Dear parents & caregivers,

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL 2017

Welcome back everyone! I trust everybody has had a restful and relaxing holiday and is already fired up to enjoy the challenges of a new year.

A special welcome to new students and families to Goodna State School. We know you will enjoy your time with us.

May I take this opportunity to welcome new teachers as well to our staff, Nicole Greenfield and Elsa Berking at Prep, Sharee Phillips and Jane French at Year One, Kaitlin Smith in Year Two, Paige Longden and Stacey Collins in Year Four and Chendeep Bains in Year Six. Also a big warm welcome back to Rob Neho (Year Four), Narelle Springall & Rebecca Jennings (Year Two) and Liz Lloyd (Prep)

SCHOOL PRIORITIES IN 2017

As with last year our NUMBER ONE PRIORITY at Goodna State School is improving READING

And we are also beginning some renewed focus on Maths in Years 3 and 4 and Writing in Years 5 and 6

ATTENDANCE is also vital with a target of greater than 95% of students AT SCHOOL, ON TIME, EVERY DAY.

CLASS NUMBERS

We are concerned that a number of our children enrolled have yet to return to school. PREP enrolments are also less than expected. If you have friends and neighbours with school-age children who are not yet enrolled or back at school, please remind them that school has already been back a week and our staffing and resourcing is based on the DAY 8 count which takes place this Thursday 2nd February. Children who arrive after that date are not counted until the following year, meaning that our school is under resourced.

SAVE TIME AND PAY ONLINE

BPOINT is the preferred method of payment of Education Queensland.

For assistance please call in to the school office or contact the school on 3437 9333 for an over-the-phone tutorial.
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PREP is **compulsory** for all eligible children born between **1/7/11 and 30/6/12**. It is **vital** that all eligible children in our community attend PREP to maximise their achievement in education.

Disputes between parents and caregivers

Unfortunately we have had a couple of regrettable incidents where disputes between adults in the school have been witnessed by community members and students. I remind the community that school must be a calm, orderly place where everyone feels safe. Disagreements between adults have no place coming into the school.

Yours in quality education,

Mr. Lee Gerchow
Principal

Welcome back to school for 2017!

Please note that we have **changed to electronic newsletters** and this is the only hard copy that you will receive this year.

To ensure that you continue to access the newsletter fortnightly, please **LIKE** our Goodna State School **Facebook** page and download the **Qschools App**. We will also upload each newsletter to our **school website** as soon as it is ready!

**Life in the ambush zone**

An Australian Flower Spider, *L. multopunctata*, inspects its killing field - the reproductive parts of a flowering plant. It’s here hapless insects will land. In the case of bees, it will be to collect nectar and, by default, pollen on their bodies. The spider hides under the petals it has bent back and fixed into position with silken thread.

I took this image on my aging iPhone 4 while collecting fence posts in a paddock west of Ipswich.

We are all observers of the natural world. The challenge for science teachers is to capture children’s natural curiosity and formalise it within the rigours of the scientific process.

By Gerard Salmon