Welcome back to 2016! We have had a wonderful start to the school year with many new students enrolling over the last few days. It was lovely to see so many happy students and parents return to the school ready for another year at Harristown State School. A special welcome to our new Prep students who have settled in wonderfully well to our school. We welcome 4 new staff members - Mrs Becket, Mrs Butler, Mrs Miller, Mrs Willis and Mr Thompson to our team. We also welcome back Mrs Telfer, Mrs Laverty and Miss Robarts (in 2 weeks).

Over the next week we will be counting our student enrolments there are two important days that affect our staffing, Day 4 which is next Monday and Day 8 which is next Friday. We currently have 344 students which is equivalent to 14 class teachers. To move to 15 classes we would need 351 students and if this looks likely to happen we will keep families informed via newsletter and text messages. If we do reach 352 enrolments by Day 8 we will be adding a new class and more information will be shared about this when and if it is occurred. I’d like to thank students and parents for their understanding around the complexities of the first week of school and we hope things will slow down soon!

This year we plan to reduce the amount of paper we use and one way we will do this is by sending the newsletter electronically to families. Over the next couple of weeks parents will be given the option to choose if they would like to continue receiving a hard copy of the newsletter which will also be available on the Q Schools app, the website and via email.

The first Assembly will be next Friday 5th February, at 11.40am in the hall. The student leaders will be presenting short speeches at the end of the assembly. Students and staff will vote and the school captain, vice-captain and sports house captain positions will be announced at the following Friday assembly (Week 3 - 12th Feb). Families are welcome to attend both assemblies

An important reminder to all parents to please not use the staff carpark as a drop off and pick up zone for students. This is a safety issue and we appreciate your understanding in abiding by this.

Jonathan Druce
Harristown Hero Values are Respect, Responsibility, Safety and Learning. This week’s behaviour expectation is based around setting up classroom expectations. Teachers have reviewed the school HERO VALUES and school expectations. All students have discussed the following expectations: hands up to ask for help, complete set work, follow adult instructions and sit safely. Students have been demonstrating these in their classrooms.

**Attendance**
Harristown State School continues to have a huge focus on all students attending school every day. It is a key priority for our school and we will continue to follow up with families who have difficulty attending school. We showed improvement in Term 4 last year and we will strive to continue to improve our attendance percentage.

**Why is regular attendance at school important?**
Regular school attendance will mean that your child has a better chance in life. Your child will achieve better when they go to school all day, every school day.

- they learn better
- they make friends
- they are happier
- they have a brighter future.

(Department of Education and Training)

**Prep Students 2016**
We welcomed 48 prep students to Harristown SS this year. It was a successful first day for all children and parents. Prep students danced, sang, painted, played with playdough, built with blocks and completed activities at their desks.

All Prep and Year 1 students left the day with a Harristown Hero necklace to celebrate their successful and exciting first days. Congratulations to students and parents on completing their first week at school.

Bronwyn Bretz

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**Parents and Citizens Association News**

AGM Feb 16th 9.15am in the Conference Room. All parents welcome. Please find attached a nomination form for all executive positions for 2016.

- Tuckshop opening hours: 8.15am - 1.45pm Wednesday, Thursday and Friday
- All orders must be in by 8.50am
- Help is needed on Wednesday and Thursday each week
Recruitment for 2016 Instrumental Program is about to commence. Students in years 3—6 can select from strings, brass, woodwind or percussion. If you are interested please see Ms M.

**INTERHOUSE CROSS COUNTRY**
The Harristown State School Inter-house Cross Country/Fun Run event will be held on Friday 16th of March. This event is for the whole school and will be held on the top school oval. This carnival is an Inter-house points competition as well as a selection trial for the school team to run at the Central Zone Carnival. Distances at the school carnival are: 8yr olds (born 2008) - 1km, 9 & 10 yr olds - 2km, 11-12yr olds 3km (Zone distance 3km). Events will be held between 9.15am-12.00pm. Prep - Year 2 students will run a small course during the Cross Country event which will also contribute towards house points. At the conclusion of the carnival parents are welcome to stay and have a picnic lunch with your child/children on the oval. Presentations will follow straight after. Students are to wear their house colours and bring along their house pride and team spirit.
All are welcome to come and join in our first sports event for the year.

**TOOWOOMBA ZONE TRIALS**
Students turning 10, 11 or 12 this year are invited to attend Toowoomba Zone trials in a variety of sports throughout the year. Students must be nominated by Mrs Williams only. The trials are not an activity for students who have not played the sport before or do not possess a high quality set of skills for that game. Should your child wish to attend a Zone Trial, they must see Mrs Williams and collect a letter to go home. A medical form must also be returned to Mrs Williams before a nomination can be sent. These trials occur out of school hours and the family is responsible for transporting and any payments that may occur as a result.

**SWIMMING**
Swimming will commence Wk 2. It is the school’s expectation that all students participate in swimming classes. If your child is unable to swim for a medical reason or sickness please provide a note to the class teacher. All students will require togs, towel, swim shirt, swim cap and a bag to keep the items in. We had great success last year with our students gaining confidence and swimming skills. This is a very important skill for life.

**BASKETBALL**
Active After School Basketball commences Feb 4th 3.15 pm - 4.15pm for 6 weeks. Students in years 3 to 6 are invited to attend but must return their signed permission notes to the office.

**Library News - Mrs Watters**
Borrowing commences next Friday 5th Feb. Please make sure your child has a library bag. If you have an outstanding library book from last year please return it to your class teacher or the library.