From the Principal…

A warm welcome back in 2014 to all of our new and existing families. The students have had a great week and are settling into their new school routines with ease. The classroom teachers are actively teaching the school expectations in terms of classroom procedures, routines, transitions and behaviour. We are primed to continue with expanding our implementation of Explicit Instruction to maximise on task teaching and learning time. As a result, all teachers have organised their classrooms and devised a students seating plan so all students are actively engaged in learning. Each student has been assigned a learning buddy whom they will work with, to reinforce taught content. Every few weeks, the partners will be changed around. In order to minimise disruptions, students are generally not placed with their playground friends. All students are taught the expectations around co-operative learning and therefore need to follow these.

Staff for 2014

Our school community, welcomes Miss Kirra O’Brien, who is replacing Miss Forbes, (currently on leave), for Semester One. I would encourage everyone to feel free to touch base with your child’s classroom teacher in every year level. We welcome frequent communication so we can take a team approach so your child maximises their learning progress. As the old saying goes- “It takes a whole village to raise a child”. So the modern day version of this is it takes a whole school community to educate a child to the best of their ability. We look forward to working with all of our families in 2014, and watching all of our wonderful students grow and blossom.

We as also delighted to have secured a Music Teacher for 2104. Mr Malcolm Langerak will be here on Fridays to conduct lessons with all year levels. We also welcome a new LOTE teacher, Miss Fiona Chapman, who will conduct German lessons with Years 5,6 & 7. So let’s all make the effort to make every day count.

Our other teachers remain unchanged. Mrs Peach will continue to teach Years 3 & 4 and Mrs Kowitz and Mrs Martin will share Years 5/6/7.

Around the Classrooms ...

Prep—Yr 2 (Miss O’Brien) Miss O’Brien has written an introductory letter to all of her new students and families. Please take the time to read it as it has lots of classroom news.

Yrs 3/4 (Mrs Peach) All students have settled in well into the classroom routine and I am looking forward to working closely with all parents and students. Next week we are starting homework. The expectations for our class homework is on the front of the homework book. Any questions please come and see me.

Yrs 5/6/7 (Mrs Kowitz/Mrs Martin) This week we have been testing students to see how well they know their number facts. All students will be setting 5 week goals to improve mastery of their number facts. We will be practising every day at school and students will also have activity sheets to help them practise at home.
This fortnight’s positive learning expectation is:

**Be ready to Learn**

*Tent Hill Lower is a School Wide Positive Behaviour School!*

At Tent Hill Lower we reward our students who have demonstrated ongoing positive behaviours. Participation in extra curricular activities and leadership positions are dependent on maintaining good behaviours.

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**SCHOOL NEWS...**

**DATE CLAIMER...**

**PARENT WELCOME BBQ, INFORMATION SESSION AND STUDENT LEADER BADGE PRESENTATION.**

On Thursday 13th February, at 5.00pm, we invite all families to attend a Parent Information session which will provide you with an overview of our school for 2014. It is also an opportunity to ask questions and to meet our school staff. We have developed a new look school calendar/handbook combined to give to every family, so you have a snapshot of this year’s activities as well as school policies.

Following this, we will hold a short presentation for this year’s School Captains, Vice Captains and student leader badges.

The P&C will then provide a BBQ to celebrate the 2014 school year. More information about the BBQ is soon to follow. Please mark the date on your calendars.

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**SCHOOL BOOKS**

We apologise for any confusion around the purchase of textbooks for this year. Due to circumstances the school has asked the newsagencies in Gatton to stock and supply the Maths Plus and Grammar Conventions textbooks. Thank you to all of our families who have purchased student stationery requirements and donated paper and tissues. When students have all of their classroom requirements, it minimises class disruptions and increases time spent on teaching and learning.

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**CONTACT DETAILS**

If any of your contact details (phone number, address, employment) has changed over the holidays can you please advise the school. It is important that we have up to date and correct contact details should an emergency arise.

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**BEFORE SCHOOL**

From 8.30am, our school runs a reading program in the library. As they arrive, all students will engage in either independent or with a partner reading for 15 minutes. This program provides students with a further opportunity to increase reading abilities, fluency and comprehension as well as develop a love of books.

Following this, students will also participate in a short fitness program/ morning run, to gear them up for the day. So there are lots of great reasons to be at school on time. We appreciate your promptness.

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**HOMEWORK**

From next week (Week 2), teachers will start homework. All homework is focussed on critical content that is critical for student learning. Homework will provide extra review and practice for work covered in class.

Apart from the younger students who need help while they are still learning to read, most students should be completing homework independently. Homework will generally consist of spelling or sight words, basic maths/number facts and reading nightly. Positive praise from parents is also part of supporting students learning goals of mastering the basics.

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**FROM THE CHAPLAIN**

Welcome to a new year at our school! 2014 should prove to be a great year of learning and development for our children.

This is my second year as your school chaplain and I am excited to be with you again. I hope that this year I can serve you and your children as well as the staff of our school in a range of ways. I love to assist in the classrooms, to help children with their learning and assist them in their social–emotional well-being.

We know that if children are not happy or feel unsafe that it is very hard for them to learn. That makes sense; they are distracted and often worry during the day. Thus learning becomes a lesser priority. When children feel safe, loved and secure they are better able to learn.

We all want the best for our children. I hope and pray that I can be of use in this way to you and your children.

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**Ten Ways to Love**

- Listen without interrupting
- Speak without accusing
- Give without sparing
- Pray without ceasing
- Answer without arguing
- Share without pretending
- Enjoy without complaint
- Trust without wavering
- Forgive without punishing
- Promise without forgetting

Do you agree with these? I know that some of them would be hard for me! I came across these online and found myself challenged. Hope the challenge makes you think too.

Chappy Margaret Thorpe
My child ______________________ has provided me with this week’s newsletter
and I would like their name to go into the Lucky Draw.

Signed _____________________ Date _________________