Welcome Back!
Welcome back to a 2015 school year! It’s great to be back at school welcoming staff, students and parents to a new year. Thanks to all of you who have made the start of 2015 a great one thus far. Coming back to school was a little easier this year. There is a tonne of green grass, ample water, no school audits and no extended Mr. Pedley leave due to family expansion.

It was also very refreshing, as it always is, to see so many smiling faces walking through the school gates. I attended a school conference a while back and I was listening to a keynote speaker. A fairly high up fellow in the Japanese school system, renowned for it’s school based performance, and he was asked a question about schooling for his children. He was asked, “as a father, what do you look for in your children coming home from school everyday?” His response was, “if my children can come home from a day of school with a smile on their face or a story from school that puts a smile on their face, then I’m happy. I don’t care about performance measures, or how well they did on national testing, because I know my kids are going to be ok.” Now for someone who is an educational leader in a world leading educational system to say that, is pretty incredible, but a statement I whole heartedly agree with. Although national testing and performance testing is an important facet of any child’s education, it should not form the sole basis for that education. It’s a package deal.

The overall wellbeing of our students at Proston State School forms the main pillar of our agenda. We want every child to go home and be able to smile about something that happened to them at school. If they can’t, then we want to know how to make it happen. We are always striving to improve this great school and your feedback is valued and always welcomed. We are simply a phone call away and are always happy to meet and listen to you.

Sport Shed
The new sport shed has been approved by council and work is to commence in the next two weeks. Providing the weather holds our slab should be on the ground by February 16. The school will keep everyone informed as we will be looking for volunteers and keen shed helpers to give us a hand putting up our new facility!

Welcome to new staff
The school would like to welcome all of our new staff who will be joining us in 2015. Please see the page in the newsletter devoted to introducing your staff in 2015. I am sure you will extend your well wishes to them along with me as they join the great team already at the school.

Regards Ryan
Week 2:

Back Row: Chayanne Sanderson, Dean Jones, James Mutton
Middle Row: Peter Palmer, Nastassja Soanes, Alana Doessell
Front Row: Courtney Kruse, Jack Riley, Isabella Eisenmenger
Staff - 2015

Principal - Ryan Pedley
Master Teacher - Michael Boyle
H O C - Katrina Hayward

AO2 - Jess Scanlan
Prep - Sue Jones
Year 3/4 - Belinda Waterford
Eng/Hist/Electives - Selena

Sci/Maths - Sophia Steinhardt
HPE/IDT/Rur - M Eisenmenger
Year 5/6 - Fiona Gill
Special Needs - Rose Cook

Eng/Maths/Electives - Nic
Chaplain - Chappy
Teacher Aide - Joan Murray
Teacher Aide/Lib - Linda Rea
Sports and Rec Club

This Semester we will again be having our afternoon sports program running on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons from 3.15p.m. to 4.00p.m.

Wednesday afternoons will be devoted to cross country training and will require students to have suitable footwear, a hat and their water bottle. At times we will be completing runs outside of the school boundaries and jogging along the exercise path near Railway Park and around the golf course. Thursday’s will be devoted to field and court sports. Students may attend either afternoon or both afternoons.

Week 3 will be our start date if we have enough interest in this program. Any interested students please see Mr. Eisenmenger for a permission note and have it signed and returned before next week.

Cheers
Mr. Eisenmenger
Sports Co-coordinator

Swimming Carnival

Next Thursday (Feb 12) the school will be holding its annual Swimming Carnival.

Parents and community members are welcome to attend to support their children and the school. Students can wear their house colours on the day and turn their hats around to show their true colours and support of the Redbacks or the Bulldogs.

Last year was a close result after all of the carnivals with the Bulldogs winning out in 2014. I do believe it could be a year for the Redbacks to shine. Good luck to all competing on the day.
Show Time

Bill & Junior getting ready for the upcoming shows in Proston, Wondai & Goomeri.
“Good Luck to our Rural Students Show Team”
Prep

The Preps have had a great start to the year. We are completing lots of set tasks and learning to get along as a class socially. It has been great to see all the students in full school uniform as well as having a hat. Remember to read the diaries and bring them back to school every day.  

Sue Jones

Year 1/2

Stars

We have been working hard at school in the past two weeks. In Math we have learnt about Super Hero Zero, teen numbers, groups of and counting. In Literacy we have been learning lots of words about feelings and investigating how illustrations help us to read emotions in books. We have also been investigating different ways to write a sentence and how we can build on a simple sentence to make it better. Homework commenced this week, there was no spelling attached to this week’s homework as students will have a word sort to complete at their individual level. If you have any questions about Homework or how your child is progressing, please do not hesitate to come in talk to Mrs H or ring the school and leave a message I will call you back as soon as I can. I hope to see you all at the information afternoon next Wednesday. Feel free to check out the class blog at http://prostonstars.classtel.com/

Stay Safe - Traci Holland
Year 3/4

Welcome to 2015!!! We certainly have started 2015 with a bang. Students have been busy working on their handwriting skills. We have introduced the Multiplication Station to our classroom which has created a great deal of excitement as the program allows students to improve their skills in this area but to work at their own pace. Cars and Stars and Words Their Way programs have began with great enthusiasm and we are lucky enough to have Mrs Rea to assist us with this. I secretly think Mrs Rea is enjoying this job!

I had advised you that our Library day was on Tuesdays however we have now changed that to Thursday. Please don’t forget about our Parent Information afternoon which will be on Wednesday 11th February 2015. All staff would love to have as many parents attend as possible so that we can meet those parents we have not yet met but also to show you what your children will be learning and what that will look like. Belinda Waterford

Greetings from 5/6

The students in Year 5/6 have settled in and are learning well. They are enjoying the new Vivo reward system and many of them now have enough Vivos to buy a pen or key ring from the Vivo shop.

Maths

In Maths, students have been learning about using factors and multiples and are now moving onto using estimation. This is a strategy that adults often take for granted, and students sometimes don’t see the sense in learning it. If you use estimating strategies such as rounding in your everyday life, please be sure to let them know! For example you might:

- mentally estimate the total value of goods in your shopping trolley
- work out approximate monthly or weekly payments for laybys or bills
- estimate the number of hours it will take to drive a long journey OR
- estimate the amount of feed you need for your stock.

Homework

Students have been given a spelling activity sheet and a times table activity sheet. These should be glued into their homework books. Students are to use these two sheets every week to use with the new set of words they bring home or their current times table. Occasionally there may be other homework tasks to help reinforce current lessons. Homework folders and diaries need to be brought to school everyday. Fiona Gill