Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back to another fun filled and exciting year at North Eton State School. We have plenty installed for you all this year but I thought I might introduce some new faces before we get started.

This year we have 3 new students and two new teachers including:

- Mrs Mitchell - Music
- Mr Shew - LOTE (Japanese).
- Honor McKenzie (Prep)
- Abbey Deguara (Year 7)
- Ethan Hardy (Year 6).

A very big warm welcome to you all!

A big congratulations to our Year 6 and 7 students who gave a school leader speech on parade this morning. The younger students certainly enjoyed hearing how you are going to make 2014 a special year. A badge ceremony will be held later in the term with more information following in the next week or so.
Picking up and dropping off

Due to our increased enrolments at the school (which is wonderful to see), there has been an increase in traffic in the carpark. I ask you to please park out the front of the school and allow your children to walk up the pathway to the front gate. It is really important that students not enter or exit the school through the teacher’s car park as staff are coming and going at different times. Student safety is of utmost importance to us.

Absences

Please be reminded that if your child/ren are going to be absent, a phone call, email or text is required so that an absence code can be documented. If no communication is given, an “unexplained” will be documented.

Annual Implementation Plan 2014

This year we will continue with our focus on student improvement. To achieve greater educational outcomes we will continue to focus on:

- **Reading improvement** – this means we will have clear learning goals for each student that they will be familiar with.
- **Attendance** – in 2013 we improved our attendance significantly and this saw an improvement in student achievement. It is absolutely vital that we have every student at school, on time and in uniform every day. Explicit instruction (EI) – Last year one of our focus areas was explicit instruction, which is Central Queensland’s ‘signature pedagogy’ or form of teaching practice. You would probably remember me talking about the ‘I do, we do and you do,’ last year. Research shows that this is an extremely useful teaching process and we have certainly seen improvement in student achievement as a result of EI.

Great Results Guarantee

A recent announcement indicated that state schools will be receiving a special grant. Our grant is generous, but we are required to submit a plan on how we will use the funds. I am attending a meeting on Friday morning with our Assistant Regional Director, Principal Education Officer, Pedagogical Coach and other small school principals in the Pioneer Valley to find out more information and discuss our options. More information will be advised next week.

P&C Meeting

Our first P&C Meeting for the year will be on Thursday afternoon at 2:45pm in the Library. Everybody is welcome and I look forward to seeing you there to discuss plans for the forthcoming year.

Lunches

An adequate lunch during the school day provides the energy needed to satisfactorily participate in activities. Here in the tropics parents are faced with the problem of food becoming less desirable or even spoiling. We are lucky enough to have 2 fridges in the school specifically for student use. One is located in the lunch area, and the other on the verandah outside the classroom.

Children are encouraged to take uneaten food home and to discuss likes, dislikes and quantity with you. Drinks in glass and cans are forbidden as they constitute a danger – plastic containers must be used.

**SOFTDRINKS, CHEWING GUM, BUBBLE GUM, LOLLIES AND CHOCOLATES ARE NOT PERMITTED.**

Uniforms

New school shirts are available for purchase from the school office. At this stage, we only ordered 2 of each size (4 – 14), however another order will be submitted in the upcoming weeks. School hats and shorts are also available for purchase. Prices will be discussed at the P&C Meeting on Thursday afternoon.
Leadership Day

A permission form will be sent home early next week for all Year 6 and 7 students to attend the annual GRIP Leadership Day. This will be held at the MECC on Tuesday 18th February. Students will be involved in interactive activities, discussions, leadership games and entertainment.

Community Notices

WELL LADIES HAVE YOU HAD A BUSY HOLIDAY AND YOU NEED TO JUST TAKE TIME FOR YOURSELF AFTER LOOKING AFTER EVERYONE ELSE. I HAVE JUST THE PLACE TO GO. HOW ABOUT BRINGING YOUR UNFINISHED CRAFT OR START ONE THAT YOU RECEIVED FOR CHRISTMAS TO ETON ETON NORTH CRAFT DAY. MAYBE YOU JUST WANT A DAY TO TALK OR LEARN A NEW CRAFT OR JUST HAVE A “ME MORNING”. YOU DESERVE IT AFTER SUCH A BUSY CHRISTMAS BREAK. C’ME ON, YOU GET MORNING TEA THAT YOU DIDN’T HAVE TO MAKE AND IT’LL ONLY COST YOU A GOLD COIN.

Qcwa Hall North Eton, Mill Street 9.30am THURSDAY 6TH FEBRUARY

Contact
Yvonne Bowman 49541129

WESTS NETBALL SIGN ON

Wests Netball Sign On Dates are as follows:
Mirani State School (undercover area) on Tuesday 4th February, 3.30 - 5pm.

Wests Netball Grading

Marian State School on Saturday 8th Feb from 9am (age groups TBA).
New players are welcome from Under 9s through to Seniors. For further information go to westsnb@gmail.com