improve literacy outcomes for all students through the work of Lyn Sharratt. Literacy blocks are balanced, uninterrupted literacy programs that are focussed on reading, writing and other relevant activities. During this time the teacher will be working with the entire class as well as groups to ensure all students are actively engaged and participating in the lesson. Independent reading will be component of the literacy block allowing students to build reading stamina and foster a love of reading. Education studies suggest that the more children read, the better their fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. During the time when students are reading the teachers will be conferencing (talking) to students about what they are reading and why they may have selected that particular book. There will also be opportunities for teachers to have them whisper read their chosen book. Teachers will help students set a reading goal based on a strategy and will work on this goal over a period of time. Independent reading lays the foundation for becoming enthusiastic lifelong readers.
Week 1

- Students will be reviewing the 3 expectations—Be Responsible, Be Respectful, Be Safe.
- Students will work together to decide what the expectations look like in their own classroom.

Cleaners’ Award

- The Cleaners Award encourages students to work together to ensure their room is free from clutter and unnecessary rubbish to allow the cleaners to complete their cleaning duties each day.

Attendance Award

- This award is given to the class with the highest attendance each week.
- Students are encouraged to come to school each day because every day counts.
- Did you know?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If your child misses....</th>
<th>That equals....</th>
<th>Which is.....</th>
<th>and over 13 years of schooling that’s...</th>
<th>Which means the best your child might perform is ...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 day per fortnight</td>
<td>20 Days per year</td>
<td>4 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly 1.5 years</td>
<td>Equal to finishing in grade 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 day per week</td>
<td>40 Days per year</td>
<td>8 weeks per year</td>
<td>Over 2.5 years</td>
<td>Equal to finishing in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 days per week</td>
<td>80 Days per year</td>
<td>16 weeks per year</td>
<td>Over 5 years</td>
<td>Equal to finishing in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 days per week</td>
<td>120 Days per year</td>
<td>24 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly 8 years</td>
<td>Equal to finishing at</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cathy Cameron
Dean of Students
Texas P-10 School will be holding their annual Swimming carnival on **Friday 27th of January** at the Texas swimming pool. The carnival will commence at 9 and conclude at approximately 2.30 pm. Please ensure that all students are at the pool **no earlier than 8.30am but no later than 8.45am**. The carnival will commence with the COOLAC Vs BURILDA MARCH PAST at 9.00am sharp.

Student who are turning 5 to 8 years are also swimming in the carnival. Some of the 8 year old students will be staying at the pool all day if they are nominated in 50 m races. Students who are swimming 25m will return back to school after their events. **All students 9 years and above are expected to swim in the carnival.**

Just a reminder that swimmers in the 5 to 8 year old age group must have returned their swimming note (sent home last year and yesterday) back to school by **Wednesday 25th of January**. **SWIMMERS MUST BE ABLE TO SWIM 25 M OF THEIR SELECTED STROKE WITHOUT ASSISTANCE.** Please see myself or your swimming coach if unsure.

Please ensure that students have a healthy lunch box and water for the day. The school will provide sunscreen however it is always a good idea for students to have their own in their bags.

Students are more than welcome to dress up in their house colours however we still do expect students to wear sun smart clothing and their broad brimmed school hat. Please ensure that all clothing items are clearly labelled.

Pool entry fee: $2.30 unless students have a season pass.

See you all pool side

Mrs Scott

---

**Uniform Shop News**

Uniform shop will recommence normal hours from this Wednesday the 25th January 3.15-3.45pm.

Don’t forget to pop in and purchase the swimming caps for the swimming carnival. Call Mandy 0459438500 or Marea 0408010951
This Code of Conduct clarifies the expected standards of all P&C Association members. It has been adopted to aid all members of our school community to work as a cohesive group in partnership with the school. The Code is intended to promote and maintain the highest standard of ethical behaviour by P&C Association members. Members of a P&C Association should adhere to the Code of Conduct at all times. This Code applies to each member of a P&C Association.

P&C Association members are to:

- act in the best interest of the total school community at all times
- conduct and present themselves in a professional manner and act ethically and with integrity at all times
- act with courtesy and demonstrate respect for all persons, whether fellow P&C Association members, school staff, parents/carers, students, community members
- remain objective and avoid personal bias at all times
- represent all members of the school community
- engage the school and wider community in developing and effecting school priorities, policies and decisions in a manner that is consultative, respectful and fair
- declare any conflicts of interest and not misuse their office to advance individual views or for personal gain
- make fair, transparent and consistent decisions
- provide objective and independent advice
- listen and be tolerant of the views and opinions of others, even if those views and opinions differ from their own
- treat official information with care and use it only for the purpose for which it was collected or authorised
- respect confidentiality and information privacy (about the school, community members, staff or students) at all times and not disclose confidential information
- not use confidential or privileged information to further personal interests
- be responsive to the requirements of the school community
- seek to achieve excellence in educational outcomes for all students at the school
- listen and respond to issues and concerns regarding strategy and policy
- work within the boundaries of the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006, the Education (General Provisions) Regulation 2006 and the Department of Education and Training's policies and procedures relevant to P&C Association operations.

Come and join the P&C at our first meeting for 2017.
To be held on the 8th February at the Admin Block starting from 5.30pm
Application for P&C Membership for 2017
Texas P-10 State School P&C Association

Please complete and return to the P&C Secretary

Name:

Address:

Home phone:

Mobile phone:

Email address:

I am:

◊ a parent of a student attending the school
◊ a staff member of the school
◊ an adult interested in the school’s welfare, and my date of birth is: __________.

I am:

◊ applying for new membership
◊ renewing my membership.

I apply for membership in the Texas P-10 State School Parents and Citizens’ Association and I undertake to:

A. promote the interests of and facilitate the development and further improvement of the School and the good order and management of the School; and

B. comply with the constitution of the P&C Association, including the P&C Association Code of Conduct as specified in Schedule 2 of the constitution, and any valid resolutions passed by the Association.

If a person has been convicted of an indictable offence, it is grounds for removal in accordance with the Education (General Provision) Act 2006.

Signature: ........................................................................................................

Date: ........................................................................................................

P&C Secretary Use

Date received: ......./....../........ Date accepted: ......./....../........

Secretary’s signature: ............................................................. Entered in P&C Register: □
Crystal Growing Competition

Students are invited to participate in the **RACI Chem Central Crystal Growing Competition** in Term 2. Students are tasked with growing crystals over a six week period and are then given the opportunity to enter the crystals and a one page report into the national competition to be judged. There are two age categories for the competition: Prep to Year 6 and Years 7 to 12.

Interested students/parents are to see Mrs Day or email – **tday47@eq.edu.au**

### School Term dates and Holidays for 2017

School commences on 23rd January 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TERM</th>
<th>DATES</th>
<th>HOLIDAYS</th>
<th>TERM LENGTH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Term</td>
<td>Monday 23 January – Friday 31 March</td>
<td>Saturday 1 April – Monday 17 April</td>
<td>10 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Term</td>
<td>Tuesday 18 April – Friday 23 June</td>
<td>Saturday 24 June – Sunday 9 July</td>
<td>10 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Term</td>
<td>Monday 10 July – Friday 15 September</td>
<td>Saturday 16 September – Sunday 2 October</td>
<td>10 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th Term</td>
<td>Tuesday 3 October – Friday 8 December</td>
<td>School Ends 9 December</td>
<td>10 weeks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Public Holidays and Student Free Days

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TERM</th>
<th>HOLIDAY</th>
<th>DATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Term</td>
<td>Australia Day</td>
<td>Thursday 26 January</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pupil Free Day</td>
<td>Thursday 19 &amp; Friday 20 January</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Term</td>
<td>Easter</td>
<td>Friday 14 April – Monday 17 April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Anzac Day</td>
<td>Tuesday 25 April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Labour Day</td>
<td>Monday 1 May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Term</td>
<td>Proposed Show Holiday</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Queen’s Birthday</td>
<td>Monday 2 October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th Term</td>
<td>Pupil Free Day</td>
<td>Monday 16 October</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** Show holiday dates have not been confirmed at this stage
Texas Treats – Lunch Menu
School Delivery Menu – Term 1 2017
Ph: 07 4653 0999

**Meat** (Chicken, Ham or Silverside) & **Salad/Salad in container**.... $11.00

**Sandwiches** (Available on white or multigrain bread)
One filling (Chicken/Ham/Silverside/Salmon/Tuna/Egg/etc) .......... $4.50

**Extras:**
- Lettuce, onion, carrot, beetroot, mayo, pickles, mustard +$0.50 ea
- Tomato, cucumber, pineapple, cheese ....................... +$1.00 ea
- Avocado, Egg, .......................................................... +$1.50 ea
- Rolls ............................................................................. +$0.70
- Toasted .......................................................................... +$0.50

- Salad Sandwich ......................... $7.00
- Meat (**Ham/Chicken/Silverside/Salmon/Tuna**) & Salad Sandwich ...$8.00
- Egg & Lettuce Sandwich ............ $5.00

**Wraps** (**Chicken & Salad/Ham & Salad/Salad**).......................... $9.50
- Ham Pizza Wrap (toasted) .................................................. $9.90
- Chicken Caesar Wrap .......................................................... $9.90
- Burger Wrap ....................................................................... $9.90
- Steak & Onion Sandwich ................................................... $8.50
- Steak & Salad Sandwich ...................................................... $11.00
  - **Cheese Burger** (**Homemade meat patty, cheese & sauce**)...... $5.50
- Regular Burger................................................................. $7.50

- Water ........................................................................ small - $2.50 1L - $3.50
- **Big M flavoured milk** 250ml (**Chocolate, Strawberry**) ........... $2.50

*All cheese and mayonnaise used is reduced fat

All orders and **money** to be at the School Tuckshop by
9am of the day lunch is required.
(Unless other arrangements have been made with Texas Treats).
All orders will be delivered to the Tuckshop at the school
at LUNCH time.
Only Available On Non-Tuckshop Days!
First Day back at School

Year One

Year Two

Year Three

Year Four

Year Five

Year Six
Tuesday 31 January we will be hosting a parent information evening from 5:00pm – 6:30pm with specific sessions for each year level group. There will be a complimentary BBQ with light refreshments running from 4:45pm until 6:45pm.

During the evening we will be providing structured sessions for each year level group

Prep – 3—5:00pm – 5:30pm,
Yr4 – Yr6—5:30pm – 6:00pm,
Yr7 – Yr10—6:00pm – 6:30pm

Outside of these sessions teachers will be available to talk with informally around the BBQ. Please come along and join us.
### 2017 Calendar

#### Term 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22 January</td>
<td>WEEK 1</td>
<td>23 First Day Back at School</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25 Uniform Shop Open 3.15—3.45</td>
<td>26 Australia Day Holiday</td>
<td>27 Interhouse Swimming Carnival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 WEEK 2</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31 Parent Information Evening</td>
<td>1 February</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 WEEK 3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8 P&amp;C Meeting 5.30pm</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 WEEK 4</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 WEEK 5</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22 Yr 7 Immunisations</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 WEEK 6</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Absences**

For all student absences please phone Student Absence Line: 4653 3366

**Late to School**

Any students arriving at school between 9am and 9.30am must present at the Office before going to class.

---

**“Better in Texas” Stock**

Better in Texas Shirts now in 4 NEW colours;
- Iris, Mulberry, Gun Metal Grey & Hot Pink
Ladies and Mens sizes available for $30 each
And we also have bucket hats
- Pink & Navy various sizes $18ea or 2 for $30