Welcome to 2016!

I would like to wish everyone a very warm welcome to the 2016 school year and trust that you had a fun and relaxing holiday. I would especially like to welcome the 6 new Prep students who started their journey through formal education. We have a number of new families who have joined the Parke State School community and we look forward to a long and successful working relationship with all of them.

I am very proud to have been appointed the Acting Principal of Parke State School for 2016 while Mrs Mac is on maternity leave.

In my first week I have visited all classrooms and spoken with students about their learning. It is very evident that we have hardworking and passionate staff who go above and beyond, to make sure that every child is working to their full potential every day. The students at Parke State School have been delightful and made me feel very welcome in my first week.

We also welcome new and returning staff to 2016.

Mrs Anne Faint has returned in her role as Business Service Manager and I would like to congratulate Anne on the amazing effort and hard ‘behind the scenes’ work she has put in to ensure everyone had a smooth start to 2016.

Mr Dale Dakin has begun as our PE teacher and brings with him a wealth of knowledge. Dale is very enthusiastic to join our school and we look forward to having him here.

Parades - Parades will now be held every Monday morning at 9am. Parents, family and friends are always welcome to join us on parade.

School Leaders - Our captains will be receiving their badges in a ceremony in Week 5 on Friday, February 26th at 9am.

Maths Textbooks - This week an invoice was sent home with each individual child for the purchasing of students Maths textbooks. If you have any queries regarding this, please feel free to contact the office or see your child’s teacher.

Updating Contact Information - With the start of a new year school year it is a timely to remind for parents/caregivers to ensure their contact details, including address and phone numbers, are updated on the schools system.

I have enjoyed meeting parents, and as the term progresses I encourage you to come to the school and have a chat.

Thank you again to all of the staff, students and parents for a fabulous start to the term, I am very excited about the amazing work that is and will continue to occur within Parke State School.

Kind regards,

Mrs Frost
**2016 School Priorities**

As you are aware we are always working towards better results for learners. Our **School Priorities for 2016 at Parke State School include:**

- **Reading** - Improving student reading and comprehension: Teachers will be working diligently to ensure every room has a balanced reading program and that the strategies and vocabulary used within the classroom is consistent across year levels and within the school.

- **Numeracy** - This year will see Numeracy Rich Routines occurring in every classroom. Numeracy Rich Routines are 10-minute, structured activities where students are given a task to do which requires them to engage in a task and share their thinking. Activity focuses change every 3 weeks or so and are encouraging children to explain their answer and to identify if it is the most efficient method to solve a problem.

- **Upper 2 Bands** – This project aims at having all children improving and is specifically aimed at ensuring that we are giving every child the opportunity to showcase their knowledge. It requires our staff to plan to extend the highest students in the class, as well as those who may be experiencing difficulties.

- **Attendance** – This year Parke State School has a target of achieving a 94% attendance rate. This can only be achieved with students being at school and making ‘Every day count’.

  Every day counts is a state wide initiative that aims to assist in improving student attendance at school through a shared commitment by students, parents, caregivers, schools and the community. Attending school is imperative and directly related to student’s success. If students are too unwell to attend school please ensure you notify the office. If students have medical appointments, if possible, we encourage students to attend part of the day rather than having the whole day off.

  Conversations around attendance will become part of Parke State Schools culture, with the whole school’s weekly attendance rate displayed on the notice board at the front of the school.

  **I am very excited to announce that for the three days in Week One we achieved an attendance rate of 99.3%. Woohoo! This is fabulous! Well done!**

  At Parke State School we endeavour to move the school in a positive direction and ensure all students, staff, parents and community members thoughts and opinions are heard and that the focus for our school is on student learning.

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**In Other News**

Mrs S is on the hunt for magazines for her Arts unit. If you have any old magazines lying around your home that you no longer want, Mrs S would greatly appreciate them.

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**COMMUNITY NOTICES**

Maryborough Community Kindergarten and Pre-Prep—Are you looking for caring, fun, safe, inspiring and educational environment for your child to begin their lifelong journey of learning? Why not enrol them at the Maryborough Community Kindergarten and Pre-Prep where your child will have access to quality early education and care within a supportive, local community. Health Care Card Subsidies are available for Pre-Prep children also. Taking Enrolments now for 2016. Please also contact us if you were on our waiting list for 2016. If interested, please phone the Kindy on 41213865

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**School Banking**

"Welcome back Parke students. School banking will resume this week with the banking day being Tuesday’s. Banking packs were sent home with new students, current banking students and those students that showed interest in the program. The theme this year is Outback which sees students being rewarded with a prize after every 10 deposits are made (remember its the number of deposits that are made, not how much the deposit is). As well as this, we will be running some activities, competitions and incentives for banking students to get them excited about saving. There is also a fantastic family trip to Australia Zoo up for grabs to those students that make 15 or more deposits by the end of term 3. That's it for now from the banking team. Happy saving. Hollie and Bec"