Welcome to the start of the 2017 school year. I am thrilled to be here in a permanent role and look forward to the next 12 months. It was so nice to hear the rain on the roof over the holidays and see the school looking so green.

Welcome also to our new students—Ben, Bronte and Thomas who start their schooling here at this great school.

Our school will offer kindy this year as part of the Remote Kindergarten Pilot and Bronte and Thomas will be part of our classroom for 15 hours a week during the school terms. If you know of any other children who are turning four by 30th June this year, let us know and we will contact them. The timetable for the younger students will be altered slightly to incorporate the kindy into our mornings every day of the week. We are looking forward to this addition to our school.

Australia Day will be celebrated this year at Mount Surprise, so please head on over and enjoy the festivities. The school will be closed on Thursday but will certainly be open on Friday.

We have some new members of staff to introduce you to this year. Val Gray will take over from Jacqui in the office and Nicole Ireland will take over from Lauren as the itinerant teacher. Nicole will teach five days a fortnight here and the other five days at Mount Surprise. Welcome to these two ladies and welcome back to Corri, Kelly and Helen.

Swimming starts in Week 2 (Friday 3rd February) so look out for the permission slip that will be sent home soon. We will be travelling to Georgetown by bus at 1pm and will return back at approximately 3.30pm.

Corri and I will be away in week 6 (27th Feb - 3rd March) for some Professional Development on the Gold Coast (yes, it’s really tough!!). We will both attend a Kindy workshop for two days and then I will stay on for the State Principals’ Conference. This conference is held every two years and gives our Director General an opportunity to deliver the same key messages to everyone all at once. I will return on the weekend and be back at school on Monday 6th March.

All schools now have a Same Day Absence Notification framework. This means that if a student is absent when the roll is marked in the morning and the school hasn’t been notified, one of the staff is required to check where the student is and the reason for the absence.

The next P&C meeting will be on Tuesday 31st January. Please make yourself available to come and support our school. This year will see us with fewer families at school, so we welcome your attendance. Don’t forget that the P&C will be having their Annual General Meeting in the near future and we need to fill the positions on the committee.

Regards,