Dear Parents and Friends

**Happy New Year and welcome back to our 2015 school year.**

Welcome to our first Ridge News for the term. We extend a very warm welcome to all new students and parents to our great school. We would especially like to welcome all our new students in Prep. I know that they have had a great start to their schooling. Often first impressions are vital to new students as it can make or break their success or ‘comfortableness’ at school. With your support, we are certainly doing our best to ensure this is so.

As well as the new students, we have a number of new and returning staff appointed to our school. I know they are excited about their start at Bracken Ridge State School. New staff members are:

- Mr Nic White transferring in from Wynnum West SS
- Mrs Shona McEvoy returning from maternity leave (previously Miss McClelland).
- Miss Jane-Elizabeth Harris returning from maternity leave.
- Mrs Katie Lawler returning from maternity leave; and,
- Mrs Nunzi Hyde appointed to the BSM position (sharing with Mrs Elwynne Buckley)

With the departure of a large group of Year 6 and 7 students to High school, our starting enrolment is around 380 students including 50 Prep students. We have
dropped two class groupings from 17 to 15 classes. We hope to build on these numbers as we go through the year.

**Great Start to 2015**

Thank you to all parents and guardians for preparing your children ready for the new school year. Most students were excited to start school again evident by their keenness and great smiles. I hope this will be a habit they will try continue to keep right throughout the year. We appreciate the effort and sacrifices that parents have gone into getting students ready for school with stationery supplies and required texts. Readiness for learning is a big part of our preparation for getting students ready for school.

Remember the $40.00 contribution for each student. It is a “voluntary” levy and parents may choose to pay off by making arrangements with our Business Services Manager, Mrs Buckley or Mrs Hyde to formulate a payment plan.

**Required Texts**

THRASS Charts are available from the office for all students in Years 1, 2 and 3. Students may use their charts from the previous year. Please return these to the classroom teacher.

All students Years 1 – 6 are also asked to purchase a “CARS” Reading Book available from the school office in the near future at the cost of around $7.00. Please hold off on purchasing these until you are notified on arrival of these in the school.

**Staff List 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
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<tr>
<td>Prep 1</td>
<td>Mrs Donna Hobbs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prep 2</td>
<td>Miss Jane Elizabeth Harris</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 1A</td>
<td>Miss Courtney Jefferies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 1B</td>
<td>Mrs Maree Kuhneman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 2A</td>
<td>Miss Julie-anne McMackin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 2B</td>
<td>Miss Tabatha Eske/Mrs Alison Gillies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3A</td>
<td>Mrs Shona McEvoy/Mrs Katie Lawler</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 3B</td>
<td>Miss Jade Sercombe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 3/4C</td>
<td>Mrs Debra Beier</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 4A</td>
<td>Mrs Kate West/Mrs Esther Douglas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 4B</td>
<td>Mr Nic White</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 5A</td>
<td>Mr Jason Morish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5B</td>
<td>Mrs Rachel Gaskin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6A</td>
<td>Mrs Cheryl Narracott</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Year 6B: Miss Sara Reynolds
Head of Learning: Miss Louise Celledoni
HOSES: Mrs Wendy Bryde
SEP Teacher: Mrs Dianna Skillen
SEP Teacher: Mrs Esther Douglas (1.5 days)
Guidance: Mrs Julie Bagley
STLaN: Mrs Sam Hawton (Learning Support)
Literacy/Numeracy Coach: Vacant
Music: Mrs Annette Grant
HPE: Mr Wayne Moore
LOTE: Miss Tara Cleave
Library: Mrs Jill Borrowdale
Deputy Principal: Mr Ben Laws
Principal: Mr Mai Lupo

There are other visiting teachers to support other areas such as:
Mrs Beth Campbell: Speech Pathologist
Mr Malcolm James: Instrumental Music
Mr Dan Simpson: Instrumental Music (Percussion)

Business Services Manager

After a vigorous and very successful selection process, Mrs Elwynne Buckley and Mrs Nunzi Hyde have been appointed as joint BSMs for our school. Congratulations to both Elwynne and Nunzi as the selection process followed Queensland Government rules. Both will be working 2.5 days each. Thank you to all applicants and our best wishes in securing a position in the future.

Parent Information Afternoons/Evening

Just a reminder about our parent information evenings during Week 3. This is a time for parents to hear the expectations and regulations of students attending BRSS. An invitation will be forwarded directly to parents next week. Students in Prep to Year 3 will conduct their afternoon on Tuesday, 10 February and Years 4 – 7 will be held on Wednesday, 11 February. Come along and meet your child’s teacher as well as familiarising yourself with what your child will be learning for this year.

P and C

Congratulations to our P and C on being able to secure two major grants to support the redevelopment of our Year 2/3 playground area. They were successful in
securing a $20,000 Brisbane City Council and Education Queensland for an artificial turf soccer ground and a $34,000 Gaming Commission grant to redevelop the playground equipment for the Year 2 and 3s. Special congratulations to Bronwyn Brown who coordinated both projects.

The P and C will hold a fundraising barbecue and cake stall at the school for the elections this Saturday at the Bracken Ridge State School Election Booth operating out of our school hall. Parents are asked to donate a home cooked item for the cake stall and also to volunteer a small part of your time to support the barbecue as you arrive for voting. Funds raised will contribute towards the redevelopment of our Year 2/3 playground. Your support will be greatly appreciated. If you can help, please contact our school office on 38697888 or Bronwyn Brown on 0402 459 164.

School Communication

School communication via school Newsletter is one of our key communication mediums here at BRSS. School newsletters are printed and released to our community every two weeks, mostly on a Thursday in electronic form. There will be no paper copies of our newsletter unless you have made special arrangements with our school office for a very basic paper version.

All parents are asked to notify our school office and supply an email address if this has not already been done, so that the newsletter can be transmitted to you for your own private copy. It will also be available from our school website www.bracridgss.eq.edu.au

Please update your details as soon as possible with the school office, especially your email addresses to ensure that you don’t miss out on this essential communication. Email our Ridge Talk Editor Carol Fisher on cfish63@eq.edu.au

Parents may also like to download the Q Schools App, available from our website that will allow school events and calendar dates to be communicated directly to your smartphone or electronic device such as Ipad or tablet.

Best wishes for a great year.

Mai Lupo
Principal

Deputy Principal's Column
Welcome back to the 2015 school year. A special welcome to all our new families, especially those in Prep. Welcome also to our new staff members, returning staff and members of the Bracken Ridge School community. We are all looking forward to a year full of exciting learning.

It has been extremely pleasing to see while travelling around to all classes over the first three days of the school year just how focussed and engaged all students seem to be. I believe this is in part to students making a conscientious effort about their decision making in and out of the classroom as well as to the work teachers have done in setting up structures for the beginning of the year.

Congratulations to all staff and student for a wonderful start to the 2015 school year as well as to parents and families for their support of this.

**Student Behaviour**

At Bracken Ridge we are committed to providing a safe respectful and disciplined learning environment for students and staff.

We have high expectations around behaviour. This is something that all staff work extremely hard on and want to continue to build upon, ensuring that all students feel safe and enjoy coming to school and have the potential to achieve the best they possibly can.

The school has a Responsible Behaviour Plan for students which has just been revised last year and signed off by the school’s P&C. It is designed to facilitate high standards of behaviour so that learning and teaching in the school can be effective and students can participate positively within the school community.

Our school rules have been agreed upon and endorsed by all staff and our school P&C. They are aligned with the values, principles and expected standards outlined in Education Queensland’s Code of School Behaviour. While classroom rules may be different from class to class they all still relate to the overall school rules.

As a staff we view it as important that all parents are made aware of their child’s behaviour, while we celebrate success in the classroom through the use of Green Cards, Gotchas and on assembly each week recognising excellent student behaviour & effort through achievement awards, it is also important for parents to know if their child is making inappropriate choices at school, or choices which may be interfering with their or other’s learning.
Our school seeks to ensure that responses to unacceptable behaviour are consistent and proportionate to the nature of the behaviour. Subsequently student behaviour choices are related to a card system.

If a student receives a **Green Card** this indicates that they are able to manage their own behaviour and it may be recognised on occasions through an incentive or privilege.

Students may receive a **Blue Card** typically for not following directions, being disruptive or for the use of inappropriate language or inappropriately playing. Parents or carers are asked to sign these cards to make them aware of the behaviour their child is exhibiting.

Students will receive an **Orange Card** for behaviour such as inappropriate use of technology, continued insolence or disobedience, threatening and harassing behaviour or fighting. Parents or carers will again be asked to sign these cards to make them aware of the behaviour their child is exhibiting, as well as the child may receive detention, be withdrawn from play or classroom activities, as well as may be referred for extra support.

If cases of inappropriate behaviour continue parents may be asked to come to the school for an interview to discuss their child’s behaviour. It is important that if this request is made, parents are able to come to the school to meet with Mr Lupo, or myself and at times the class teacher as this is an opportunity for the school, parents and the child to work together so as they can begin to experience success again.

Our focus this year continues to be developing consistency across the school in regards to language used, expectations around and responses to behaviour.

I would certainly encourage any parent or carer that has any questions about the school’s Responsible Behaviour Plan or behaviour in general to talk with their child’s teacher, as well I would be happy to speak with parents about concerns or queries. By working together we can ensure that students have opportunities to quality learning experiences and acquire values supportive of their life long wellbeing.

*This year we will also be continuing with the Bracken Ridge State School Awards Program.*

*All students have begun the year on (Bronze – Responsible) and will have opportunity to work their way up to achieve (Gold-Honour or Silver- Merit), based on their behaviour decisions throughout the term.*
Students who achieve any of the above awards will also be rewarded with a certificate and will have the opportunity to participate in organised extra-curricular activities at the end of each term.

**QUT Optometry Vision Screenings 2015**

On the 18th of March our school has the opportunity to host a number of QUT Optometry and Vision Science students (accompanied by a supervisor) to conduct some vision testing.

The main purpose of vision screenings is to identify children who have or are at risk of developing ‘lazy eye’ (amblyopia), which can lead to permanent visual impairment unless treated in early childhood. Early intervention and correction as a result of detecting this condition, betters the chance for a child to obtain maximal vision and reduces the potential long-term effects on their learning ability.

Other conditions that can be detected within the screening including ‘turned eye’ (strabismus), ‘eye coordination problems’ (binocular vision), long and short-sightedness, astigmatism and eye health abnormalities such as cataracts or glaucoma.

Consent forms will need to be signed by the parents or guardians of all students attending the vision screenings. Unfortunately without this signed consent form, a vision screening will be unable to be conducted.

Students will be also be provided with a letter for their parents which indicates if they passed the vision screening, require further testing or a full eye examination. These letters will be posted back to the school to be distributed to parents.

If a child does not meet expectations within the screening it is strongly advised that they have a consultation with an optometrist for a full comprehensive eye examination.

Parents can bring the children into the QUT Health Clinics at Kelvin Grove for a comprehensive vision screening at no cost or alternatively they can take the letter to their local optometrist for further testing.

Due to a limited number of places for this opportunity it is important that if you would like your child/ren to be screened, please respond to myself via email: blaws19@eq.edu.au Or alternatively, please contact me via the Office. Parents who are interested will then be given a consent form to complete and return. As we need 35 children across the school to make this viable, it is important to make contact if
you are interested. The first 35 families who return consent forms will be included as part of the screening program.

**Date Claimers:-**

- **Year 6 Camp** will be held from Wednesday 4\(^{th}\) March through to Friday 6\(^{th}\) March this year. It will be held at the same venue as last year – Alexandra Park. A note will go home early next week to gauge the level of interest of students in attending the camp. Permission notes, medical forms and notes with more detail about the camp will be sent out over the couple of weeks.

Thank you and I look forward to sharing more in the next edition of the newsletter

Ben Laws

**Guidance Officer Introduction**

My name is Julie Bagley and I am the Guidance Officer (GO) for students at Bracken Ridge State School (BRSS). I’d like to welcome you to the New Year and a new start to the school year. I commenced at BRSS in 2014 having previously worked in schools as a Prep-Year 12 Guidance Officer in the Metropolitan Brisbane Region, Central West Queensland District and the Brisbane School of Distance Education. Prior to working as a GO I taught for many years at different locations across southern Queensland.

**What is a Guidance Officer?**

Guidance Officers are teachers with specialist professional training in counselling and psycho-educational assessment.

**Guidance Officer Availability**

I work 1½ days per week at Bracken Ridge State School, visiting other schools during the rest of the week. I work at Bracken Ridge State School on Wednesday afternoon and all day Thursday.

**Guidance Officer Contact**

I am contactable via phone on the days that I attend Bracken Ridge State School or via email on jbagl5@eq.edu.au.

**Guidance Officer Referrals**

Due to the limited available time, access to the GO is determined through the special needs committee referral process and the Principal and Deputy Principal. Students
may be referred to the GO should they require specialist intervention and support. In some instances, parents consult private agencies, independent of the school and provide relevant information to the school.

**The Guidance Officer Role involves:**

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<th>Educational Matters</th>
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<th>Career Counselling</th>
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<tr>
<td>· Educational assessment</td>
<td>· Family concerns</td>
<td>· Decision making</td>
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<td>· Motivation and goals</td>
<td>· Peer pressures</td>
<td>· Interests and abilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>· Learning styles</td>
<td>· Bullying and conflicts</td>
<td>· Career goals</td>
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<td>· Work habits</td>
<td>· Grief and loss</td>
<td>· Action plans</td>
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<tr>
<td>· Time management</td>
<td>· Self-esteem</td>
<td>· Education and training options</td>
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<tr>
<td>· Behaviour management</td>
<td>· Confidence</td>
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<tr>
<td>· Anger management</td>
<td>· Relationships</td>
<td>· Motivation to attend school</td>
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<td>· Social skilling</td>
<td>· Coping Strategies</td>
<td>· Valuing learning and education</td>
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<td>· Early Childhood intervention</td>
<td>· Resilience</td>
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<tr>
<td>· Parenting skills</td>
<td>· Stress Management</td>
<td>· Occupational and career options</td>
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<td></td>
<td>· Outside agency links</td>
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- liaising with other agencies and making appropriate referrals.
- assisting with the identification, diagnosis and enrolment of students with low incidence special needs.
- working collaboratively with teachers and other specialist support staff within education.
- collaborating with students, their parents, teachers, specialist staff and community agencies to promote improved learning outcomes for students.
- identification of factors that can be barriers to learning and development, planning/assisting with planning interventions or support programs to assist students to achieve improved learning outcomes.
- assessment of a student’s developmental levels and abilities.

**Free Psychological Services**
In 2015 Bracken Ridge State School will be offering students and their families free psychological services delivered on the school premises through Youth Excel. This service is being coordinated at school through the Guidance Officer, Julie Bagley.

Youth Excel offer free individual or small group sessions with Psychologists and Mental Health Social Workers delivered on the school premises in school hours.

Youth Excel’s onsite practitioners deliver most services free as long as your young person is able to obtain a Mental Health Care Plan from your GP, Paediatrician or Psychiatrist. Under some circumstances, parents and schools request special reports or assessments, usually for school funding applications. These services are not covered by Medicare and are charged to either the parent or school by prior negotiation.

Youth Excel has a passionate team of fully qualified workers who specialise in children and adolescents. Their practitioners will tailor-make a Treatment Plan for each student with clear outcomes. They place a high priority on working collaboratively with parents, carers, significant others, as well as student support teams and teachers to ensure the best possible outcomes.

If you would like to know more about the service and how to access the service please make a time to meet with Julie Bagley, the Guidance Officer, through the school.

**Does Youth Excel work for our school?**

No, Youth Excel is fully independent of the school system. Youth Excel is bound by the State Privacy Laws as a minimum standard in relation to collection, use, disclosure and storage of personal information. You determine whether you would like us to work in partnership with your young person’s school, though we do encourage this in order to maximise the outcome for young people.

To find out more you can visit their website at youthexcel.com.au

**PARENTS PLEASE REMEMBER TO CHECK YOUR CHILD/REN AT THIS TIME OF THE YEAR FOR ANY EVIDENCE OF HEAD LICE.**

**RIDGEHILLS UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB**

Ridgehills Soccer Club is a small family orientated club located in Stanley Day Park, 75 Grand Street Bald Hills. Online registrations are now open for all players (from Squirts to Seniors) interested in playing soccer this year. If you would like to register in person, we
are holding our sign on days on Saturday 31 January and 1 February from 10.00am to 2.00pm.

Our Squirts program is for those keen little guys and gals between 3 & 5 years who want to start playing Football now. We have a 30 - 60 minute training and game program on a Saturday morning for them. For any enquiries, please contact Aaron Punter onssf@rhufc.com or 0431729288 or Michael Hentscher onregistrar@rhufc.com or 0416 371 810.

Vacancy - School Crossing Supervisors

Casual positions exist for School Crossing Supervisors at multiple schools throughout the region. Please tell neighbours, friends and family of these positions available. Please help us to help our students.

School Crossing Supervisor positions are for up to 5 days per week on a roster. Remuneration $27.49 per hour.
Contact the Brisbane North Road Safety Office for more information
Phone: 3863 9873
Email: zillmere_road_safety@tmr.qld.gov.au

PARENTS PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THERE IS NO PARKING IN THE SCHOOL GROUNDS AS THIS ENDANGERS THE SAFETY OF OUR STUDENTS. THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING.

BRACKEN RIDGE STATE SCHOOL Facebook Page is now available. Please 'like' our page and share with other parents at our school. We will endeavour to use this page to keep you informed with upcoming school events as they happen.
If you would like the school newsletter emailed directly to you, please email Carol Fisher on cfish63@eq.edu.au or phone the school office on 3869 7888. Our newsletter is also available via our School Website. If you are unable to access the internet, a paper copy can be collected from the office on request.

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BRACKEN RIDGE, QLD 4017

07 3869 7888
07 3869 7800

the.principal@bracridgss.eq.edu.au

http://www.bracridgss.eq.edu.au