



**Yarrabah
School**

*"The small school
with a big heart"*

Yarrabah School

Newsletter #1

February 8th, 2017

Dear families,

Welcome back to another school year at Yarrabah School.

Every year our families share the joy and delight of returning to school after a long break away. Staff have undertaken weeks of preparation that culminated on Wednesday the 1st of February. Bryan Jeffrey, a Registered Psychiatric Nurse and author, spoke to staff about understanding and responding to student's mental health, trauma and challenging behaviour. Bryan spoke compassionately about young people and helped us consider ways we might better understand the needs of all children at Yarrabah.

This year promises to focus on student engagement, development and wellbeing. It is a year of implementation in which many of the goals we set ourselves two years ago will be realised. To achieve some of these goals we will:

- Provide a safe and caring learning environment through KidsMatter initiatives, Student Voice, buddy programs and honest conversations with students, parents and staff.
- Place a huge emphasis on a revitalised 'Personal and Social Learning' curriculum with individual timetables adopted across the school.
- Provide families with the support, advice and guidance required with parenting, support packages and the NDIS.
- Provide regular parent and carer information sessions by external providers in the Community Hub.
- Embed and communicate the new Teaching and Learning Framework (REAL) across the school community.
- Introduce a formalised 'My Pathways' program in the Seniors and Inters section.
- Improve students access to functional communication by providing core vocab within each learning area.
- Employ greater numbers of experienced teachers and specialists across the school.
- Continue to improve student outcomes in phonemic awareness and reading.
- Provide increased opportunities for students to engage in extra curricula activities.
- Allocate a therapist to each section of the school within each discipline.
- Prioritise an Arts based approach by employing three music specialists and an art teacher.
- Prioritise health and PE by employing three PE specialists.
- Continue to adopt a structured, explicit and consistent approach to instruction across the entire school.
- Continue to develop the Schools Master Building Plan by working with the State Government to achieve funding for a new school.

We have many things planned for the year and these will be updated on the school calendar found on the website which I encourage you all to check regularly. We also use Tiqbiz as a way of keeping you informed of things coming up. You can download Tiqbiz from iTunes or Google Play - <http://tiqbiz.com/au/school-app/> (password - Y5142).

Once again welcome back to Yarrabah and we look forward to working with you this year.

Kind Regards,

Matthew Harris
Principal

Important Dates - 2017

Newsletter #1

Special Blackwood Camp

Mon Feb 6th – Wed Feb 8th

Art & Music Blackwood Camp

Mon Feb 13th – Wed Feb 15th

Student Ability Assessments begin

Monday February 13th

Seniors Travel Education begins

Tuesday February 14th

School Leaders Assembly

Friday February 17th

School Council Nominations open

Monday February 20th

SSG's begin

Monday February 20th

Chesterfield Farm Excursion

Friday February 24th

Come and See Health & P.E Week begins

Monday February 27th

EEP Parent information sharing session

Tuesday February 28th, 4-5pm

Surfing at Point Leo Surf Life Saving Club

Saturday March 4th

Art Excursion to NGV – David Hockney Exhibition

Monday March 6th

Labour Day Public Holiday – Student free

Monday March 13th

Windermere NDIS Parent Info Morning

Wednesday March 15th

Come and See SAKG Week begins

Monday March 20th

School Council Meeting and AGM

Monday March 20th

Alpine Bike Camp

Monday March 27th – Friday March 31st

Term 1 ends

Friday March 31st - 2:30pm finish

Terms 2, 3 & 4 Dates - 2017

Term 2

April 18th (Tues) – June 30th

Term 3

July 17th – Sept 22nd

Term 4

Oct 9th – Dec 22nd

Curriculum Days - 2017

January 30th and 31st

February 1st

August 4th

October 27th

Create, connect and reflect

Art Therapy for carers - All welcome

Groups will be run weekly by a qualified Arts Therapist.

Begins: February 22nd

Days: Wednesday and Thursday

Time: 9:15am - 11:15am

Venue: Community Hub at Yarrabah