WELCOME!

We would like to warmly welcome all families who are new to the 5/6 area and to warmly welcome back our Year 6 families. It is going to be a fabulous year full of learning opportunities that we are sure your children will enjoy!

INTRODUCING THE TEAM!

The 5/6 Team has a whole new look, so don’t be a stranger, come and meet us at your earliest opportunity. We would like to welcome Grace Wilson (56W), Steve Roche (56R) along with Ash Van Hattum and Kirsty Davies (56V) and myself, Raelene Aleandro (56A).

INQUIRY UNIT TERM 1

This term we are introducing a new Inquiry unit ‘What does it mean to be a good citizen?’ embracing the very important area of Cybersafety.

Our understandings are:

- When communicating with others using the global web, there are ways that we can make ourselves safe.
- Our teachers and families can assist us with understanding the world around us.
- We can use technology outside the classroom to assist us with our learning.
STUDENT DIARIES

Each 5/6 student has received a diary which they will use throughout the year to assist them in developing their organizational skills. We will be encouraging the children to record their nightly reading in it, which we would like you to sign off on, so that you can continue to monitor your child’s reading and make sure they are practising this vital skill.

The children will also record up and coming events in it such as sporting days, excursions or homework due dates. Notices will also be held safely in their diaries.

HOMEWORK

Homework will come in varying formats this year and will cover key learning areas such as Literacy, Numeracy and Inquiry. Examples of homework may include completing an information poster, practising times tables, interviewing family members or completing some research. Homework will always have a clear due date and will be relevant to the needs of the students and to the work being covered in the classroom. There will be no negative consequences for homework that is not completed, however we will be encouraging all our students to attempt and complete what is given to them. We continue to have the expectation that all students will read nightly for at least 20 minutes and to record it in their diaries, in order to support their literacy skills.

NEW SESSION TIMES

As you will have read in the final RMPS newsletter for 2012, we will be reverting back to one hour sessions instead of the 50 minute sessions we have been using over the last four years. Due to recess and lunch eating times being later than the children are used to, we
are encouraging families to pack larger recess snacks or two ‘lunches’ so that students don’t get overly hungry as the day progresses. A rumbly belly is quite a distraction when you need to concentrate! The children will always be welcome to eat ‘brain food’ during class time such as fruit and nuts.

The new format for the school day will look like this:

8.50am Organisational bell
9-11am Learning sessions
11-11.30am Recess
11.30-1.30pm Learning sessions
1.30-1.40pm Lunch eating time
1.40-2.30pm Lunch play
2.30-3.30pm Learning session

WATER BOTTLES

Please make sure your child has a clearly named water bottle every day at school. The next few weeks will no doubt be quite warm so hydration is vital for healthy bodies and concentration. This also reduces the level of interruption to students if they don’t need to keep ducking out to the drink taps during learning time.

TISSUES, HAND SANITISER AND HOT/COLD PACKS

We would greatly appreciate each student bringing in two boxes of tissues and one bottle of hand sanitiser at the start of the year for our classroom supplies. Jen in the sickbay would also appreciate it if families could contribute an icepack to update her supplies which tend to diminish by the end of each year.
OPEN DOOR POLICY

We always welcome parents into our classrooms, so where possible, pop in from time to time and say ‘hello’. You might like to come and see a display that your son or daughter feels proud of, or to simply have a chat with us. If you would like to make a time for a meeting, please let us know and we will make sure we arrange a suitable time. If you need to speak with us but can’t come in due to work or personal commitments, feel free to call the school and we will get back to you as soon as we can, or you can email us through the school website. The partnership between home and school is vital for your son or daughter’s wellbeing and we want to be accessible to you in order to assist with this.

SAFE AND HAPPY BOOKS

In the near future, the children will be bringing home a new copy of the Safe and Happy Book. We would appreciate you sitting down for a few minutes with them and having a read through the classroom guidelines and then signing off on them. The children will then be returning the Safe and Happy Book to school while we photocopy the contract which we will keep in our student files. The Safe and Happy book will then go home to families for the duration of the school year where it can be easily accessed if the need arises for discussions with families. Our Safe and Happy Books are a valuable resource for both students and staff whenever we need to remind ourselves how to be great people!

BIKES AND SCOOTERS

This is fabulous weather to be riding to school, but when the children arrive each morning they must make sure they lock their bikes and
scooters up securely on the bike rack which is located just behind Grace Wilson’s classroom (56W). All students must wear a helmet and hop off their bikes and scooters as they enter the school grounds for the safety of all students and staff.

DIGITAL DEVICES

If your children bring a mobile phone to school or any other devices such as iPods, MP3 players etc, they must keep them safely in their bags or hand them into their teachers for safe keeping during the school day. The school takes no responsibility for lost or stolen devices so children bring them at their own risk.

HATS

Terms 1 and 4 are ‘Sunsmart’ terms so please make sure your children have their clearly named hat with them every day. It’s always easier if they leave their hats in their lockers each night so that they’re ready to go the next day. If your child attends OSHC, why not buy a spare hat and let them leave that one in their school bag. That way, they’re always prepared!

SUSTAINABILITY

One of the many great things about Roberts McCubbin Primary School is that it is a sustainable school. We have water tanks that flush our toilets and the kids are always thinking about turning off light switches, fans and air conditioners when not needed. We also need your continued support to reduce the number of wrappers on food that come to school. We would really appreciate you putting as much of your children’s food in clearly named reusable containers as possible. This will alleviate the need for playground clean ups during play times and learning times.
HEAD LICE

What stubborn little critters those head lice are! Please check your child’s hair regularly for those annoying little eggs and critters. We will notify you whenever there is an outbreak in our classrooms, but the more we are vigilant with our checking at home, the less we will need to alert you to classroom outbreaks.

We look forward to an exciting and engaging 2013 and working with all your terrific children!

Kind regards,

The 5/6 Team: Raelene Aleandro (Co-Ordinator), Ash Van Hattum, Kirsty Davies, Grace Wilson and Steve Roche