Dear Parents,

It’s wonderful to see the happy, smiling faces as students commence their first school day in 2015 and catch up with their friends to recount their experiences over the holidays.

A warm welcome to both our new and returning families. I trust that the Christmas break has been a time for students to recharge their batteries and commence the new school year ‘rearing to go’ – our staff certainly are extremely keen and motivated to commence this year’s learning journey with our children. Commencing at a new school and particularly in Prep, can be daunting, but please rest assured that our staff are experienced at settling new students. For your part, please leave as soon as you deliver your child to school or the classroom to ease separation anxiety. This time of the year is also the time to establish daily routines and expectations for getting ready for school and the completion of homework.

If you are experiencing separation anxiety issues, please contact our office so that we can support both you and your child. This is a journey we are commencing together, and I’m extremely confident that together we can build strong foundations for your child’s future.

STAFF:
This year we welcome Mrs Daphne Muckan 4M, Ms Vari McGowen 3M, Ms Liz Greer 3K and Mrs Mary-Anne Burrows in the position of Master Teacher. We also welcome the return of Ms Brenda Lewis, Mrs Kelly Currell 3LC and Mrs Kylie Somers 6TS. Mrs Leighanne Hann has received a transfer to Mt Isa and Mrs Lisa Cooper 3K is on leave.

MEETINGS WITH STAFF:
With an average of 25 families to each class, in order to ensure your child’s teacher can give you undivided attention should you have a concern, please send a note to the teacher via your child or contact the office so that we can organise a suitable time to meet.

PARENT INFORMATION SESSIONS:
Parents are invited to the following information sessions:
- Prep and Yr 1 – Tuesday 10 February from 5.45pm – 6.30pm
- Yr 2 and Yr 3 – Tuesday 10 February from 6.30pm – 7.15pm
- Yr 4, Yr 5 and Yr 6 – Wednesday 12 February from 5.45pm – 6.30pm

Please note that if you are unable to make these sessions and would like to discuss matters with your child’s teacher any time during the year, please contact us for an appointment.

PARADES:
These are held every second Friday morning commencing at 8.30am. Our first parade for the year is on this Friday 06 February. Parents and friends are always welcome to attend.

UNIFORM:
The students just look so smart in their uniforms and it is wonderful to see our uniform being worn with such pride.

Please note that as footwear must be black on all visible surfaces, we have black shoe colour change spray and brush-on dye available free of charge at the office for parents if footwear requires blacking touch-up.

If you are unsure if an item is acceptable as uniform, please email us a photo or see us prior to purchase. Photos can be forwarded to the.principal@herculesroadss.eq.edu.au

Letters will be forwarded home this week to the parents of students who do not have correct uniform.
NEW SMOKING LAWS:
From 1 January 2015, smoking is banned at all Queensland state and non-state schools, and for 5 metres beyond their boundaries.

The buffer is a 5 metre no-smoking area around the perimeter of the school, beyond the school land boundary; including all structures in this area, such as bus shelters and car parks. This area does not extend into residential or business premises that share a boundary with school land.

The law applies at all times - during and after school hours, on weekends and during school holidays. It includes the use of all smoking products, including regular cigarettes and devices commonly known as electronic cigarettes.

CARPARK DROP-OFF:
Please note that vehicles can only park in the designated parking bays in the Hercules Road Carpark and must not block the pathways through the carpark.

The Drop-off and Collection lane (Kiss n Drop zone) is marked by a dotted line and has a ‘Loading Zone’ sign. Vehicles can only stop here IF THEIR CHILD IS THERE WAITING to be ‘loaded’ on board. There is a maximum of 2 minutes to have your child get into the car, not a maximum of 2 minutes for parents to wait for their child to arrive.

If your children are not waiting at this area for you, please either park in the designated car-park areas, or complete a circuit of the car-park until they are ready. Otherwise the car-park gets blocked, drivers get angry and it becomes a safety issue for our children. Your support is appreciated.

This carpark is the property of the Moreton Bay City Council who care for and police it with their Parking Rangers. Fines for incorrect usage commence at $55.

P&C:
Our first P&C meeting for the year will be held on Tuesday afternoon, 17th February, commencing at 2.45pm in the school library. Meetings usually last 1 hour. All parents and friends are most welcome.

CONTACT US:
Rest assured we are committed to building a love of learning and positive self-esteem in a safe and nurturing environment for every child in our Herc Rd family. No concern is ever too small so please contact admin or arrange a meeting with us or your child’s teacher if you have any concerns.

YEAR 6 CAMP:
All students who will be attending the Year 6 Camp at Currimundi are reminded to return the relevant paperwork and payment by Thursday 5th February.

Welcome to all the new students and their families. Term 1 sport will include Cross Country for all grades and inter school sport for grade 5 and 6. Available sports this semester are Rugby League, Girls Soccer, Boys Soccer, Swimming & Bowling and Games at School.

Please be aware that students attending a Friday sport do not return to school until 3pm on Friday. Students will be choosing their sport next week.

All classes will practise for Cross Country during their PE lessons.

Redcliffe District Swimming Carnival will be held on 19 February at the Redcliffe High Performance Centre. Information notes will be sent home soon.

Where people make the Difference
**ARTS NEWS**

**MUSIC NOTICES**

Parents/Caregivers

Here are the details regarding the days, times, venues, commencement and teachers in the Music Groups at HRSS. All students in the given year levels are welcome to attend the Choirs and Recorder Band. Please see the teachers concerned if your child wants to play an instrument.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Junior Choir (Yr 3-4)</th>
<th>Senior Choir (Yr 5-6)</th>
<th>Recorder Band (Yr 5-6)</th>
<th>Beginner Strings (Yr 3)</th>
<th>Senior Strings (Yr 4-6)</th>
<th>Concert Band (Yr 4-6)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Day</td>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Where</td>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Where</td>
<td>Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>1st Break</td>
<td>Music Room 1</td>
<td>1st Break</td>
<td>Music Room 2</td>
<td>1st Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>1st Break</td>
<td>Music Room 1</td>
<td>1st Break</td>
<td>Music Room 2</td>
<td>1st Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>1st Break</td>
<td>Music Room 1</td>
<td>Lessons in class time.</td>
<td>Lessons in class time.</td>
<td>Lessons in class time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Lessons in class time.</td>
<td>Music Room 1</td>
<td>Ensemble Tuesday</td>
<td>Ensemble Tuesday</td>
<td>Ensemble Tuesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>from 2.30-3.30pm</td>
<td>Music Room 1</td>
<td>afternoons</td>
<td>afternoons</td>
<td>afternoons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>from 2.30-3.30pm</td>
<td>from 2.30-3.30pm</td>
<td>from 2.30-3.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher</td>
<td>Mrs Julius-Jackson</td>
<td>Mrs Julius-Jackson</td>
<td>Mr Ashton</td>
<td>Mr Ashton</td>
<td>Mr Wemyss</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Christmas by the Sea**

The students in the Junior and Senior Choir were joined by ex-Hercules Road SS students when they performed a repertoire of Christmas songs at Scarborough Park and Beach House on Suttons in December 2014. This is what a member of the audience, Mrs Cousens had to say:

"Thanks to the band of intrepid songsters from the Hercules Road Choir who braved the weather and sang beautifully to entertain residents and neighbours last December at Beach House on Suttons. After threatening all day, the skies chose our meeting time of 6.30 to decide to rain. The children were all under cover but our audience wasn’t so lucky! In spite of the inclement weather the entertainment was superb and a joy to hear. Thanks again, parents, for delivering the choir members. If you were lucky enough to be in the audience at Scarborough on Saturday December 6th last year for the opening of their Christmas by the Sea festivities then I expect you are still talking about the fantastic effort put in by the Hercules Road School choir. Sincere thanks to Mrs Lorna Julius-Jackson, our dedicated music teacher, who prepared the children so well. Thanks also to Ms Otter, Ms Aquilina and Mrs Cousins who helped allay nerves and greet the children as they arrived."