Principal’s Message:

WELCOME
A very special welcome to all our new families and staff, as well as families and staff returning to our school this week. We are delighted to have you as part of our school community. I would particularly like to welcome, Mrs Jill Rutland, who has taken on the role of Deputy Principal while we await the recruitment and selection process for this permanent position.

We have had an excellent start to the new school year. This week, we welcomed 76 very enthusiastic Prep students to their first day of school and we want to do everything we can to ensure their level of engagement and excitement about school remains until they complete their primary education in 2021. We have sent home individual photos of our Prep students to commemorate their first day of school.

PARENT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
Research indicates that parent involvement in their child’s school life makes a positive difference to educational outcomes. We know how busy the life of a parent can be and that opportunities for involvement will vary depending on family circumstances. Parent and Community Engagement is a focus for our school and we will be providing a range of activities to increase opportunities for parents to be engaged in our school community. One of our strategies, is the position of Parent Liaison for each class. More information for these positions will be available shortly.

As part of our welcome back to school, we will be holding Parent Information evenings in Week 3. These evenings provide parents with a wonderful opportunity to learn about the teaching and learning strategies used in the classroom. A timetable will be published soon.

We have had a very settled start to the school year and I have been very impressed with the commitment of students to their learning.

CLASS STRUCTURE
At present we are expecting approximately 570 students at our school in 2015. I am required to advise the department on Day 8 (Thursday 5 February 2015) of our actual enrolment. The effective enrolment on that day will be used to determine our resourcing and staffing allocation. When the final enrolment has been determined, it may become necessary to adjust some classes. If that becomes necessary, I will advise you as soon as possible. If you know of any students who have not yet returned to school, would you please ask them to call the school office as soon as possible..

ALERT
We have a number of children at our school, who for a variety of reasons have vulnerable immune systems. This means that if they contract any contagious disease, they could become extremely ill.

We ask all parents and carers to notify us urgently if their child has measles, chicken pox or any other highly contagious disease, so that we can protect these children.
ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL
Please be aware that students should not be at school prior to 8:00am. For those who do arrive earlier, we have a procedure, where students remain in the large covered area adjacent to the tuck-shop. We open our hall at 8:00am and students are required to move to the hall at that time.
Our school does host Outside School Hours Care, conducted by our Parents & Citizens Association. They provide an excellent program for children who arrive early or need to be supervised after school.

BREAKFAST CLUB
We have a breakfast club operating in the hall on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Fridays until approximately 8:25. Breakfast Club will recommence next Monday 2 February. Our Breakfast Club is run solely by volunteers and so we would be grateful to any parents who may have around an hour to spare on those days.

STAFF MEETINGS
Our school has a very strong and committed team, who meet each Tuesday afternoon for staff meetings or professional development. The meetings begin promptly at 3:05, therefore, staff are not able to meet or discuss student progress with parents at that time. We would love you to discuss your child/children’s progress with their teacher, so please feel free to make an appointment time which suits you both.

QSchools app
With the school year beginning, it is important for families and staff to keep up-to-date with the latest information from their school. The QSchools app provides an easy way to access vital school information, including latest news, events and newsletters.
In addition, the QSchools app now allows for push notifications to deliver essential information directly to a device, including emergency alerts and important updates.

Find out more on the DETE website, or download the app for your device:
- iPhone/iPad
- Android
- Windows phone
- Windows PC

Meridee Cuthill
Principal

Mrs Jill Rutland - Deputy Principal
As the new Deputy Principal of Collingwood Park State School, I visited each class today to introduce myself to the students. They told me that Collingwood Park is a friendly, caring school with great teachers. My impression, so far, is that this is certainly true so I’m thrilled to have been appointed as Deputy Principal for Term 1.

For many years, I taught in the UK before moving to Brisbane with my family. We’re now Australian Citizens and proud to call Brisbane home. After settling into our new life, I worked at Indooroopilly State School – initially as a classroom teacher and later as Acting Deputy Principal. I worked as Head of Curriculum at Inala State School in 2014 and am excited to be starting this year at Collingwood Park State School; working with and getting to know the families, students and teachers of the Collingwood Park team.
Welcome to our new staff members for 2014. With Mrs Cuthill now appointed as Principal we extend a very warm welcome to Mrs Jill Rutland as Acting Deputy Principal.

We have several teachers returning from maternity leave and other placements within the department. Welcome back Mrs Kirsten Bailey, Mrs Leanne Jared and Mrs Tiffany Street.

Also welcome to Mr House who will be teaching 6C.

We welcome them all to our school community and trust that they will enjoy their time at Collingwood Park State School.

Newsletters in 2015

Each week our school distributes a newsletter to keep the school community informed of the happenings within the school. To ensure as many families as possible receive the newsletter we offer three options for distribution. Please complete the form below and return to the school office to indicate your preference.

Your options for receiving the newsletter are:

- Access online via the school website or Qschools App.  [www.collparkss.eq.edu.au](http://www.collparkss.eq.edu.au)
- Have a copy emailed to you
- Receive a paper copy

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Child’s name: _____________________  Class: _____________________

Please tick your preferred choice (✓)

- [ ] I will access the newsletter online
- [ ] I would like a copy emailed to the following address:
  ________________________________
- [ ] I would like a paper copy sent home with my child
Traffic Around the School

Please be aware that both the Police and Ipswich City Council constantly patrol around our school. Please avoid parking across driveways and on footpaths. Parking is also available on Collingwood Park Drive, with just a short walk to the school’s front gate.

Please remember that a bus zone has been designated outside Collingwood Park Dental Clinic on Burrel Street. This means parents/carers cannot park in that area between 2 and 4pm.

I appeal to all parents to be careful when driving around our schools, please obey road rules and demonstrate patience. There have been a number of incidents reported to the office regarding driver behaviour on Burrel Street in the afternoon.

**Please do not exit your vehicle or stay longer than two (2) minutes in the drop off zone.** Staff on duty are concerned for the safety and well-being of students. Please do not abuse staff who ask you to move on or obey road rules. It would be disastrous if any of our children were to be hit by your car.

**Please see the attached map which clearly identifies the Loading and Bus Zones.**

Resource Fees Scheme

**Resource Scheme Fees**

Notes have been sent home regarding the Resource Fees Scheme.

**Your contribution of $50.00** towards your student’s education will provide:

- Maths and English materials;
- Equipment and resources to support literacy and numeracy activities;
- Funding for a variety of activities such as craft, cooking, art & science experiments;
- Information Technology resources including – software and web based personal licences;
- Reproduced learning resources to support personalised learning;
- Relevant teaching and learning resources.

The scheme supplements the teaching and learning for your child / children at Collingwood Park State School by enhancing instruction, through the provision of resources that enable challenging, interesting and differentiated programs and resources that might not otherwise be available.

A payment scheme is available; should you require a different payment plan, please do not hesitate to contact the school and arrange this with administration.
When parents separate, their children may experience a variety of emotions including confusion, sadness, anxiety, guilt, shame, anger and isolation. The Supporting Children After Separation program is a free service that aims to support children and young people through the difficulties and challenges that may arise from the breakdown of their parents’ relationship.

The program is designed to meet the needs of a person under 18 years of age by assisting them in exploring ways to understand and manage their feelings about the changes their family is experiencing. We do this through different expressive activities such as art, music, drama and physical activity, both in group and individual environments.

Supporting Children after a Separation Program

UnitingCare Community offers a FREE children’s counselling service to support children 5-18 years old who are experiencing difficulties as a result of their parent’s separation.

Children can show a variety of emotions including confusion, sadness, anger, anxiety or guilt during these events. If you have concerns about your child, and would like support please call 1300 761 842.

This program is funded by the Australian Government Department: Social Services.