Dear Parents, Carers and Community Members,

Welcome back! It was great to see so many of our students at school and ready for lessons on day 1. We have had lots of new students join us this year, with 17 prep students as well as new enrolments in other year levels across the school. It has been wonderful to see our past students being so welcoming and helpful and ensuring that everyone feels comfortable and safe.

I am pleased to report that our numbers have increased enough over the past 12 months that we have gained an additional teacher and classroom. See page two for more details regarding 2017 classes. We have also welcomed some new specialist staff this year:

**Health and Physical Education:** Mrs Polly Phillips
**Music:** Ms Lindy Nixon
**Instrumental Music:** Miss Emma Baker
**Students with Disabilities Teacher:** Ms Helen Kinnane

Students from Prep to Yr 6 will continue to attend 30 minute library lessons each Thursday with Mrs Mary Cole. During this lesson students will be able to select a library book to take home which they will then return the following week. The Library is also open at first break from Monday to Thursday if students would like to change their books sooner. Please ensure that your child brings a library bag/plastic bag to school on Thursdays to take their books home in.

This year we are introducing Instrumental Music classes for selected students from Year 3 to Yr 6, as well as a Dance and Drama Club which will be commencing towards the end of this term. These classes will be run by Miss Dobi and the students will perform at various events throughout the year. We will also be utilising the Sporting Schools Grant again this year to ensure that we provide students with a range of sports development programs throughout 2017.

Religion classes will commence in Week 5 of this term and will run each Monday afternoon for 30 mins for students who have nominated to attend religion on their enrolment forms. If at any stage you wish to register your child for classes or withdraw your child from classes please contact the office or send a note in to your child’s teacher.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our teachers and aides who have worked tirelessly over the past 2 weeks to ensure that their classrooms and curriculum planning was ready for the beginning of this term. It has made for a very smooth transition for all of our students and has ensured that learning commenced right on day 1. I hope you all have a great week!

Until our next newsletter… Jessica Wertz, Principal

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**Wednesday 25th January, 2017**

**School Office hours:**
Mon – Thurs 8:45am to 3:00pm

**School Watch:** 13 17 88

P&C Association Meeting is held once a month at 6:30pm

President: Andy Grainger

Next Meeting: TBA

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

**January 26th**
Australia Day Public Holiday

**February 6th**
GRIP Student Leaders Conference

**February 17th**
Sports Captain Elections

**February 20th**
Religion lessons commence

**February 27th – 28th**
Student Leadership Camp

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**TUCKSHOP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

If you are able to spare some time on a Monday, Wednesday or Friday morning to assist in our school tuckshop please register your interest with Emma at the tuckshop this week.

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*Don’t judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant - Robert Louis Stevenson*
MEET OUR TEACHING STAFF...

Miss Sarah Mason  
Prep Teacher

Mrs Hayley McCarthy  
Yr 1/2 Teacher

Miss Elizabeth Roe  
Yr 3/4 Teacher

Mrs Leah Newcombe  
Yr 5/6 Teacher

Ms Deb Lui  
Teacher Aide

Mrs Mary Cole  
Librarian & Teacher Aide

Ms Lois Hart  
Teacher Aide & Playgroup Coordinator

Ms Subria Bowie  
Teacher Aide

2017 Student Leaders

Jasmine, Tehiyana, Xahn, Ta’ala
ATTENDANCE EXPECTATIONS
‘Every Day Counts’

Research shows that in Queensland, higher student attendance is associated with higher student achievement. It is important that students, staff and parents/carers have a shared understanding of the importance of attending school. We expect students to attend school every day unless they are sick.

At Machans Beach State School we promote 95% attendance by:
- Sending clear messages to parents and students that attendance is vital for meeting educational benchmarks and targets;
- Promoting the message that Every Day Counts by ensuring that class time is used effectively and learning starts on the first day and occurs up to and including the last day of every term;
- Marking rolls twice a day and monitoring for patterns of absenteeism eg. Day of the week, long weekends, Specialist lessons etc.
- Quickly identifying unexplained absences and following up promptly;
- Developing clear expectations about what is a reasonable excuse for being absent;
- Building positive relationships and developing channels of communication with the school community;
- Promoting high attendance through weekly attendance awards on assembly and certificates and raffles each term;
- Analysing attendance data and addressing attendance issues collaboratively.

Parent responsibilities:
- Strive to ensure that students attend at least 95% of school days throughout the year;
- Where possible, book specialist appointments outside school hours;
- Contact the school immediately if a child is away sick or for any other reason;
- Take preventative measures to ensure that sick days are minimalized through good health and hygiene practices;
- Where possible, plan family holidays during school holiday periods, not during school terms.

Machans Beach State School uses a text notification system where parents/carers will be sent a text if their child is absent from school that day. Please respond by replying to the notification text to explain your child’s absence.

KEEP UP TO DATE!
At Machans Beach State School we have a variety of channels for communication:
- Newsletters are sent home each Wednesday
- ‘Like’ our Machans Beach State School Facebook page to see school news and reminders
- Visit our Website www.machbeacss@eq.edu.au
- Download the QSchools App for an easy link to our school website to view newsletters, calendars and other news.
- Feel free to email your child’s teacher to ask questions or arrange a time to meet.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS
Machans Beach State School values parent support.
It is really important for classes to develop routines and establish class rules and practices at the beginning of the year, however once these routines are established then parent helpers will be able to assist in classrooms at designated times. If you would like to volunteer please register your interest with your child’s teacher so that a timetable for parent helpers can be developed.
We will also seek parent volunteers to assist during sports carnivals, at school discos, in our tuckshop, plus a variety of celebrations.

SCHOOL UNIFORMS
Our supply of second-hand school uniforms is running low. If you have any old school uniforms that you no longer use, please donate them to our school office.

CRUNCH & SIP
Each class will be taking a brief ‘Crunch & Sip’ break during each morning session. Please send along a piece of fruit or vegetable only for your child to eat during this time. Crunch & Sip is a set time for students to ‘refuel’ on vegetables, salad and fruit and ‘rehydrate’ with water. Students who are not hungry and are well hydrated perform better in the classroom and show increased concentration.
Outside School Hours Care

P: 0456 588 886   E: mbss.oshc@gmail.com

Vacation Care was fantastic! Hectic, but great! We went to Tobruk Pool for a swim and a climb on the inflatable obstacle course, we went roller skating and to Jump Mania. David Witherall took us on a biologists journey through our school! There was an in house movie, a disco, cooking, an Amazing Race and wet days to name a few!

We welcomed children from Holy Cross, Peace Lutheran and Mother of Good Counsel to Machans OSHC and Raff, Lilly and Sage from Prep joined us and got a taste of BIG school before they started prep!

This year we have Wendy Kidu and David Witherall (aka Nature Man), working at After School Care.

Before School Care: 6.30am – 8.30am
After School Care: 2.50pm – 5.50pm
Vacation Care and Pupil Free Days: 7.30am – 5.30pm