The second Thursday of Term 1 in the school year is known as “Day 8”. This is the day in the EQ calendar in which enrolment data is collected and used to determine funding and staffing points in each State school.

We are so pleased to have an enrolment of 347 students and thank all of our families for choosing Moorooka State School for the child’s education.

Our enrolments have ensured we can not only keep 15 classes functioning in the school, but that we can continue to offer the wide range of support to our teachers and students to ensure their success.

Due to unforeseen circumstances at 28 students our Year 3 class is oversized and by QTU regulation we are required to form a 2/3 mulitage class.

We are currently working through what this may look like and will be in contact with the families of children who may change as soon as we can.

Most schools in our immediate area have faced similar situations, so it is not uncommon to make changes post Day 8.

I would like to officially welcome all our returning families, and all those who have joined us for the first time in 2017, to our great school. Thank you for choosing Moorooka as the school to have your child educated.

At the end of our second week in Term 1 I can report that every class has made a great start to the year. Teachers have set expectations of their students and have discussed with them how they can have a successful year. From Prep to Year 6, every child is engaged and powerful learning is occurring.

Miss Hill and I visit classrooms on a regular basis. As we make our way around we are continually asking students what they are learning; how they are engaged in their learning; if they understand how to be successful; and what they can do if they don’t understand and need assistance. The responses indicate consistency in teaching practice across the school and teachers dedicated to ensuring students are being successful.

Parents often comment that they don’t get much out of their children when they ask them how school was. “Good”, or “OK”, or some other short response might be all they hear. If you want to get more insight into your child’s day, try some of these questions:
- What was the best thing that happened in your day today?
- Tell me something that made you laugh/giggle today.
- Did you hear, or learn about, a weird word in class today?
- What word did your teacher use the most today?
- Did you ask someone to join in a game at lunchtime today?
- Can you teach me one interesting thing in maths (or English ... or) you learnt today.

You might find suddenly conversations about school shift. Hopefully you’ll find your child more willing to share some of the good things that have gone on in their day.

Please remember: your child’s educational journey is part of a three-way effort encompassing the child, the family, and the school. Ensure you ask questions of your child’s teacher and be part of their education. The staff are here to do the best for your child. Open communication is the key to this success.
The first morning of the school year provided an opportunity for parents and carers to share in a tea or coffee and a chat in our Multi-Purpose Centre (Hall). Thank you to those parents that were able to take some time after what can be a “difficult” (perhaps more for parents than students) first morning of school to come together and share in the sense of community that is one of our school’s growing strengths. It was great to get to meet and speak with new and existing parents of our school.

**Parent Information Evening**

Please note that the date for our Parent Information Evening is Monday 6 February – next week. Parents and carers will then have two opportunities to visit their child/ren’s classrooms to meet with their child/ren’s teacher. This evening is used to share information with you about the year ahead, including routines, expectations, learning and curriculum and as such, we ask that you only visit the classrooms that your own children are in. The first classroom session will commence at 5:30pm and the second/final session at 6:00pm. Please note that both classroom sessions are identical – two session times are offered to cater for families with more than one child.

**Dress Code**

As the new school year commences, I encourage all parents and carers (and students as appropriate) to revisit the Dress Code to confirm what the uniform expectations are at our school. If you are unsure of these expectations, a copy is accessible via our website or available from our office.

It is very important that everyone at our school has a shared knowledge and understanding of our policies and procedures. Of particular focus is the wearing of correct coloured shoes – black or white – with the full school uniform. I thank our students, parents and carers for ensuring that our school uniform is worn with pride and Moorooka State School presents as well as we do – clearly one of the reasons for our continued great reputation in our community (and beyond).

**A Great Start to 2017!**

My sincere thanks and appreciation to all our staff, students, parents and carers who have ensured such a smooth start to the new school year. It has been wonderful to see routines remembered quickly and learning already taking place. We are fortunate to have such a well-deserved and great reputation in and around the community with a very knowledgeable, professional and approachable staff, supportive parents and carers and awesome students. With high standards and high expectations, I am confident 2017 will continue to see our school grow and achieve, as we all work together towards our school motto: **Honour Before Honours**.

A special congratulations goes to our 2017 School Leaders:

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<tr>
<th>Anthony Le</th>
<th>School Captain</th>
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<td>Luka Reeve</td>
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<td>Isaac Griffiths</td>
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<tr>
<td>Destiny Butcher</td>
<td>School Captain</td>
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<td>Jordan Mair</td>
<td>Cook House Captain</td>
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<td>Keithmark Shuttleworth</td>
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<td>Miracle Kaio</td>
<td>Flinders House Captain</td>
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<td>Nino Meagher</td>
<td>Flinders House Captain</td>
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<td>Sean Adams</td>
<td>Logan House Captain</td>
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<td>Alvin Nguyen</td>
<td>Logan House Captain</td>
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<tr>
<td>Neta Rubin</td>
<td>Cultural Captain</td>
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<td>Grace Williams</td>
<td>Cultural Captain</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abishai Prasad</td>
<td>Media Team</td>
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<td>Melanie Tiv atu</td>
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<td>Bridget Nall</td>
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<td>Zakiyya Brown</td>
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<td>Keeana Blyth</td>
<td>Student Council</td>
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<td>Patrick Stewart</td>
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<td>Summer Potter</td>
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<td>Allison Lero</td>
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<td>Tarni Vilienica</td>
<td>Student Ambassador</td>
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Prep Feature

What a wonderful start to the school year. Our 3 Prep classes are settling well and have already learned six new letters and their sounds. We have used these sounds to start learning some new words. Our school routines have also been established and the children have been able to share and demonstrate their ideas about the 3 B’s (be safe, be responsible and be respectful) in the playground and in the classroom. We are looking forward to our Teddy Bear’s Picnic at the end of Week Four. Many thanks to Chappy Ange for organising this event. More details to come.
The Prep staff will be presenting a Parent Information Night on Monday the 6 of February. Two sessions will be offered.

Session 1: 5:30pm - 6:00pm
Session 2: 6:00pm - 6:30pm

Uniform Shop

The uniform shop opening hours have changed. The new opening hours are as follows:

MONDAY 8:15 AM – 9:15 AM  FRIDAY 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Attendance

Student Absences
Our goal at Moorooka State School is to have 100% of student absences explained. To make this process easier you may register your absences by email at studentabsences@moorookass.eq.edu.au. This is also available on the school website. Alternatively, parents and carers can still contact the Student Absence Line on 3426 5360 and leave a message giving an explanation for their student’s absence.

Long Absences
For absences longer than 10 school days, parents must complete an Application for Exemption form which will be submitted to the Principal for consideration and approval. These forms are available from the school office.

Key Dates

February
Parent Information Session: Mon 6th 5:30pm - 6:00pm & 6:00pm - 6:30pm
Choir Sign up: Tues 7th 8:00am - 8:45am (Any Tuesday morning sign up at the music room in the hall)
Captains /Leaders Induction: Fri 10th 2:30pm - 3:00pm
Chappy Pancakes: Wed 15th 3:15pm - 4:15pm
Teddy Bears Picnic: Fri 17th 2:00pm - 3:00pm
Parent Teacher Interviews: Mon 13 - Fri 17th
World Read Aloud Day 16 February 2017

World Read Aloud Day is all about spreading a love for reading. Everyone in the world should get to read and write. Every year, people all around the globe celebrate World Read Aloud Day by reading and sharing stories together.

At Moorooka we celebrate reading everyday. We read aloud and we read quietly. We read to build stamina, we read to learn and we read for fun. On the 16 February celebrate by reading aloud to your children. Maybe it’s a bedtime story, or an interesting newspaper article at breakfast. Reading aloud models good reading practice and is fun.

Did you know? Reading aloud to children every day puts them almost a year ahead of children who do not receive daily read alouds regardless of parental income, education level or cultural background. (Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research)

Reading Eggs and Mathletics

Reading Eggs and Mathletics are fantastic resources that are used at Moorooka State School. They can also be accessed at home to help students consolidate concepts. Both programs are linked to the Australian Curriculum. Students find these programs motivating and fun.

Invoices will be sent out next week to help cover the cost of these subscriptions. The cost $20 and is payable as soon as possible after receiving your invoice. If you have any questions about your child’s Reading Eggs or Mathletics login details please contact your child’s teacher.

Finance News

Banking

Banking day has changed to **Monday**. Next Monday 6 February will be the first day of banking for the year. If you are unsure how to open a banking account for your child head over to your nearest Commonwealth Bank and ask them to assist you with opening a school banking account.

Invoices

Invoices for Mathletics, Reading Eggs and Instrumental Music (new students and continuing students) will be sent home next week. Reading Eggs and Mathletic payments need to be finalised by 10 March 2017.

Instrumental Music monies must be paid before your child can take their loan instrument home for those who are hiring their instrument from the school.

Reminder invoices are sent home each month for any outstanding fees.

A reminder that any outstanding fees for 2016 for Instrumental Music, Camps and Gala Days **must** be paid prior to your child participating in the programs.
The Library is well and truly up and running for 2017.

With the exception of the Prep classes all year levels will have visited the Library either for a lesson or a borrowing session by the end of Week 2.

First term is exceptionally busy during the lunchtime as the Year 1 children are now able to spend this break in the Library. Their excitement over the board games, the computers, the iPads, the colouring sheets, the jigsaws, the chalk board in the courtyard space and of course the chance to access the entire collection is delightful to share.

The incentive programs for borrowing (which are linked to class borrowing sessions) will continue this year and once again the children from Year 3 upwards are able to exchange points they earn for Tuck Shop vouchers or Meerkat Merits.

Book Club: Ms Rachel Dixon has offered to help me with Book Club again this year – many, many thanks - and we have decided to offer it twice a term in Terms 1 and 2 (on a trial basis). All classes will be registered by Thursday afternoon – so apologies to those parents who have tried to place orders already. The due date for this issue will be Wednesday 8 February.

Every year, to celebrate the concept of Valentine’s Day, all classes receive a Valentine’s Day book. The theme of these books is ‘love’ and each book is wrapped and labeled with a heart for the Class Teachers to share with the children on Tuesday 14. I have chosen the books for this year and Ms Tran has kindly volunteered to wrap and label – many, many thanks.

On March 8, the Local History Group will be conducting an evening at the Fairfield Library relating to the Moorooka area – I will give more details in the next Newsletter but if you are interested you might like to make a note of this date.

QPAC is presenting ‘The 13-Storey Treehouse” from 5 - 9 April – these books are extremely popular and the show has been described as ...”Really clever hilarious humour ... every scene was hysterical.” (Timeout).
It’s wonderful to be back amongst our school community again after a refreshing time at the beach in the last two weeks of the holidays. For those of you who are new to our school, my name is Ange Williams and I am in my 5th year as Chaplain at Moorooka State School. I have 2 children a son 13 years & a daughter 17 years. You will often see my husband Jeff, around the school as a relief teacher. We have also been parents at the school in the past, having lived in Moorooka for 16 years.

I am at school Wednesday and Friday. I work as an early intervention worker with children in a domestic violence refuge the other days of the week and I am also a Triple P parenting facilitator. My role at the school is to provide social, emotional and spiritual support for students, families and staff. This has many faces across the school including:

• lunch time activities in my room  
• social and emotional learning groups such the Friends program  
• practical support such as food parcels or linking families to other support agencies  
• co-ordinating Breakfast Club  
• special family events including Mums’ Night Out & Dads’ Campout on the school oval  
• supporting students through changes in their family e.g. separation, loss of a family member or illness  
• in classroom support  
• parenting support  
• school camps

If you have any questions or would like to make an appointment to see me, my email is: awill4769@eq.edu.au or call the school office on 3426 5333. I work closely with our Student Support Services team and if your child is recommended to see me a Parental Permission form will be sent home for you to sign before I meet with your child.

**Prep Teddy Bears Picnic**

On Friday, 17 February I will be facilitating our annual Teddy Bears Picnic in the pirate playground (behind M block) from 2pm. Encourage your prep child to bring a favourite teddy or soft toy (it can be a difficult decision!) along to school on this day. We will have some games and activities under the trees finishing with a snack for afternoon tea. Parents you are invited to come along and join in the fun. At 2:40pm the preps will return to their classroom to pack up and parents are invited to enjoy some afternoon tea together before collecting your child at 2:55pm.

**Chappy Pancakes**

Our first Chappy Pancakes for 2017 is scheduled for Wednesday, 15 February after school. Come and enjoy some freshly cooked pancakes served with maple syrup and cream for $2. If you are new to our school, this is a wonderful way for your child to have some extra time with friends and you can meet some other parents as a large proportion of our school attends this event. It’s usually all over by 3:30pm.

**Local Chaplaincy Committee**

I could not do the work I do in our school without the support of our Local Chaplaincy Committee (LCC). This team is made up of parents, staff and community members and meets once a term to discuss what I am doing in school and provide support and direction as needed. If you would like to know more about the LCC or think you may be interested in being involved, please feel free to email me or call the school.
Term 1 PE

In line with departmental regulations, students are required to participate in a swimming program as part of the Moorooka SS HPE curriculum. This will contribute to the assessment of PE in semester 1. These swimming lessons will be conducted by Mr Ben Bourke and the Moorooka Marlins swimming coach, Aisha Thornton.

The PE Swimming Program for Year 1 – Year 6, commences in the second week of Term 1, 2017 and concludes at the end of the term 1. This program will involve Year 1 – Year 6 students participating in swimming at the Moorooka SS pool.

The swimming program will be based on the Royal Lifesaving Society Australia’s Swim & Survive levels. The school swimming carnivals will also be later in term 4.

Students are expected to participate in each lesson. If for medical reasons your child is unable to swim, a note should be provided to your child’s PE Teacher or Classroom Teacher. If they do not provide a note for non-participation, this could affect their semester results.

Students in Year 1 and 2 require a ratio of 1:10 in water supervision (1 adult for 10 children in the water). Parental help for these swimming lessons would be greatly appreciated, especially in water support. If you are able to help, please see your child’s classroom teacher.

The following items are required for swimming. Please make sure all items are named:

- Swimming Cap (Compulsory)
- Sun / rash / swimming shirt
- Swimming togs
- Change of underwear
- Towel
- Goggles (Optional)
- Swimming bag

Please make sure your child’s swimming gear is packed each day they have swimming, regardless of the weather as conditions change frequently throughout the day. Class swimming days are:

- Tuesdays – 2A ; 2B ; 2C ; 5A ; 5B.
- Thursdays – 1A ; 1B ; 3A ; 4A ; 4B ; S/6A ; 6A.

Prep students will begin swimming in Term 4. During Term 1, they will participate in a range of introductory physical activities.

District Sport Trials

Students turning 11-12 years old in 2017, have the opportunity to express interest in district sport trials. Sports on offer this term are:

- Soccer.
- Basketball.
- AFL.
- Rugby League.
- Netball.
- Touch Football.

The trials are district representative opportunities and are for students with current or previous experience in the sport and also high physical ability.

Please see Mr Bourke or Mr Bishop ASAP to express interest.

Cross Country Carnivals

The school cross country carnivals will be held in Term 1. The dates and times are as follows:

- Thursday 23 March 9.00-10.50am – Yr3-6.
- Thursday 23 March 11.40am-12.10pm – Prep-Yr2.

School cross country training will be on offer for students to build up fitness for the event. This will begin Thursday 16 February at 8.15am on the school oval.
Message from the President...
Welcome back to a new school year, and a very special welcome to the parents of our 70+ prepies! We welcome you to our wonderful little school community and wish you all the best for the coming days as your little ones settle in to life at Moorooka State School.

We are completely blown away by the number of new enrolments for this year. The numbers have taken us by surprise and have under-ordered our uniforms.

Never fear, we have placed another order and will let you all know when new stocks are in.

Speaking of keeping in touch, please remember to like us on Facebook to keep abreast of the latest school and P&C news.

https://www.facebook.com/moorookastateschoolpac/?fref=ts

What does the P&C do?
The P&C is a genuine partner in the school’s life, working as one with the school and the wider community to achieve the best possible outcomes for all students of the school.

Last year with the help of our amazing members we:
◊ Purchased $20K worth of Lego robotics to ensure every class has access to robotics
◊ Updated the school’s PA System
◊ Funded an additional hour per week to have the strings teacher provide tuition to a beginners’ class
◊ Funded an additional TA to support the PE Teacher for swimming lessons
◊ Raised $2350 for Visual and Creative Arts
◊ Hosted a successful community Movie Night

How can I get involved?
Our motto is Be Informed—Get Involved.

None of the achievements listed would have happened without the support of parents and the community.

Joining the P&C Association is a great way to keep informed, to contribute to the quality education of your children and to make new friends. Your contribution can be as large or small as you can manage, but your ongoing support of the P&C Association is invaluable.

And it’s free! We can only email members, so the best way to find out what’s going on and be informed is to become a member. Simply email us at pandc@moorookass.eq.edu.au.

Exciting Tuckshop news!!!
You spoke, we listened!
We are very excited to announce that the tuckshop will be open everyday day in Term 1!

We are trialling opening for first break only everyday except Fridays when we will open for both breaks.
We are also very pleased to announce the appointment of Linda, our new tuckshop convener.

Please bear with us as we work to implement a new exciting menu in week 2. This week we will only be providing sandwiches and pizzas and a basic snack offering for first break on Wednesday and both breaks on Friday. No online ordering this week.
Keep an eye on our Facebook page for our new menu.

Upcoming Dates

Tuckshop times
Wed 25th 1st break
Fri 27th both breaks
From Mon 30th:
1st break Mon-Thurs
Both breaks Fridays

P&C Meeting
Tuesday 21st Feb
Get Involved and
Be Informed
6.30pm in the Library