Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the 2014 school year. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new incumbent Principal at the wonderful Mossman State School. My name is Randal Smith and I have been an employee with Education Queensland for 29 years during which time I have held numerous roles and positions. I have taught all grades in the Primary school years from Kindergarten to grade 7. I started my career as teacher in charge of Preschools and then moving into Primary Principal which I started in 1991. I have held Principal roles in 6 schools across Far North Queensland and have taught in 14 schools throughout the state. My initial University degree was a Diploma of Teaching (primary/preschool) and I have subsequently completed as a Post Graduate student a Graduate Diploma in Aboriginal and Islander Education, Bachelor Degree in Education and Master’s Degree in Education. I pride myself as an active, continuous lifelong learner and I carry this notion into my work life.

In recent years I have been a stay-at-home dad caring for my 2 children Tully (7 years old) and Eli (5 years old). In 2009 I was principal at Port Douglas State School for 5 years. That is enough about me but I thought it important to share my background. I look forward to working with you and your children in making Mossman State School a good place to be a learner, to be respectful and be safe. Please take advantage of the opportunities in coming to meet myself and the wonderful teachers and staff at our school.

I would also like to introduce Miss Sonja Carrigan who will be our grade 5 teacher. Sonja has been a teacher for 9 years and has recently taught at Julatten, Alexandra Bay and Gordonvale State Schools. Sonja brings a wealth of experience and innovation to the classroom. We look forward to Sonja’s contribution and involvement in our school community and she has already connected and engaged her year 5 class. Please introduce yourself to Sonja and welcome her into our learning community. So a big welcome to Sonja and we all look forward to working with you.

Our school is continuing to grow with our enrolments increasing daily. As of today we have 237 children enrolled in our school. This is approximately 15 more students than we predicted at the end of last year. As a consequence result we have to make some minor adjustments to classes to ensure that class sizes are manageable and also cater for future growth. Day 8 (Thursday 6th February) is the day that our staffing numbers are decided for the remainder of the year. It is of utmost importance that we have all students attend school prior to this day. If you know of families and friends who will be attending our school this year and have not attended for whatever reason please ask them to contact the office and let us know.

Our classes at this stage:
- Prep1 Mrs Louise Walker
- 1A Mrs Kassandra Savage
- 2/3A Mrs Marg Mather
- 1/2/3B Mrs Karen Steele
- 3/4 Miss Budgen and Mrs Kath Williams
- 5A Mr Bronson Ryan
- 6/7A Mrs Zoe Gibson and Mrs Leisa Jones
- 6/4B Mrs Sam Edwards and Mrs Sharon Case

Please take the opportunity and meet your child’s teacher.

Our school has been practising and reinforcing our 3 school rules:
- Being a Learner
- Being Respectful
- Being Safe

We ask you to support our school and reinforce these rules at home. Your assistance with this is greatly appreciated.

Our first week of school has been fantastic with the children engaged, respectful and safe. Our teachers have been sensational in organising, planning and teaching in their classrooms. Parents have been great in getting the children to school on time, having their books and uniforms organised and supporting our school.

A big thanks to our P&C committee for organising the uniforms and providing tuckshop (now operating Monday, Wednesday and Friday).

Thanks for a great start to the year.
NEWSLETTER INFO FROM P&C

Volunteers
Much needed and always welcome. Volunteering in your child’s school can help you feel connected to their learning and social interactions. It is a great way to get to know the staff and other students and shows your child that you take an interest in their world. There are many ways you could do this:

Tuckshop – Munchbox Mayi
Now open Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Orders need to be in the classroom tuckshop box before 9.30am. If you are able to volunteer some time to help then please call in to the tuckshop and say hi to our friendly Tuckshop Convenor, Lynn. If you missed out on a Tuckshop menu please pick one up from the office.

P&C Meetings
Third Thursday of the month – 3.30pm in the library. These meetings are generally very relaxed. Come and share with the Committee, Anthea, Sarah, Rachael and Jodi. We are a pretty easy going bunch and would love to meet some new faces to inject some much needed energy into our fundraising. Also, it is a good way to get to know the Principal, Randal, meet some other parents and learn about why our school is great. Next meeting: 20th February

Fundraising
Sometimes P&C will call on parents/carers to assist at some fundraising events. If you can’t make it to all the meetings please put your name down to assist when you can as more help means less work for all. All fundraising goes back into the school. Perhaps you have some ideas for new ways to fundraise or ideas for places to spend our money.

Reading Club
Every morning from 8.00am children can access the school Reading Club in the library. Miss Pam and her band of merry helpers are always looking for volunteers to help read with the children. P&C strongly support this and it has been a huge success in improving reading outcomes. You could also talk to your child’s teacher about ways to help in the classroom.

Information Evenings
Last year we hosted an information evening about Building Resilience in Your Children. We were assisted by the school Guidance Officer, Michelle Hall. Many parents attended and commented that it was really useful. If you have any topics of interest you would like to see covered please come along to a meeting or contact a member of P&C.

Uniform Co-ordinator Position Vacant
Due to work commitments our Uniform Co-ordinator, Sarah, has had to resign. Therefore we are in urgent need of someone to fill the role. It is not hard and if you would like more information please phone Anthea on 0428981470. If anyone has any Size 4 or Size 6 uniforms they would like to sell or pass on please leave them at the office.

Music lessons for 2014
Piano/keyboard, Violin, Guitar. Contact Maxine Haines or Mark Haines on 40984020 or 0437724455.

Mossman Riverside Leisure Park
Karin Barnes
Swim School
2014
Enrol Today!!!!
Learn to Swim Program
From babies to School age
Dolphin Squad program
Beginners to Advance
Aqua Fitness Classes
Tues & Thurs 5.30-6.30 pm
Bookings essential for all classes. For more information please ring the office or email Debbie.
07 4098 2627
mossmanleisurepark@bigpond.com
www.mossmanriversideleisurepark.com