During the holidays, our two junior playgrounds were upgraded with a new surface, thanks to the work of the P&C Association. A grant, which was received in 2014, was modified to include the upgrade of these facilities rather than the purchase of a barbeque trailer. The new playgrounds look fabulous and we’re sure parents and carers are enjoying a reduction in the amount of sand being bought home in shoes. The senior playground is also scheduled to have the surface upgraded through school based maintenance funding sometime soon. We do believe that children need some sand to play in—it’s great fun—so we have plans to construct additional sand play areas as well. Thank you to both the previous and current P&C Executives. For making this upgrade possible. The previous Executive applied for and successfully won the original grant, and the current Executive submitted the necessary paperwork to modify the specifications, with fabulous results!
Dear Parents, Carers and Community Members

With Day 8 behind us, and no changes to classes, we are well into the school year and its shaping up to be a great one. We had a great roll up to the Community Welcome last week with 78 students going into the lucky draw. Theodore, in 1A was the lucky draw winner, taking home a $50 voucher to the Woolworths company. I took some time to outline the school priorities for the year, which include Reading, Student Support, the Curiosity and Powerful Learning project and the Australian Curriculum. These priority areas will be featured in newsletters this year so look out for the regular updates.

Student Support is an area that has undergone significant reform over the past few months, with full implementation this year. I met with every teacher yesterday to go through class lists and make sure that I am aware of all concerns about students’ academic, social and emotional learning. It is my view that all children must receive the support they require to help them learn. One of our actions has been to develop the role of Student Support Connect person for each year level. This person is part of the Student Support team who meet fortnightly. Their role is to work with class teachers to ensure timely identification of students with learning needs, and to develop support plans and guide referrals in consultation with teachers. They can also speak with parents who have concerns about their child. If you have concerns about your child’s learning these are several people you can talk to.

Always, in the first instance, speak with your child’s class teacher about any concerns.

If your child is verified with a disability you can also speak with Mrs Garbellotto.

If your child is a recent arrival (2 years) in Australia speak with Mrs Garbellotto.

If your child is a recent arrival (2 years) in Australia speak with Mrs Garbellotto.

Our Leaders’ induction was scheduled for next Tuesday at Parade. Unfortunately Premier Palaszczuk is unable to make this date so we are attempting to reschedule to a time when she is available. We will let parents know as soon as we have a new date.

Student cards will be going home shortly. Please make sure you update your contact details and return them as soon as possible.

Warm regards
Marni Morrison
Principal

Reading
What is your child’s favourite book?
Reading is a priority area for Serviceton South SS and we are implementing quite a few initiatives to help students improve their ability to, and attitude towards reading. All staff will participate in ongoing professional development in teaching reading. Students who are identified ‘at risk’ are receiving targeted support. This could be reading with an adult for 15 minutes/day or through small group intervention, focusing on phonics. Our high achieving students will also receive additional support to further extend their comprehension skills.

P&C AGM
Our P&C AGM is Monday 7th March at 9am in the parent room. A reminder that all our positions are vacated at the AGM and new nominations for the roles of President, Secretary or Treasurer will all be welcomed. Please come along, everyone is welcome.

School Banking
We had our account opening information on Monday and the Commonwealth Bank mascot “Cred” came to visit. Thank you to those families who signed up. If you missed out we will be holding another account opening day in term 2. School banking is MONDAY morning at the canteen.

Parent help is needed please NEXT Thursday 25 February from 9am to clear the our veggie garden beds. This is so the students can start planting again. Parents are welcome to take clippings from of any of the plants that will be removed, strawberries, tomatoes, rosemary, mint and zucchini. The garden is located near the tennis courts.

Free Morning Tea & Information Session
For all parents/carers Tuesday 1 March 9am in the Parent Room. Find out about the Saver Plus Program and how you can get financial assistance to save for the cost of your child’s schooling. For more information see Chappy Sian. Call 3714 0235.

Parent Lounge - New and Improved
Hi Everyone. We have a plan to make our parent room a comfortable, welcoming drop in space for all of our parents. A place where parents can talk to each other and meet school staff. We would like some parent input into how this space is designed and how it will be utilised. If you are interested in contributing to this discussion please let Chappy Sian on 3714 0235 or sianr@chappy.org.au

Serviceton South State School would like to thank the following people and organisations who have recently helped out school in a number of ways.

Debbie Flemming for providing the apples which sit at the front desk.

Blue Fin Fishing Club who have donated $500 to help keep our breakfast club running.

Sharon Smith for sewing up a storm to raise money for the Chaplaincy program.

Breakfast Club
Breakfast Club is every Thursday morning 8.00am-8.25am. Come and have a yummy breakfast with your friends for only 20cents.

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

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Canteen
Canteen volunteer forms have been handed out. If you are able to help out and didn’t receive a form please see Sammy in the canteen. We can only operate with your support and we appreciate ANY time you can give.

Disco
The School Disco is Thursday 25th February. Our theme is “Beach Party”. Food and drinks will be available at the hall canteen for purchase. Door entry will be $3.00 per student and times are:

- Preps - Year 2 5.00pm - 6.15pm
- Years 3 - 6 6.30pm - 8.00pm

Although there will be no sign-in required, parents must pick up students from the hall, not on the street. Parent volunteers are urgently needed. We CAN NOT go ahead with out support. We are looking for helpers from:

- Session 1 4.30pm - 6.30pm
- Session 2 6.30pm - 8.30pm

If you can assist at both sessions, that would be fantastic. If you can only make one session, we would really appreciate your time. Please see Belinda or any of the P&C members if you are available. (There is also a sign-up sheet in the office).