Dear Parents,

Welcome to a new school year. It has been an eventful start to the term and one that will be remembered for quite some time. Thank you to Helena, Leigh and Majella for coming to the rescue on the first day and helping to tidy up after the wild weather. Heidi Thompson also came in to lend a hand when she heard that I was on my own and her help was much appreciated. Her children came for the day and it would have been lovely if we could have convinced them to stay! Her daughter was amazed that the principal was also the teacher and that the whole school could all fit in one room!

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new students; Amy, Calum and James. They are settling in well and it won't be long before they get to know everyone.

I would also like to welcome Miss Jacinta Allen to our team. Jacinta has been allocated to the school for the first two weeks until we know what our staffing entitlements are based on enrolments. We will be submitting data to the department tomorrow and again next Friday. There will be staff changes however we will keep you up to date with developments. We have had a number of enrolment enquiries and remain hopeful. Mrs Lane is also back on board and we are hoping she will be able to continue with science this year. All staff will be working with all classes over the next few weeks for students to get used to working with different staff and we have set up desks in my room for all students just in case we do not retain our second teacher. We are doing lots of group work but come together as a whole school regularly throughout the day.

Starting next week the older students will have diaries that come home each day. Please initial them to show you have sighted them and please feel free to pop in any notes to staff about changes to pick up, bus runs etc. The younger students will have a communications book. Homework will be sent home next week however the format will change as we get into the term. We are trying to make this task one that is easier for parents and staff to manage. This term we will be concentrating on maths facts, spellings and reading.

As you know there is always a mountain of paperwork to get sorted out at the start of the year. Please initial the Student Card / Details form to show that the information has been checked. Please put in your e-mail address and check mobile numbers as these seem to change. Some changes you may have told us of but these may not be showing on the system, so please bear with us and update the form where necessary. Other forms include Religious Letter and Permission Form, consent form and Chaplaincy Consent Form. Please return these as soon as possible.
Once again we are sending out the Absentee Note(s) for families to keep at home and send in when necessary. In general we have very good attendance records and we would like to keep unexplained absences to a minimum. In due course we will advise you of dates for School Photographs as well as P & C Meeting Dates and AGM’s.

A roster for Tuckshop is still being organised and will be sent home next week in the Newsletter.

The Newsletter will most likely change the day it will be sent home due to changes of days staff are working, this will probably be on a Wednesday. If you are a community member and would like to receive the newsletter please phone through to the school (4666 1569) your email address and it will be added to our list and sent through each week.

Enjoy the rest of the week.

Laura Watson
Principal

~ Community News ~

Learning Through Play

**Freestone Playgroup**
Where the kids come first

Come and have a cuppa and some fun.
Shared morning tea.

When: Wednesday’s
Time: 9am – 11am (9:30am in winter)
Where: Freestone State School
Organised Activities for 0 – 5 year olds
Cost: $2 per week
Plus insurance $35/family or $25/family concession per full year
Enquiries: Leesa 4661 2739 or 0419 741 264  Carlee 4667 3227