DATES TO REMEMBER

9-10 February  Prep Vision Screening
13 February  P&C Meeting @ 9am in the Parent Room
15 February  Swimming commences (5 weeks) Years 3-6
17 February  Religious Instruction begins
3 March  Clean Up the School Day
8 March  International Women’s Day
13 March  P&C AGM @ 9am in the Parent Room
14 March  Hear and Say Screening (Prep and new students)
16 March  Year 1 Excursion—Walkabout Creek
17 March  Free Dress Day

School Zones
Please follow road rules around school zones and parking areas, as your child and our students are precious to ALL of us.

School Zones
8:30 - 9:30 AM
9:30 AM - 12:30 PM
12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
2:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Welcome to the newest members of our teaching team:
Mrs Leonie McDonald, Miss Tarryn Stephen, Ms Danielle Jankusik, Mrs Claire Armstrong and Ms Kay McNamara.

Welcome Back

Serviceton South State School
We learn; we care; we are team players …
We are Serviceton South Sapphire!
Dear Parents and Community Members

Welcome back to the new school year. It’s wonderful to come back to so many happy, excited faces after a lovely holiday. We hope all of our new families, and there are quite a few of them, are settling into our wonderful Serviceton South State School community. Our enrolment numbers have stabilised at around 332 students, so will keep 14 classes this year, with no great changes after Day 8.

This year we welcome a number of new teachers to our teaching team. Mrs Leonie McDonald and Ms Taryn Stojanovic (Friday) are teaching Prep 1 and Miss Tegan Stephen rounds out the Prep team in Prep 2. Ms Danielle Jankusis is teaching the Year 5A class, and we have two new EALD teachers, Mrs Claire Armstrong and Ms Kay McNamara. We also welcome Teacher Aides, Ms Katrina McGeachran, Mrs Michelle Ninham and Mrs Donna Potts who return to our teaching team this year. We are all looking forward to an exciting 2017.

Our Community Welcome will be held next Wednesday evening and we hope you will all join us for this annual event. The Community Welcome begins with a short welcome in the Hall, after which you are invited to visit classrooms and meet your children’s teachers. From 6pm we will be serving a free dinner of sausages in bread rolls for all the family. Drinks will be available for purchase. You will receive a raffle ticket on visiting the classroom which might win you a $50 Woolworths voucher. Invitations have been sent home this week, with an RSVP to help with catering numbers.

Our first P&C Meeting for 2017 will be held in the Parent Room on Monday 13 February at 9am. All parents are welcome and we would love to see some new faces. The AGM will be held in March.

In 2017, our focus continues to be firmly on Reading, and continuing the great work from last year. Every student from Year 1-6 has a small group reading lesson, with a teacher or teacher aide, four days per week. Prep students will come on line with Guided Reading in Term 2, once they’ve had some time to settle. We continue to track every child’s progress and provide support for those not reading at benchmark levels. Reading makes a real and significant difference to the quality of people’s lives, and we want our students to leave Serviceton South with the ability to read, unless there is a disability that prevents them from doing so.

In 2017, we also want to take a closer look at student wellbeing. The concept of a ‘Wellbeing Centre’ is still in its infancy, but we are quite excited about the possibilities and benefits of supporting our students and families in a greater capacity.

Another project for 2017 is to make the most of the digital world in which we communicate with parents. We have a school website which will be utilised more effectively this year. Did you know that you can translate the language of the school website using the Bing translator? Next time you are looking at the website, have a play and try it out. The website address is www.servicetonsouth.eq.edu.au. We have been planning a school Facebook page for two years and this year I’m determined to make it happen.

Facebook is a great tool for communicating with parents and the community, although there are strict guidelines we need to post and respond respectfully. Have you tried the QSchools app? You can select from all Queensland state schools, which is particularly useful if you have children at primary and high school. The QSchools app contains articles, calendar, contact information and more. You can also download a digital copy of the newsletter. Download the app today.

Warm regards

Mami Morrison
Proud Principal

Curriculum Corner

The new school year brings about many exciting new opportunities within classrooms as teachers and students get to know each other. For many weeks now, our wonderful teachers have been busily preparing classroom environments and engaging learning experiences for our students. Last week all teachers in Years 1-6 were taken off class for 1 hour to work with Mrs Perring on planning their first English unit of work and assessment tasks. The hard work and dedication of our teaching staff here at Serviceton South is to be commended and valuable learning experiences are now well underway.

Reading continues to be a priority at Serviceton South with Guided Reading happening in all classrooms at least 4 days a week. Students have the opportunity to read to an adult every day and complete tasks based on our comprehension strategy. Ask your child to tell you about a book they have read recently or get them to explain to you the comprehension strategy they are learning. Please encourage your child to participate in reading every night for at least 15 minutes. This may involve you reading a picture book to your child or your child reading aloud to you. We love reading at Serviceton South as Reading Breeds Success.

Swimming: Years 3-6

This term students in Years 3-6 will participate in a structured swimming program for their HPE lessons. Swimming instruction will be held at Dunlop Pool, Ingham Ave. All students and teachers will be completed in small ability groups. The swimming program will take place on Wednesdays for 5 weeks, commencing on 15 February. The total cost of $65 includes swimming lesson, bus and swimming cap. Permission forms were sent home on Monday and are to be returned along with the payment to the office before 14 February. If a payment plan is more suitable for your budget, families can pay $9 per week and this must be paid by the day before swimming.

Please note: no money will be accepted on the morning of swimming which could result in your child not attending.

Instrumental Music and Band

This year our Instrumental Music program and Serviceton South State School Band rehearsal will operate on a Monday instead of Friday. Lessons for interested students in Years 4-6 will commence next week in the hall with Mrs Lyndall Faragher. Students who have not yet received their instrument, must return their permission form by Monday. The first band rehearsal will commence on Monday 6 February at 8am in the hall. We look forward to our band coming together and doing several performances for our school community this year.

Choir

Choir is a wonderful activity that students in Years 3-6 can participate in at first break in a Monday session in the music room. Mrs Chang our classroom music teacher will continue running the Serviceton South Choir as a lunchtime activity. Students in Year 3 will have the opportunity on Tuesday 7 February to attend a ‘Come and See’ session to see if choir is something that may be of interest. Full choir practice will commence on Tuesday 14 February. Permission forms have been sent home soon to be completed by parents/carers and students, acknowledging the commitment of joining choir. We look forward to our school choir performing at several events throughout the year with our first performance at the end of Term 1.

Student Leadership Induction Ceremony

The Student Leadership induction ceremony will be held on Monday 20 February commencing at 9am in the hall. Our Year 6 Student Leaders will be presented to our school community and will be awarded their leadership badge by our school Principal Ms Morrison and Mr Milton Dick MP. Parents of our student leaders will receive an invitation to this event in the coming week.

Year 6 Senior Shirt

We respectfully acknowledge the Jagera people, the Traditional Owners of the land on which this school stands.

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Each year we allow our Year 6 student to wear a specially designed senior shirt as part of their school uniform. The process of designing and organising these shirts is currently taking place. Important information will be sent home shortly to parents advising of cost, details about the shirt and expected delivery.

School Parade

Parade is held every Friday morning in the hall commencing at 8:45am. Parents and others are invited to attend our weekly parade where you will get to see students receiving awards, special performances by our school band and choir on selected dates and hear special messages for students and our community. We welcome you and look forward to you joining us for parade.

Student Details

The Administration staff are currently updating student files, please inform the office of any changes eg: phone numbers and addresses.

Uniform Shop

We are happy to advise that the uniform shop has been replenished with new stock.

The student leaders will receive an invitation to our school community and will be presented to our school community and will be awarded their leadership badge by our school Principal Ms Morrison and Mr Milton Dick MP. Parents of our student leaders will receive an invitation to this event in the coming week.

PBL Update

This year we have a few changes in our PBL (Positive Behaviour for Learning) systems and process.

The first thing you will notice is no list of Gem Draw winners on the back of the newsletter. This year, we will be introducing the "Gem Shop" and students will be able to collect their Gems and trade them in for "really cool stuff" at the Gem Shop. This will mean that every Gem is valuable and can be saved and spent for items that students choose, rather than going into a lucky draw at the end of the week.

Gems will be given out freely and frequently and we hope that the Student Council will be kept very busy when it opens in a couple of weeks.

This year we will not be having Positive Behaviour Days at the end of each term. Instead, we will host a range of class parties and rewards. Each day is a ‘learning day’ and we are already calculating class attendance averages. Which class is going to receive the first 100% Week prize???

Communication Books are in production and will be sent home soon. This year we are having them produced commercially so that they don’t fall apart quite so easily.