Welcome back everyone to what I am sure will be another year full of excellent opportunities for our students. We have started the year with 81 students including eight new Prep students. Welcome to Vale View Ayrleigh Kearns, Michael Mossetter, Poppy Kinsella, Ruby Bellingham, Sakura Wright, Eli McCurley Ault, Thomas Tabah, Harrison Binney (Prep), Mikayla Duffield (Year 2), Nicholas Bradley (Year 3) and Alexander Bradley (Year 5).

A special welcome to all our new families. Our school newsletter is emailed to you every fortnight. Copies are kept in the office in case you have any computer issues. Please feel free to contact me if you have any queries. Email is probably the best way to do so.

Mark Hooson

General Notices

Same Day Notification for Absences

From the beginning of 2017, parents of students enrolled at state schools must notify schools by 10:00 am if their child is absent from school and the reason for being so. If this doesn’t happen the school is obligated to contact a parent of the absent child to ask for an explanation.

We started a term early and implemented this process in term 4 of last year. It took a little bit of getting used to but the vast majority of parents contacted us by 10:00 am. Your continued cooperation would be much appreciated as it would save us making phone calls to you.

Car Park

Just a reminder to make sure that you use the parking spaces provided for drop-off and pick-up. Lack of car park spaces in the afternoon can be avoided if:

1. Arrival is spaced out between 3:00 pm to 3:20 pm. We cannot cope with everyone arriving at 3:00 pm.
2. Pick-up is completed as quickly as possible. Please be considerate of others by not staying longer than required.

With everyone’s cooperation our car park is adequate to safely drop-off and pick-up all our students.

Every Day Counts

Research shows that higher student attendance is associated, on average, with higher student outcomes. Children really should not have days off for family events such as camping and fishing and visits to family and friends. These should be arranged for after school or on weekends. It is certainly not OK to have a day off to go shopping or because it is your birthday.

Last year’s attendance was a disappointing 94.1% after we set a target of 95%. The majority of students had great attendance records.

2017 Target - 95%
Meeting for 2018 Prep Parents

Parents of students attending Prep in 2018 are invited to attend a discussion on Monday 30th January, 2017 at 3:10pm in the Prep/One Class.

We are looking at the possibility of having a playgroup or mothers’ group at Vale View one day a week in order to help with transition next year. We would value your input.

Book Club

Book club order forms were sent home today. They are due on Monday 06 February.

Congratulations

Mr Wright on Leave

Our special education teacher is on leave for this week after the birth of his new baby girl. Congratulations to both Jay and Nat.

Spotlight on Coding

We finished last year on a great note with a wonderful news story on the local Channel 7 news on the last day of school. The story featured Mr Wright and many of our students in a story about the work being done at Vale View around coding.

Funding Success

During the holidays we received notice from the office of the Federal Member for Groom, John McVeigh, that Mrs Coote had been successful in receiving a grant of $3636 to install a memorial at the Vale View State School to commemorate past students who served in all wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations. Mrs Coote has chosen the memorial that is expected to be placed in the newly created memorial garden near the admin block within the next two months. The memorial will be a feature of our ANZAC Day ceremony which from this year will be held at Vale View instead of Cambooya. Thanks Mrs Coote for all your hard work.

Staffing News

Staffing has remained stable with Ms O’Leary now being transferred permanently to Vale View which is great news for us. This year Mrs Coote will work four days as our P/1 teacher as well as being our music teacher. Ms O’Leary will teach the P/1 class on Wednesdays. Mrs Johns is our 1/2 teacher. Mrs Bowe will be our 3/4 teacher for term 1 before taking maternity leave for the remainder of the year. Ms O’Leary will be the 3/4 teacher for terms two to four. Mrs Eglington will share the 5/6 class with myself as well as teach Science and The Arts to the whole school. Mr Wright will be our special Education teacher as well as our Learning Support Teacher for Literacy and Numeracy. In term 1 we will have an additional teacher in Judith Predebon, who will help out across all classes.

One of our parents, Julie Naumann will work at times in the 12 class to allow Leanne Potter take on the role of learning support teacher aide.

Coming Events

Term Dates

Important dates for term 1 are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 30 Jan</td>
<td>2018 Prep parents’ meeting – 3:10 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 30 Jan</td>
<td>P&amp;C meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu 16 Feb</td>
<td>Mayoral Morning Tea – school leaders (4 students)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 17 Feb</td>
<td>P-2 excursion to Amaroos Environmental Education Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 27 Feb</td>
<td>P&amp;C AGM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 13 Mar</td>
<td>Young Leaders’ Day in Brisbane – all school leaders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 17 Mar</td>
<td>3-6 excursion to Amaroos Environmental Education Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 24 Mar</td>
<td>Cross-country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 25 Mar</td>
<td>Vale View race day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 27 Mar</td>
<td>P&amp;C meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 27-Wed</td>
<td>Parent-teacher interviews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 Mar</td>
<td>P-2 show visit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Happy birthday to Ryder Moore turning 6 on Thursday 26, Michael Mosseter turning 5 on Sunday 29, Katelyn Veivers turning 9 on Wednesday 01, and to Jacob Pinwell turning 7 on Thursday 02.

Tuckshop

Tuckshop will start next Monday. A note seeking volunteers has been sent home today. Please return by this Friday if you are able to help out.

P&C Meeting

Our first meeting for the year will be held next Monday 30 January. We hope to see many of you there.

Race Day

Our major fundraiser for the year will be our Vale View race day on Saturday 25 March. More information will follow.