With our new school year well underway it is important that families are aware of our priorities for the year. Our key focus for the year is ensuring every student is improving in their personal reading abilities. We are investing in a range of programs and staff to ensure every student is being supported.

In 2016 we introduced literacy blocks: dedicated blocks of time where the classroom teacher is not only resourced with the necessary physical resources to teach reading, but is also supported by additional teacher aide allocation to allow for one-on-one or small group interaction. The literacy block program is supplemented by Levelled Literacy Intervention (LLI). This is a program which offers intensive literacy skill development through small group interaction by teacher aides who have been specifically trained in the program.

As part of our revised literacy curriculum we have worked closely with our school-based Speech Pathologist to develop an early years literacy program for Prep. This also has a natural flow on effect in Years 1 and 2. Though in early stages for 2017, we are already seeing the benefits of this program with our preppies. The program involves students working through phonics and letter and word recognition to develop confidence in reading.

To further encourage our students to enjoy reading, commencing next week our library will be open between 8:15am and 8:45am on Tuesdays and Thursdays for book borrowing.

With the introduction of the robotics and coding curriculum, we are certainly keen to see our students progress in this area. With the range of mobile technologies available it is no surprise that this will be an industry with massive growth over the coming years. We want to give Moorooka students an advantage by providing them with robotics and coding opportunities. While staff and students are enjoying free range at the moment we will formally introduce our new curriculum to all year levels from Semester 2. We are collaborating with our regional STEM consultant to ensure our program will be five star.

For a comprehensive overview of our Strategic Plan, please visit our website: https://moorookass.eq.edu.au/Supportandresources/Formsanddocuments/Documents/Quadrennial%20school%20review/2017-20stratplan.pdf
Naplan
As you may recall, we were fortunate to be invited to participate in the trial of NAPLAN online in 2016. NAPLAN Online is a natural outcome of the increasing use of information and communications technology (ICT) in classrooms, with all Education ministers throughout Australia having agreed that NAPLAN tests will move online by 2019. Online assessment has the potential to enhance students’ digital literacy and provide more precise results through tailored questions. Students and parents now have the opportunity to take demonstration tests using the national online assessment platform. The demonstration tests are mini-tests that contain example questions to allow everyone to become familiar with the various types of technology-enhanced features NAPLAN Online uses. If your child is in Year 3 or 5 this year, and you would like to assist the class teachers with preparing your child for NAPLAN. The links below takes you to mini-tests for reading, writing, conventions of language (grammar, punctuation, spelling) and numeracy for each NAPLAN test year: 3, 5, 7 and 9.
https://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/naplan-online/naplan-online-public-demonstration-site

Parent Teacher Information Evening
Thank you to all those parents, carers and family members who attended our Parent Information Evening last Tuesday. Parents and carers were able to attend one of two identical sessions from classroom teachers about the school year ahead. It was wonderful to see the high level of parent attendance and participation – well done and thank you to parents and carers. Thank you also to our staff for giving up their evening.

ICAS
Moorooka State School is offering students from Years 2-6 the opportunity to participate in the 2017 International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) tests during Term 2 and Term 3. ICAS is an independent, academic assessment program comprising of six subject areas, graded appropriately for primary and secondary school students. New ICAS tests are developed annually for each subject in each year level.
The dates for the tests this year are: Digital Technologies 23 May; Science 30 May; Writing 12 June; Spelling 13 June; English 25 July and Mathematics 15 August. Most competitions cost $9.90 per student to enter, with Writing costing $19.80 and Spelling costing $13.20. Writing and Spelling are more expensive as the tests are marked individually and not electronically.
An explanatory letter with more detailed information will be sent home next week. For students intending to participate in any or all of the tests, will need to please complete the order form and return the correct money to the Office.

Cyber Safety
At Moorooka State School we value the importance of the safe and responsible use of technology as being critical to everyone having a positive experience online. The Cyber Safety message is clear and simple … and aligns with our Moorooka School Rules of Be Safe, Be Responsible and Be Respectful. We encourage all parents and carers to continue to regularly engage in conversations with their child/children about the safe, responsible and respectful use of social media and online technologies. This is an important message that needs to be revisited often.

We acknowledge "Safer Internet Day", a global initiative supported by the Australian Government with the theme this year "Be the change: unite for a better internet".

Below is a link to a DIY eSafety checklist that asks us to evaluate our online behaviour. How did you score?
If you require school uniforms, the uniform shop is located at our hall. The uniform shop opening hours are as follows:

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

Our uniform shop price list and order form can also be found on our website:

https://moorookass.eq.edu.au/Facilities/Uniformshop/Pages/Uniformshop.aspx

----

**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. Please note that approval is not necessarily a given and evidence will need to be submitted.

----

**Key Dates**

**February**

Teddy Bears Picnic:  Friday 17th  
2:00pm-3:00pm (Prep only)

Parent Teacher Interviews:  Monday 13th - Friday 17th

Parent-Teacher Interviews (Prep):  Saturday 25th

**March**

Historical Day (Fairfield Library):  Wednesday 8th

Gala Day 1 (Year 5 and 6):  Friday 17th

National “Bullying. No Way!” Day:  Friday 17th

Parade of Nations/Harmony Day:  Friday 31st

Cross Country Carnival:  Thursday 23rd
Year 3 to Year 6:  9:00am-10:50am  |  Prep to Year 2:  11:40am-1:10pm

Easter Parade (Prep - Year 2):  Wednesday 29th

Attendance Celebration:  Friday 31st

**School Choir**

Choir is open to all students in years 1-6. Rehearsals are before school starting at 8am every Tuesday with Ms Cooper.
Building Vocabulary

Building up a child’s vocabulary is one way to help them improve in reading and writing. Students come across new words in the texts they read and will often skip over words they don’t know, leading them to lose the meaning of what they are reading.

Conversations and questions about interesting words ("The book says, 'The boy tumbled down the hill,' and look at the picture! How do you think he went down the hill?") are easy ways to get new words into everyday talk. The best words to explore with your child are ones that are common among adult speakers but are less common to see in the books your child might read.

When introducing new words keep the following four helpful hints in mind:

First, provide a simple, kid-friendly definition for the new word: Enormous means that something is really, really big.

Second, provide a simple, kid-friendly example that makes sense within their daily life: Remember that really big watermelon we got at the grocery store? That was an enormous watermelon!

Third, encourage your child to develop their own example: What enormous thing can you think of? Can you think of something really big that you saw today? That's right! The bulldozer near the park was enormous! Those tires were huge.

Lastly, keep your new words active. Over the next few days and weeks, take advantage of opportunities to use each new vocabulary word in conversation.

Take the time to share new words and build your child's vocabulary. You'll be enormously glad you did!

Reading Eggs and Mathletics

Invoices for Reading Eggs and Mathletics have been sent out. If you have not received an invoice for this please contact the school office. Both programs are valuable resources that can be used at home and school for consolidation and practice of concepts. Please pay the invoice as soon as possible to ensure your child has access for the rest of the year to these great programs. Please contact your child’s class teacher for login details.
Banking
Banking day has changed to Monday. Monday 20th February will be the next banking day. 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) have been sent home. 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.

If you have not received an invoice please contact the school office. Payments need to be finalised by 10th March 2017.

Instrumental Music Program
Strings: Invoices for hire of school instruments and resource levy ($120.00) for your child to take his/her school hire instrument home. Please note you must pay the levies first. Students who have their own instrument are only required to pay the $35.00 resource levy. Payment is due 24th February. Non-payment of these fees will mean your child is withdrawn from the program.

Invoices for students who are part of the Band Instrumental Program will go out next week.

Voluntary Contribution
Letters regarding the voluntary contribution have also been sent home. As this is a voluntary contribution we cannot invoice for this. Methods of payment available are cash, cheque or EFT (either by coming into the school or we can send home an envelope to you to fill in the details and we process at school, all information is destroyed once the payment has been processed).

Gala Day
Gala Day invoices and information will be sent home when the information is received from the District Sports Convenor. This only involves children in Years 5 and 6.

Excursions and Camps
If you have more than one child or wish to pay for several excursions, you do not have to do separate payment envelopes for each they can all be combined in the one payment envelope.

For the payment of school camps we do offer a payment plan, but all monies must be finalised before your child attends camp.

Any child who has outstanding fees from previous years is not able to participate in instrumental music, school camps or gala day until the outstanding amount, and this years amount, is paid in full.
Library News

Words ... from the Library

From all reports the Valentine’s Day promotion was a big success. Special thanks came from the Year 4 classes who read “Robber Girl” by Margaret Wild and also from Miss Harvey and Mrs Salmon – these classes enjoyed their books as well.

Chess Club is now operating in the Library (first lunch) on a Wednesday under the expert guidance of Mr Wilkes – thanks to Mr Kerwin who has shuffled playground duties to make this possible.

Special Invitation: In the last newsletter I mentioned a function that is to be held at the Fairfield Library on 9 March (I may have previously given the wrong date!). This is an evening event and our School Leaders (Destiny, Isaac, Anthony and Luca) will be taking part. It will look at the past history of the school as well as what life is like at Moorooka School today. You are most welcome to attend – we would love to have an enthusiastic crowd.

Lost Property: On many occasions, hats, lunchboxes, drink bottles etc are left in the Library and, if they are named, I will send them back to the owners.
Unfortunately, last week, a new hat – with the student’s name clearly marked has gone missing. Would you please check your child has the correct one.

Notes: Many more children have now brought notes asking to borrow more books than the number officially allocated for each year level. If your child is an avid reader or, if you are trying to encourage your child to become an avid reader, please just send me a note and I will adjust the system accordingly.

Book Club: Book Club orders will arrive early next week

Chappy News

Chappy Pancakes
A very big thank you to all those who were able to join us in the courtyard for our first Chappy Pancakes for 2017. It was a great success and we managed to serve about 200 pancakes in 30mins. These events are held once each term with the next one scheduled for Wednesday, May 24. A federal government grant generously provides $20,000 each year to fund a chaplain in schools. However the costs of running chaplaincy and providing resources exceeds this amount so we fundraise to make up the deficit.

Breakfast Club
Moorooka State School partners with YMCA to provide breakfast before school for our students. WE are currently in need of 1 or 2 people to serve on Tuesday mornings from 8am until 8:40am. This involves cooking toast & serving cereal & milk. If you would be able to help please call or email me even if you are only available until the end of this term it would be greatly appreciated.

Lunchtime Activities
My room is open at first break on Wednesdays for Years 4 – 6 & Fridays for Years 1 – 3. We play the WiiU, do craft & board games & we have air-conditioning. Students need to go to the office & obtain a Chappy Pass to come along.

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.
Term 1 PE Lessons

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 ; 5/6A ; 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** – Year 3 - Year 6.
**Thursday 23 March 11.40am - 12.10pm** – Prep - Year 2.

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.
We were introduced to the World of Mindstorms in week 2 of this term. A world that we visit every Friday for an hour and undertake robotics.

In teams, students in 6A are given specific jobs, roles and responsibilities to carry out in their groups. They include architect, coder, builder and observer. Each role being critical in the design, creation and build of their Lego Mindstorm.

Available at Moorooka State School are the expansion packs that the students are utilising to invent their very own unique robot. Currently, all groups are up to the build stage, however in a few weeks the students will be using iPads to code their robot through obstacle courses and a number of other activities.

Maybe, we might get to the stage of getting them to do their Maths work? Who knows! We are loving using the Mindstorms and are very appreciative of the P&C and Mr. Kerwin for providing this wonderful opportunity.
Urgent Call Out - Tuckshop Volunteers!

In order to sustain the opening hours and operation of the tuckshop we need the help of parents and families.

Help is needed each day from 8.30 am and without the volunteers the tuckshop simply cannot operate and it is getting to crunch time.

So if you can help—please let us know asap! Any time you can spare would be greatly appreciated.

Please message Leesa on 0417591438 or Myf on 0439 707 084. If you have any questions please feel free to pop in and have a chat to Linda (our Tuckshop Convenor).

The P&C Executive....

For all our new families (and existing ones) a Happy new School year to you all. For those unaware, our P&C Executive currently consists of:

- Mandy Hill (President). Son in Grade 1, Daughter in Grade 4
- Selena Kirkman (Secretary). Daughters in Grade 1, 2 and 4
- Andrew Fisher (Treasurer). Son in Grade 1, Daughter in Grade 5
- John Milinkovic (Vice-President). Son in Grade 1 and Daughter in Grade 5
- Leesa Simpson (Vice-President). Daughter in Grade 1, Son in Grade 5
- Mele Adeholi (Vice President), Sister in Grade 5.

If you have any questions or concerns we can be contacted via the Facebook page or email us pandc@moorookass.eq.edu.au

If you would like to become a member of the P&C for 2017 (and we will be sending out more information soon) please download and print it from: https://moorookass.eq.edu.au/Ourcommunity/PandC/Pages/pandcmembership.aspx and return it to the office.

Upcoming P&C Meeting - All Welcome

Tuesday 21st of February
6.30 pm in the Library

Please note: You do not need to be a member to attend meetings
To all our wonderful Moorooka families,

Several parents have expressed an interest in this.

We would appreciate your feedback in regards to opening hours.
Please complete this simple survey and let us know your thoughts!
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Moorooka_Opening_Hours

We appreciate your time to complete this short survey.

Thank you very much from the School Plus Moorooka Team.

School Plus
Community Notices

Souths Juniors are looking to open their arms to all Rugby League players both Boys & Girls of all ages who want to play Rugby League. Our facilities are of high quality as are our Coaching Staff.

Our address & contact details are Mortimer Rd Acacia Ridge, Phone 32774914 or 0498511224. 5.30-8pm Monday-Thursday.

Grasshopper Soccer

AUSTRALIA’S # NON-COMPETITIVE SOCCER PROGRAM
FOR GIRLS & BOYS
AGES 2 TO 12 YRS

TRY IT FOR FREE

WISHART STATE SCHOOL
SATURDAY 4th and 11th FEBRUARY

ROCHEDALE SOUTH and
HOLLAND PARK
STATE SCHOOLS
SUNDAY 5th and 12th FEBRUARY

Take this opportunity
to try it out for free

Please call Grasshopper David
To book your free place
PHONE 1300 757 004 / 0432 629 501
PLEASE NOTE PLACES ARE LIMITED

ALL ABOARD MOOROOKA
SWAP TILL YOU DROP
COMMUNITY
PICNIC BRUNCH

SUNDAY MARCH 5
9AM TO 1PM

ROOSTERS OVAL ALEXANDER PARK
BEAUDESERT ROAD MOOROOKA

BRING
your kids
your dog
your granny
brunch to share
a chair or rug
stuff to swap or give away

DO
free sausage sizzle
play cricket
face painting
swap stuff
free dog hydrobath
live music
presentation by BrisLETS

INFO
allboardmoorooka@gmail.com
Jacob Hunt Aus No 1 Wallrunner

Community Choir for Moorooka Residents and Friends

Moorooka resident and highly esteemed Choir Mistress, Yani, warmly invites Moorooka residents and friends of Moorooka to join a new community choir. Yani will be holding four training workshops leading to a performance at the Moorooka Laneway Festival on 18 March.

All over 8 are welcome and no experience necessary.

Training workshops are scheduled from 6pm to 8pm on Friday 24 Feb, 3,10 and 17 March, at the Moorooka Sports and Community Club, leading to the performance at the Moorooka Laneway Festival on 18 March.

Cost is $50 for the four workshops.

For more information and/or to book a place in the choir, please contact Donna on Donna.Bowe@brisbane.qld.gov.au