Welcome Back

A welcome to all students and families, either returning to or beginning with us at Middle Ridge State School. Our staff members are looking forward to continuing an effective partnership with you as we work together in support of our children’s learning. The first days of school have commenced well, with 2017 holding much promise. We eagerly anticipate, and are planning for, a range of new & exciting learning opportunities throughout the coming year. I’m excited by the prospect of once again working closely with our wonderful staff and our supportive & motivated school community.

A special welcome to our newest staff members to Middle Ridge SS - Year 4 teacher Ms Marea Walsh, Year 6 teacher Mrs Jean Hamlyn, and new Support Teachers, Mrs Ros Murphy (Thurs-Fri) & Mrs Megan Oats (Mon-Wed). We wish new and returning staff members a bright start in their roles with us at Middle Ridge and look forward to the positive contributions they will each make in support of our students.

A Positive Learning Environment at Middle Ridge SS

We have commenced our new school year with renewed vigour and much enthusiasm in every classroom. Each teacher has started the week by clearly establishing their classroom procedures and expectations regarding all behaviours, both inside & outside the classroom. Teachers have consciously renewed the physical structure of each classroom & clearly established expectations that aligned with our agreed school-wide values of:

- Honesty
- Respect
- Learning
- Co-operation
- Kindness
- Social Justice
- Self-discipline

These seven values are critical to developing a very positive whole school learning environment and will be at the heart of much of our work and relationship-building with students and families. We will welcome your contribution to, and support of, the school-wide & class rules as they are developed in your child’s class and throughout the school setting this year.

Special Welcome - PREP Families

The Prep Year provides a significant foundation for our children in the Queensland education system. It is the starting point for Foundation Learning within the Australian Curriculum and is designed to build on the learning that children enjoy in the home and in early education and care settings. Whilst the Prep Year curriculum is consistent with the expectations of the National Curriculum, we will continue to promote active learning through inquiry, investigation and play. A huge welcome to all of our new Prep Year students & families – we wish you many happy learning experiences with us throughout 2017 and beyond.

Class Information Sessions for Parents

Within these first 3 weeks of school, our teachers will each be offering parents a brief information session about their teaching programs, routines, challenges and expectations for their class & the year ahead. Please look out for a special note that will be issued by your child’s teacher promoting the planned information afternoon for your child’s class and/or year level. At this stage the class/year level Information sessions have been tentatively scheduled as follows:

- **Monday 30 Jan:**
  - 3.15-4.15pm Year 4G, 4CT, 4T & 4W
  - 3.15-4.00pm Year 3/4D
- **Tuesday 31 Jan:**
  - 6.30-7.30pm Year 2L & 2M Classes
- **Wednesday 01 Feb:**
  - 3.15-4.15pm Year 2CG, 2FG & 2R Classes
  - 6.30-7.30pm All PREP Classes
- **Monday 06 Feb:**
  - 5.00-5.45pm ALL Year 1 Classes
- **Tuesday 07 Feb:**
  - 5.00pm Year 5SY, 5JK, 5I, 5RY and 4/5LY Classes
  - 5.30pm ALL Year 6 Classes
- **Thursday 09 Feb:**
  - 3.15-4.00pm Year 3MT, 3H, 3BM & 3T Classes
  - 4.30pm Parents of all Instrumental Music Students - with Ms Warfield, Mrs Laird & Mr Stockwell

We look forward to your company at the above time/s.
School Tuckshop - Re-opens from next Wednesday 01 February (Week 2)

Just a reminder that our School Tuckshop will not be operating this first week of school but will RE-OPEN from next Wednesday 01 February. The current Summer Menu (same as Term 4 last year) will continue to be offered and will be accessible to students of Year 1 – 6 only through Term 1. As discussed through our information sessions last year, PREP students will have an opportunity to begin placing orders with the Tuckshop later this semester but will not be involved in purchases in the early part of the new school year.

Composition of Classes & Teachers for 2017

The following table provides an overview of the class structures and teacher assignments to commence the 2017 school year at Middle Ridge SS. (Again, these classes may be subject to change due to enrolment variations):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prep</th>
<th>P-WM</th>
<th>Amanda Wolski (0.8) + Sharon Moore (0.2F)</th>
<th>Year 4</th>
<th>4G</th>
<th>Carolyn Grosvenor</th>
<th>4CT</th>
<th>Vanessa Ceccato (M-W) + Anne Todd (Th-F)</th>
<th>4W</th>
<th>Maree Walsh</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P-S</td>
<td>Kathryn Steger</td>
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<td>P-B</td>
<td>Paula Blair</td>
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<td>P-W</td>
<td>Karen Ward</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>1SK</td>
<td>Kerrie Sherrington + Susan Kath (M)</td>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>5RY</td>
<td>Amanda Russell + Deb Young (F)</td>
<td>5J</td>
<td>Stacey Jahnke</td>
<td>5S</td>
<td>Michelle Smith (F)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1BK</td>
<td>Rineke Brouwer + Susan Kath (Th)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1HK</td>
<td>Deb Hughes + Susan Kath (F)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1MK</td>
<td>Cathy Martin + Susan Kath (W)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>2L</td>
<td>Wendy Lowry</td>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>6S</td>
<td>Jean Hamlyn</td>
<td>6I</td>
<td>Dallas Irvine</td>
<td>6H</td>
<td>Sarah Warnswoth</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2M</td>
<td>Sally Martin</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2FG</td>
<td>Davina Floyd + Angelique Goebel (W)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2CG</td>
<td>Jennifer Cross + Angelique Goebel (F)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2R</td>
<td>Paige Rundle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>3MT</td>
<td>Peta Mason + Karen Tiernan (F)</td>
<td>SEU</td>
<td>SEP</td>
<td>De’ann Robertson - HOSES (1.0) + Rhonda Betts (F)</td>
<td>SEP Mid</td>
<td>Amy Duggan (1.0)</td>
<td>SEP Upper</td>
<td>Melissa Killen (0.6) + Liz Cameron (0.4)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3H</td>
<td>Marie Hammond</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3BM</td>
<td>John Bialy (0.8) + Prue Mitchell (0.2W)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3T</td>
<td>Michelle Tinker</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3/4D</td>
<td>Tina Daley</td>
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Special Purpose Teachers:
- Tiffany Blesner (T-W) + Jan Byrnes (Th-T)
- HPE - Brendan Galvin
- Music - Tess Laird (M-Th) + Liz Skinner (F)
- Library = Susan Callaghan

Support: Ray Lecky (M-W) + Ros Murphy (Th-F) Megan Oats (M-W)
English as an Alternate Language: Michelle Thompson (M-W)

LOTE: Jeannine Andrews (0.6 on Wed-Thur-Fri)

Inst Music: Strings - Michael Stockwell (Mon pm) • Brass/Woodwind/Percussion - Toni Warfield (Tues am, Thurs & Fri)

Opportunity to receive the School Newsletter via email link

This week’s edition of the school Newsletter is being issued in both hard copy form and on-line as an introduction to the start of the school year. However, from next week we will need to return to the on-line version of our school’s primary communication medium – given the size of our school nowadays it is becoming inefficient, labour intensive & costly to maintain a printed version of the Newsletter. We would, however, like to continually improve upon the ways in which we regularly share school news with parents by offering you an opportunity to receive a direct email link to the weekly edition. From Week 2 this term we will be continuing our School Newsletter email group so families who opt to do so can receive an email message on publication days, advising of the Newsletter’s availability.

We are keen to ensure that all families are aware of the school’s main communication medium and have a chance to keep up with the latest events by being directed to the most recent editions. If you would like to take advantage of this opportunity, simply complete the special slip attached to today’s Newsletter for return to the office ASAP. Your email address will be added to the register and from Wednesday 8 February those who join will receive an email prompt with a direct link to the school’s website. For those families who choose not to opt in for this arrangement, you will still be able to log on to the MRSS website & follow the appropriate link to locate your latest edition. By moving to this medium we are hoping that families feel a little more connected to events, celebrations & activities conducted through our school.

School Uniform Store - Thank You

A sincere thanks to our valued volunteers for their generous efforts at school over this past week to maintain the Uniform store, making available school uniform items to community members. Your committed efforts have been greatly appreciated.

2016 School Term Dates:
- Term 1: 23 January - 31 March (10 weeks)
- Term 2: 18 April - 23 June (10 weeks)
- Term 3: 10 July - 15 Sept (10 weeks)
- Term 4: 03 October - 08 Dec (10 weeks)

Pupil Free Days - teachers maintain their commitment to continued professional learning & development. 2017 will see only one Pupil Free Day being undertaken during term time this year on Monday 16 October.

Booklist Supplies

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate an overwhelming majority of our parents for the organised & efficient way in which you’ve been able to secure your child’s booklist needs and have had these well prepared for their return to school this week – we understand this is not a simple task. One of our main suppliers, Browns Bookstore, has done a great job in keeping up with the many & varied demands at this time of the year and we appreciate their support of our school and Middle Ridge families.
Our School Uniform - thank you for your assistance
A big thank you to the many parents who have enthusiastically supported the School Uniform Dress Code by stocking up on and outfitting returning students in correct versions of the Middle Ridge SS uniform - particularly the wearing of **BLACK shoes**. The P&C Association and our invaluable volunteers do a mighty job to stock & sell the correct school wear items. The children are looking absolutely fantastic in their MRSS Polo shirts with the labelled collar, teamed with their navy blue shorts and/or skirts! We hope that all – a what a smart look we’ve seen on this first day! The next challenge for all is ensuring that all students are bringing & wearing school hats and **wearing the recommended form of footwear** – parents, please try to adhere to the school’s agreed dress code & avoid the wearing of fluorescent coloured footwear – this is of particular concern when our students are either assembled for more formal occasions/greeting visitors or venturing out of the school on organised tours/activities as a group. Continued parental assistance will be appreciated.

Before School Procedures
Parents please note the following procedures that are to be adhered to before school.

- Please note that students should **not** be on the school grounds before **8.00am**, arriving preferably after 8.15am when supervision can be provided. Office opening hours are from 8.00am – 4.00pm daily.
- Students unaccompanied by parents who arrive at school before **8.00am** are to wait in the Undercover Area adjacent to the school Tuckshop until the teacher aides allow them to move to their designated areas for supervised play. Prep students must be accompanied by an adult and are to wait with parents near their classrooms. We expect parents to supervise their children in Prep areas. Students, including Prep, and younger non-school aged siblings, are not permitted on the play equipment before or after school in accordance with established rules.
- Students accompanied by their parents before 8.15am also need to wait in the Undercover Area near the Tuckshop. Students are to sit quietly and await the further directions of the rostered teacher aide/s. Handball games are not to be played in the covered area at this time.
- Classroom Doors open at 8.30am for Prep children & their parents. Year 1-6 classrooms are generally not before 8.40am each day.

Classes currently in DRAFT form for these first two weeks
Whilst temporary Class Lists were posted to the Staffroom windows last Friday, it is important for all parents to note that these may be subject to variations as we move through the first 2 weeks of the new school year. Every Qld State School endures a level of enrolment ‘fluctuation’ across the first fortnight of Term 1, where some families, for a variety of reasons, may not return to the school they had initially intended to attend, or additional in-catchment enrolments arrive. Education Qld will staff schools according to the total student enrolment, with the final confirmation of enrolment figures being submitted on ‘Day 8’, ie Thursday 2nd February 2017. At this point we will learn of our final allocation of staffing for 2017, enabling us to either confirm or vary class groups.

As the new school year has resumed we appear to have experienced a small growth in total enrolments to open 2017. Should the creation of an additional class be possible after Day 8, current class structures may have to be amended in one part of the school from the start of the 3rd week of the term. We are closely scrutinising the enrolment numbers and have opened the year with 32 classes from Prep-Year 6. We will keep you informed and should be able to advise at the end of next week of the likely final class configurations for Week 3 and beyond. My thanks to you in the interim for your ongoing patience, understanding & support as we try to secure the best possible solution for all students.

Acute Medical Plan Updates and Updating any required Child Medication at School
It is essential that our school office is advised of updated medical plans for all students who have been identified as having an acute medical condition eg. Anaphylaxis, Asthma, Diabetes, Epilepsy, heart/organ conditions, severe skin problems and so on.

Parents - please note that should your child have a severe medical condition/s as identified by you upon or following their enrolment, you need to contact Deputy Principal, Mrs Lois Staatz, and make an appointment to provide/complete up to date medical plans. Please be aware that children with acute medical conditions will also require current medical plans in order to participate in school excursions and camps.

Any medication that needs to be taken whilst a child is at school must be registered at the school office - it is never to be given to a class teacher and will ordinarily only be administered at the school office. Medication Consent forms MUST be completed at the office for the 2017 school year - most plans from 2016 have expired and will require renewal for 2017. Please visit the school office to enquire further and to collect any outdated medications that may still be held at the school office from 2016.

Students/Parent CURRENT contact numbers and addresses
If your contact details have changed, kindly ensure that the school office has been informed of the latest information - emergency contact details are essential. It is advisable to have several contact numbers in order to support students in the event that parents are unable to be reached. This is essential both at school and when students are participating in excursions and school camps.

Outside School Hours Care – OSHC available to all
The provider of OSHC services at Middle Ridge SS is Camp Australia. Professional, licensed & accredited ‘Out of School Hours Care’ services are provided within our multi-purpose Hall (and occasionally across other rooms of the campus) from 6.00am-8.30 am and from 3.00 pm – 6.00pm each week day. For those families where parents must start work early mornings or finish late afternoons, the OSHC program provides you with a safe, well supervised program of structured, healthy & engaging activities for children enrolled in our school from Prep-Year 6. We would recommend that families register on-line for this service, where regular, casual or infrequent access to the program can be secured simply through a phone call and payment of the appropriate fees. Please contact Anne Kemp, OSHC Co-ordinator, on 045 224 6230 or register via the Camp Australia website.

Parking within the School Grounds - Not Permitted without formal Approval
The safety & wellbeing of all students is of paramount concern in all that we do within and around our school – so it is of grave concern when a small number of folk choose to ignore the requests and directions of the school and seek to drive vehicles into the school grounds for the collection of students. The co-operation of ALL parents is once again requested in this matter – with the exception of a very small, pre-approved number of families who require special access close to buildings, please do NOT drive your vehicle into the school car parks or grounds to either
drop-off or collect students before and after school. We realise that parking is exceptionally limited along our school boundaries, but with the movement of more than 800 children at peak drop-off and pick up times, we do not wish to see any vehicular/pedestrian accidents occurring due to negligence.

Please remember that the Roger Guard Lane pick-up zone is available to parents of all Year 1-6 students each afternoon - access is available from 2.30pm with students collected after 3.00pm. For this to function efficiently, parents must remain with their vehicle and the children will be released to you by the two supervising staff members. Vehicles must not be left unattended at any time. My thanks to the overwhelming majority of parents who are continually conscious of our students’ safety concerns and who are regularly doing ‘the right thing’.

School Attendance - Make Every Day Count

Make 2017 the year when your child doesn’t miss a day of school. Research shows that students who have good patterns of attendance are more likely to achieve at school. If students aren’t at school or don’t stay the whole day, they are missing valuable lessons. Our school encourages all parents and members of our community to support our initiatives to improve student attendance.

The Every Day Counts Strategy – has four key messages:
• all children should be enrolled and attend school on every school day
• schools should monitor and create ways to improve attendance in schools
• attendance is the responsibility of everyone in the community
• children may find themselves in unsafe situations if they choose not to attend or skip school

While most students attend school consistently, there are a small number of students who are absent from school without an acceptable reason and this may harm their education. Going shopping, visiting family, staying up late and being tired or extending school holidays are not acceptable reasons to be away from school. Research shows that if your child has a record of good attendance, they are more likely to achieve higher results in the future. If your child is going to be absent from school, you must let the school know why the absence has occurred before 9.00am of the day that the absence is occurring. It is important to advise so that every whereabouts of every child can be ascertained. From early this year, every state school in Queensland will be implementing a new strategy to follow up on unexplained student absences - in large schools such as ours, a same day text messaging service and/or phone call to parents will occur seeking an explanation for a child’s absence from school. Please be on the lookout for a special separate note to be issued from our school this week providing further details.

Does your child have a chance of being successful??

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<tr>
<th>If He/ She is only missing just....</th>
<th>That equals....</th>
<th>Which is.....</th>
<th>and over 13 years of schooling that’s....</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 minutes per day</td>
<td>50 minutes per week</td>
<td>Nearly 1.5 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly Half a year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 minutes per day</td>
<td>1 hour 40 mins per week</td>
<td>Over 2.5 Weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly 1 year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Half an hour per day</td>
<td>Half a day per week</td>
<td>4 Weeks Per Year</td>
<td>Nearly 1 and a Half years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 hour per day</td>
<td>1 day per week</td>
<td>8 Weeks per year</td>
<td>Over 2 and a Half years</td>
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And if that isn’t enough to be of a concern, consider the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If your child misses</th>
<th>That equals....</th>
<th>Which is.....</th>
<th>and over 13 years of schooling that’s....</th>
<th>Which means the best your child might perform is</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 day per fortnight</td>
<td>20 days per year</td>
<td>4 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly 1.5 years</td>
<td>Equal to finishing before Yr 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 day per week</td>
<td>40 days per year</td>
<td>8 weeks per year</td>
<td>Over 2.5 years</td>
<td>Equal to finishing in Year 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 days per week</td>
<td>80 days per year</td>
<td>16 weeks per year</td>
<td>Over 5 years</td>
<td>Equal to finishing in Year 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 days per week</td>
<td>120 days per year</td>
<td>24 weeks per year</td>
<td>Over 8 years</td>
<td>Equal to finishing in Year 4</td>
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</tbody>
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** Sobering thought?? If you are experiencing difficulty in sending your child to school, contact our school for advice and support.

Thank you one & all for a very positive, optimistic start to the school year – I look forward to meeting more parents & students at Middle Ridge SS in the coming weeks.

Regards,
Craig Barron
PRINCIPAL
should be prepared to enter the water with these students. For Yr 4 Parents, class teacher and Mr Galvin of this is required.

It is very important that all students are prepared for swimming which includes having their own swimming gear. Compulsory items for swimming include – goggles, swimming cap and sun protective swimming shirt. Students may choose to bring their own goggles if required. If a student is at school on their swimming day then it is expected that they will be swimming unless they are ill in which case a note sent from home advising their class teacher and Mr Galvin of this is required.

Parent Helpers – Again this term we will be requiring the assistance of parents to help deliver the program. Parents attending Yr 1-3 swimming should be prepared to enter the water with these students. For Yr 4 – 6 classes, parents are not required to enter the pool unless desired. Parent

Student Borrowing
Regular in-school borrowing times for students have been finalised. Students in Years 1 to 6 have begun to borrow, while Prep students will begin to borrow in Week 3. As well as these times, students may borrow before school and during the first and second lunch breaks.

All students in Years 1 – 6 may have two books on loan at any one time, while Prep students may borrow one book. The borrowing period is 2 wks. All students except Year 6s must have a library bag if they wish to borrow from the library. While plastic shopping bags may be used in an emergency, they are not really appropriate. A bag which has the student’s name and year level clearly shown is the best option. The uniform shop has library bags available for purchase, but any appropriate bag is fine.

Students who have overdue books are not permitted to borrow until the overdue books are returned. Students who have frequent overdue books will have their borrowing rights restricted. Payment will be sought (through the school office) for lost or damaged resources.

Parents and the library
Supporting students: Parents, particularly of younger students, are welcome to come to the library before and after school to help their children choose a book to borrow. I’d also encourage parents (and grandparents) to pop in and read to their students and younger siblings before school.

Borrowers: Parents and other members of the school community are able to borrow resources from the school library. The borrowing period is two weeks, but this may be extended. As well as the parent library of books, other resources are available for loan – for example, the popular “Grab Bags” (see below). See me if you’d like to become a borrower.

Parent Library: There is a section in the library which contains books for parents. The collection is quite small and many of these have been purchased by the P&C. Most of the books are on parenting and managing children’s behaviour.

Parent Volunteers: In past years we have received wonderful support from parents who volunteered their time to assist in the library or from home. They have covered and repaired resources, shelved resources, helped with displays and assisted with the stocktake. If you’d like to become a parent volunteer in the library, please see me.

Grab Bags for Busy Mums and Dads
If you have children in the toddlers-to-preschool age range, check out our Grab Bags. These are library bags prepacked with five books suitable for this age group. They have become quite popular – especially with parents who find it difficult to visit the city library each week to borrow books for their younger children.

The importance of Reading
It is good to read of scientific research that vindicates our enthusiasm for the importance of reading. Gail Rebecu wrote in The Guardian recently about the remarkable findings from brain scan studies of what happens inside the heads of readers when they read stories. New neural pathways result. This evidence backs up what so many of us have known instinctively: that a transformation takes place when we read. Books are important for their emotional role as “the starting point for individual voyages of personal development and pleasure”. At this time of many changes in the world of books and publishing, we must continue to stress the vital role of books, in whatever form. “The research shows that if we stop reading, we will be different people: less intricate, less empathetic, less interesting.”
helper numbers as a guide for each year level are: Yr 6 – 1 parent, Yr 4/5 – 2 parents, Yr 3 – 3 parents, Yr 1/2 – 4 or 5 parents. Please advise your class teacher if you are able to assist with the class swimming program.

CENTRAL ZONE SWIMMING CARNIVAL TEAM FINALISATION
The Central Zone Swimming Carnival will be held on Monday February 13. The finalisation of the team will be carried out during week 2 with students notified of their inclusion by weeks end. There have been several new students to the school as well as 9yr old students who are required to trial in order for finalisation to occur. Students in the current 10-12yr age groups will be selected based upon carnival results from the end of the year as well as considering new students and also qualifying times. New students and 9 yr old trials will be held on Tuesday January 31st and Wednesday 1st February at 1.20pm at the school pool.

TOOWOOMBA ZONE TRIALS
Students turning 11 or 12 this year are invited to attend Toowoomba Zone trials in a variety of team sports throughout the year. 10 year old students with exceptional skills can also attend these trials although it must be clearly understood that they are participating against the older students. Students must be nominated by Mr Galvin only. The trials are not an activity for students who have not played the sport before, do not possess a high quality set of skills for that game or do not know the rules / positions of the sport. Should your child wish to attend a Zone Trial, they must see Mr Galvin when it is advertised. Zone trials are publicised over the loud speaker at breaks, on Senior Assembly and in this Newsletter. A medical form must also be returned to Mr Galvin before a nomination can be sent. Nominations for Term 1 sports will be called for very shortly as I receive the information from Convenors.

TOOWOOMBA NETBALL MUSTER DAYS
Registrations are already available through the online platform. However if you are new and would like assistance, Clubs will be available at Nell E Robinson Park on Sunday 5th and 12th February from 9am-11am. Enquiries can be made to 0487359762 or email tmbanetball@bigpond.com.

MUSIC Notes - Mrs Laird, Ms Warfield & Mr Stockwell

WELCOME BACK EVERYONE! I hope you had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday. We are looking forward to a busy and exciting term one of music making at Middle Ridge 😊

VOCAL ENSEMBLES AND RECORDER CONSORT: Rehearsals will begin next week.
- Junior Vocal Ensemble will be open to interested students in years 2/3: Tuesday 1st Break
- Senior Vocal Ensemble to those in 4/5/6: Monday 1st Break and Wednesday 8:15am
- Recorder Consort to those in Year 6: Wednesday 1st Break

These groups are not auditioned, but strong commitment to attendance at rehearsals and performances is expected.

ALL STUDENTS IN YEARS 4 – 6 will need to bring their music book (with finished title page), pencil and recorder for classroom music lessons next week. Thank you to the parents who have made sure that these items from the book list have been provided. Please ensure that recorders are named clearly to avoid inadvertent sharing of instruments.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

THANK YOU to those parents who have paid their Instrumental Contribution Scheme so promptly. This is of great assistance in starting the year with our district affiliation fees and maintenance bills. Please see Mrs Laird if you are unsure what to pay.

The basic contribution to be involved in the program with your own instrument is $40.

If your student has a school instrument on loan the contribution is a total of $85.00.

If your student is a percussionist without an instrument on loan then the contribution is $55.00 in total.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>String Program –</th>
<th>Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr Stockwell will be teaching on Mondays.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Beginner</strong> lessons start: Monday 30th January. The Strings program will be conducted in 2017 from 11.40am-3.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>o String Beginners will be able to join the String Ensemble at a later date (when they are musically ready)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Continuing</strong> student lessons start: Monday 30th January</td>
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<tr>
<td>o <strong>String Ensemble</strong> will start on 13th <strong>February in week 4, at second break</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Multi Program –</th>
<th>Flute, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, Horn, Baritone, Euphonium, Tuba, Bass Guitar, Percussion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ms Warfield will be teaching on Tuesday Mornings and throughout Thursdays and Fridays. The first timetable will include Weeks 1-4 only.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Beginner</strong> lessons start: Friday 27th January; Tuesday 31st January/Wednesday 1st February; then every Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Continuing</strong> student lessons: Thursday 4th February/Friday 5th February</td>
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2017 ‘Multi’ Ensembles

- **Beginners: Friday – Beginner Band** will start before school on 17th February in week 4 – arrive 7:40 am.
- **Continuing students:**
  - Tuesday – Concert Band (Year 5) will start before school on 31st January in week 2 – arrive 7:40 am.
  - Thursday – Symphonic Band (Year 6) will start before school on 2nd February in week 2 - arrive 7:40 am.
  - Thursday – Jazz Ensemble will start in First Break on 16th February in week 4 - arrive 11:00 am.
- Students will be asked to nominate for this ensemble. (Auditions may be required)
**INSTRUMENTAL STUDENTS:** Timetables will be posted outside the music room and in your classrooms this week. Please see Mrs Laird if you need help reading the timetable – it is a rotating time table and lesson times will change weekly. Ms Warfield’s lessons begin this week on Friday.

**PARENT TEACHER INFORMATION NIGHT:** A letter will be sent home this week for all Multi-instrumental and Strings students. The information meeting will be Thursday 2nd January, at 4:30pm in H BLOCK for all parents. This is an extremely useful time to meet teachers, learn some ways of helping students in home practice, and be made aware of other avenues and expectations for both beginners and continuing students involved in the Instrumental Music Program. We look forward to seeing you there.

For those interested, an interesting link on the benefits of music education can be found below. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ueggenARziE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ueggenARziE)

“Music is enough for a lifetime, but a lifetime is not enough for music.” Rachmaninoff

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**School Chaplaincy News – Mrs Bev Cowie (School Chaplain)**

G’day, I’m Bev Cowie, your SU Qld School Chaplain. I hope you all had a good break or a change of routine in the school holidays. It was great to meet some of our new families on Monday at the Tea and Tissues time, held after the children started school. In the past two days I have visited most classrooms, to meet students and teachers and remind them I’m at Middle Ridge School on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays. I have a room behind the yellow door in the library if you would like to have a chat. I will also be working with teachers in classrooms across the school. It has been encouraging to see the excitement there for this new school year.

SU QLD chaplains, or ‘chappies’, provide spiritual and emotional support to school communities. They are in the prevention and support business: helping students find a better way to deal with issues ranging from family breakdown and loneliness, to drug abuse, depression and anxiety. They provide a listening ear and a caring presence for children and young people in crisis, and those who just need a friend. They also provide support for staff and parents in school communities. Your support can help keep Chappies in schools... and continue to bring hope to a young generation.

Regards,
Chappy Bev

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**BOOK CLUB – Jeanette Grimes (Library Teacher-Aide)**

Students will receive leaflets for Issue 1 of Scholastic Book Club this week. We have offered Scholastic to students at Middle Ridge for a number of years. All student levels are contained in just one booklet, with reviews to assist you with choosing books that are age and reading level appropriate. There are 2 issues per term. The due date for completing orders for each issue can always be found in the current newsletter.

**ISSUE 1 ORDERS TO BE COMPLETED ONLINE BY MONDAY 13 FEB**

**Parents have 2 options for orders/payment**

1. Middle Ridge is registered to use the online ordering system LOOP, and this is the preferred option for orders and payment using a credit card. It is very easy to use and your child’s books will arrive at school with the whole school order. A poster explaining the process is displayed on the door to the Library or go to [www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP](http://www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP)

2. We are also able to accept orders with cheques payable to Scholastic Australia, and these will be processed by me in the Library.

**We are unable to accept cash payments.**

Orders usually take from 5 to 10 days to return and will then be packed and delivered to your child's classroom. If you intend the books to be given as gifts, please let me know and we can hold them in the library for collection.

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**ADOPT-A-COP NEWS - Snr Constable Rachael Smith**

Welcome back everyone!!

I hope you all had a great Christmas holiday! Thanks to all the kids who spotted me at work, at the shops, at the park, the movies and the PCYC, and came up and said hello! It sounds as though you all received fantastic Christmas presents (I’m a little jealous of the bikes, nerf guns and cool water toys you received!!!!)

To all our new families who have arrived here at Middle Ridge- WELCOME! Just some information about myself and my role here at the school. I am Senior Constable Rachael SMITH, this is my thirteenth year as the Adopt a Cop at Middle Ridge. My role here is to facilitate a relationship between the children and police, knowing that they have someone they can approach if they need help. Throughout the year, I attend every classroom. For the Prep-Year 3 children I focus mainly on Protective behaviours (our body’s warning signs and safety hands). For our grade 4,5 & 6 we focus more on cyber safety, youth justice concepts and the law. All the kids at school (and often out of it!) refer to me as Constable Rachael.

I have been a police officer for 17 years, I spent six years in general duties, and the past ten years I was a Detective in the Child Protection and Investigation Unit. As our current families would know, I left my role as a Detective half way through last year and spent the last half of the year studying Forensics in Brisbane, Thanks to you all of you who offered to help us out with the kids and kept an eye out for my family as I travelled back and forth, it was greatly appreciated. I am now back and working as a forensics officer with our Scenes of Crime...which means some cool fingerprinting fun with the kids!!!

A timely reminder that we need to be mindful of traffic around our school. Please slow down, please remain patient, look out for the kids, and please stop parking across the footpath at the western end of the parks that run along the park side of Spring Street!! Be mindful of all our neighbours in the surrounding cult-de-sacs/streets, many of them are very patient and tolerant people. Please do not park on their driveway and be mindful of their lawns.
I am also a parent here at the school and I would encourage you all to become involved in the school. It truly is a fantastic place, with great teachers and many wonderful parents in the tuckshop, uniform shop and those doing the home readers etc. I have learnt that you do not get "lumbered" with jobs if you come to the P&C meetings! It is a great way to learn what’s happening within the school and what our many volunteers are doing, including myself as the Adopt a Cop.

Sorry for the long winded introduction, but I hope to see you all around the school and I look forward to seeing all our “old” and “new” kids this year.

Stay Safe
Senior Constable Rachael.

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### SCHOOL BANKING NEWS 2017 - Mrs Tonya Grant (Volunteer Co-ordinator)

Welcome back! Just as school is back, so is School Banking.

I’m Tonya and I pop in on Wednesday mornings to process the school banking for our students. This is a great program run by the Commonwealth Bank which offers an easy way to teach our kids about saving money with rewards to win. It also provides financial assistance to our school in the form of commissions which go straight to the P & C to spend on equipment for our children. I’ll try to send home Information Packs to Prep students in the next week or so when I get them. I’ll also send them home to older students as I process bank books.

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO START SCHOOL BANKING** - It’s easy!

**Online:** Visit [commbank.com.au/schoolbanking](http://commbank.com.au/schoolbanking) and click on the link to open a Youthsaver account.

**In Branch:** Visit any Commonwealth Bank branch (Kmart Plaza, Clifford Gardens or Grand Central) and our friendly staff will assist. Parents will need to bring along identification for themselves and their child, like their Driver Licence and their child’s birth certificate.

Then on Wednesday mornings each week, fill in the deposit slip for your child and secure the money in the pocket of the bank book folder. Drop the whole thing into the money slot in the Admin office. I’ll come in and process the deposits from around 8:15am and then leave the bank book in your child’s teacher’s pigeonhole so they can give it back to go home.

Please make sure you have your child’s Name and Class (eg 4B or 2/3W) on the outside of their bank book.

**IF YOU’VE BANKED AT MRSS BEFORE**

Welcome back and you know the drill! I’ll still be in on Wednesday mornings before school so drop your book into the slot at the office and I’ll send it back via your teacher. Please don’t forget to update your Class on your bank book.

I’ll be back in the Office from next Wednesday morning to get you started.

**IF YOU’VE BANKED AT ANOTHER SCHOOL BEFORE**

Welcome to MRSS! You should be able to use your same bank book so just drop it into the Admin office on Wednesday morning with your deposit and I’ll organise a new student number for you when I process your book. Please make sure your bank book has your full name and account number in the front of it, and your name and class on the outside.

**New Rewards to be Earned:**

We’re excited to launch the new reward items for 2017 from our Future Savers range.

- Cyber Handball and Colour Change Markers, released Term 1
- 3D Chalk Set and Tablet Case, released Term 2
- Smiley Emoji Keyring and Volt Handball, released Term 3
- Pencil + Tech Case and Epic Earphones, released Term 4

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### Parents and Citizens Association News

**Hello**

On behalf of the P&C I would like to welcome all the members of the Middle Ridge School community back for another school year. I would especially like to welcome all the new families joining our school community in 2017 and hope that your time here at Middle Ridge far exceeds your expectations. The P&C meets on the third Wednesday of the month during the school terms and is fairly active with fundraising activities throughout the year. Our first 2017 meeting is our AGM in February and we would like to invite members of our school community to come and be part of our P&C in 2017. More details about this meeting in coming weeks.

I would like to thank Veronica McKeon and her great team of helpers in the Uniform Shop for the additional days they opened during the last week of the school holidays. These extra days have been wonderful in providing additional support to Middle Ridge families so their children’s uniform needs could be met prior to the start of term one. The Uniform Shop opens twice a week to help with your uniform requirements and orders can also be placed on-line using the Flexi-Schools ordering system.

The Tuckshop will be operating from next Wednesday and our convenor Amanda Ryan and her group of tuckshop volunteers are preparing themselves for the busy year ahead. The tuckshop operates Wednesday, Thursday and Friday each week and we encourage parents to use the Flexi-Schools on-line ordering system to place their children’s meal orders. The Menu is available on the school website and more Tuckshop information is provided in this newsletter.

Please take the time to read the P&C notices below. If you have any queries about the P&C and its operation please contact us via e-mail at pandc@middridgss.eq.edu.au or check the school website under the Our Community tab for more information. Thank you.

Graeme McBryde
**TUCKSHOP**

Welcome back to you all!!!

Just a couple of things to take note of:

1) Tuckshop re-opens Wednesday 1st February for Year 1-6 (Prep classes will start Tuckshop Term 2).
2) The current menu is the Summer Menu.
3) Just a reminder Flexible school orders only for Fridays. NO PAPER BAGS.
4) If you are wishing to volunteer in our ever growing Tuckshop we would love to see you. Please come and introduce yourself and join the fun.

Have a fantastic term. Please don't hesitate to contact me should there be any issues or queries.

Regards
Amanda Ryan 0419620138

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**UNIFORM SHOP**

Welcome back all families. Thank you to all of the valued volunteers who kindly assisted in The Uniform Store last week in readiness for school this year. Our opening hours will return to normal from this week and we look forward to your continued support as the year unfolds. Please Note - we are currently out of supply of Large Hats.

Regards,
Veronica McKeon

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**2017 PREP CLASSES - FIRST WEEK PHOTOS**

[Images of Prep classes]
WEST WANDERERS FOOTBALL CLUB – Registration and Muster

Soccer registrations for West Wanderers Football Club are now open. West Wanderers is situated on the southern side of Toowoomba at Nell E Robinson Park on Hume Street, between Alderley and Stenner Streets. Please register online by following the instructions on our website www.westwanderers.org. Once registered further details regarding Muster Day will be forwarded to you.

Any questions please contact us at juniorvp@westwanderers.org

Krystal Cochran
Junior Registrar
West Wanderers Football Club

Toowoomba Netball Association
Muster Days

Registrations are already available with our online platform. However if you are new and would like some assistance, Clubs will be available at Nell E Robinson Park on

Sunday 5th Feb and 12th Feb from 9am - 11am

For any enquiries 0487359762 or

Email: tmbanetball@bigpond.com