Welcome back to the new school year! Our year has once again commenced with a flurry of new enrolments and I would like to take this opportunity to welcome those families who are new to our school. We look forward to working with you and encourage you to take an active interest in our wonderful school. I would also like to extend a warm welcome to new and returning staff. In particular, I would like to welcome Mr Michael Nielson who joins us as Deputy Principal. Michael has recently arrived on the Tablelands after moving here with his family from Thangool where he was Principal at the local school.

(Continued Page 2)
Michael will assume the role of managing the Year 3 and 4 cohorts. This means I still look after Preps, Ms Nyree Burton the Year 1 and 2 cohorts and Ms Hannah Simpson Years 5 and 6.

We also welcome:

- Sandra Stewart-Troncone—Prep
- Ms Anita Fitzpatrick, Ms Maddison Wilkins – Year 3
- Ms Sara Denman – Year 5
- Ms Ros Serginson –IP
- Mr Lachy Szery – Instrumental Music
- Ms Emma Parkes – Learning Support
- Ms Lisa Formoso—Year 1
- Mr Han Yin Tan – Year 4
- Ms Naomi Cross – Year 6
- Ms Bindi McGill – IP
- Ms Gemma Quigg – Music
- Mr Russell Barlow and Ms Barb Robinson – welcome back!

Teaching staff have already undertaken three days of Professional Development and planning prior to the commencement of the term and we have spent some of that time ensuring that our priorities for 2016 are clear.

We maintain our very strong commitment to academic excellence through an ongoing commitment to Explicit Teaching. This means that we remain strongly focussed on high academic outcomes through the ongoing use of Consolidations (Warm-ups) and the “I Do, We Do, You Do” approach to teaching explicit lessons. Ensuring that students achieve the targets set in Reading for each year level is also a clear priority.

High standards will be set for student bookwork and behaviour again this year and this will be matched by high expectations for students to be in uniform and to attend school on a daily basis. The adage “Everyday Counts!” is as important to us this year as ever! Our goal for student attendance this year is again 95%. We can do it!

Our partnership with parents, carers and the wider community also remains a priority for us. To assist parents and carers with any beginning of the year procedures or questions regarding routines or school expectations, we are holding an Information Night on Thursday 4 February at 5:30pm. We will also offer a range of parent workshops early in the school year to assist parents and carers to ensure their children’s educational outcomes are the best we can possibly achieve. Please keep an eye on our newsletter and website for details. Finally, welcome to the new school year. Our staff looks forward to working with you throughout another rewarding school year.
Resource Fees
Parents and carers are welcome to call in at the office and pay the annual resource fee of $50. EFTPOS is available. If you are unable to pay the total amount, we accept part payments. All monies go directly towards purchasing resources for classrooms. Thank you to the following families who have paid recently:

- Simpson (5E, 6C)
- Prizmic (5S)
- Perkes (3K, 5S)
- Pausa (1C)
- Soncin (6S)

THANK YOU
We would like to thank Brumbys Bakery Mareeba & Howe Farming for donating bread and bananas for emergency lunches. We appreciate your generosity.

DID YOU KNOW?
You can now find Mareeba State School on Facebook! ‘Like’ our page to stay updated with school news and photos.

SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS
Monday - Thursday: 8:00 - 4:00
Friday: 8:00 - 3:30

Meet & Greet BBQ

TUCKSHOP VOLUNTEERS
The tuckshop is looking for volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering your time, please complete and return the form (previously emailed out to parents) and return it to the office. If you don’t have a form, the office can provide one for you to fill out.

Apply NOW for the Mareeba SS RATEP Program
Are you an indigenous person who would like a career in education? Then RATEP is for you. Study at the school and work your way up from TAFE to JCU with the full-time support of a teacher coordinator. Ring and have a chat with Trudy on 40922556.
Curriculum Update

Welcome all students and parents to the 2016 school year. My name is Valerie Dayes and I am the Head of Curriculum at Mareeba State School (commonly known as The HOC). My role is to assist teachers to implement and deliver the required curriculum to all our students. 2016 will see the continued implementation of the Australian National curriculum (known as ACARA) across all year levels. In Queensland, ACARA has been incorporated into C2C units in the areas of English, Maths, Science, History and Geography and this is what we use at Mareeba State School. Students also undertake studies in The Arts (music, dance, drama) and Health & Physical Education in all year levels. Students in year levels 5 & 6 also undertake studies in LOTE (AUSLAN at our school).

This term, students will complete the following requirements for English:

**Prep** – Perform an oral retell and complete a picture sequencing activity based on “The Very Hungry Caterpillar”

**Year One** – Read and interpret picture books and perform a spoken presentation about a character’s emotions

**Year Two** – Compare visual representations of a character in two versions of ‘Goldilocks’. Choose their favourite illustrations of the character and provide reasons for their preference.

**Year Three** – Explore and analyse persuasive texts and produce a piece of persuasive writing

**Year Four** – Read Rowan of Rin by Emily Rodda. Write an argument to convince the class that Rowan is either a weak or brave character. Present your persuasive argument to your class.

**Year Five** - Explore and analyse persuasive texts and produce a piece of persuasive writing

**Year Six** – Write an argument to persuade the reader:

‘That a good literary text can deliver a more powerful message than a good informative text’ OR ‘That a good informative text can deliver a more powerful message than a good literary text’.

Students in Year 3 and Year 5 will undertake the annual NAPLAN testing on May 12, 13 & 14. Students across Australia are tested in the areas of Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (spelling, grammar & punctuation) and Numeracy. I will be conducting a NAPLAN parent workshop closer to the days if you would like to find out more about NAPLAN. Invitations for this will be sent home with your child.

I will be conducting a parent workshop for Prep parents on Reading on Wednesday, February 10 in the library from 9:00 – 10:00am. Invitations have been sent home with all Prep students. If you would like further information please contact me (vdaye1@eq.edu.au)

Students from years 3 – 6 are given the opportunity to participate in the ICAS (International Competitions and Assessment for Schools) competitions conducted by the University of NSW as well as the AMT (Australian Mathematics Trust) competition. These competitions occur at various times throughout the year. Entry in these competitions is voluntary and requires parents to pay a small entry fee. Students who participate receive a certificate and a report detailing their achievement.

Once again I will be running the Student Learning Café on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8:30 – 8:55am in the library. Students are encouraged to come along and complete homework activities and/or read to an adult. Every visit earns the student a cup of Milo and every tenth visit earns students a cupcake. If you would like to join our team of volunteers please give me a call on 40928167. The Learning Café will begin in week 3 on Tuesday, February 9th.

If you have any questions around curriculum matters or would like further information about any of the items mentioned above please feel free to contact me on 40928167 or find me in the library.

Valerie Dayes
REMINDERS
Just a few friendly reminders for the start of the new school year...

- **ALL** visitors to the school must sign in at the front office before entering the school grounds. This also includes parents who are volunteering in classrooms.

- The car park directly in front of the office is for authorised personnel only and must not be used for pick-up or drop-off of students.

- The ‘Drop-off Zone’ parking on Constance St and Atherton St must be used for exactly that - dropping off and picking up students. These parks should **not** be stopped in for any longer.

- The key way area in front of the office is for the drop-off and pick-up of disabled students only. It should not be used for regular drop-offs and pick-ups and should be kept clear in case of emergency.

**SIGN-ON DAY**
SUNDAY 14th Feb 2016 10am:2pm
Boys & Girls ages 6 to 17.5
Watsons Oval, Behan St, Manunda
Come and have a kick, meet friends, coaches, senior players and sign up for an exciting season of AFL

Get ready for yet another thrilling and fun filled TIGERS adventure!!
BECOME A TIGER TODAY!
www.northcairnstigers.com.au

Administration of Medications in Schools

Mareeba State School is committed to supporting students’ health and wellbeing. We would appreciate parents/carers providing the school with any relevant health information that is required to support the student at school. This information is also collected at enrolment but needs to be updated regularly, or if a new health condition develops.

Information about medically diagnosed conditions such as allergies, asthma, diabetes and epilepsy and other health conditions that may require school staff to provide support to students, including administering medication and performing health procedures, should be provided to the school. Additionally, any health need that may impact on school activities such as sports, outings (including camps) should also be discussed with the school.

Information should be provided in writing, and any specific health plans (only to be completed and signed by the medical practitioner) should be included. Please contact the school to discuss any specific requirements. Please inform the school office staff of any changes to contact details or the contact details of the people nominated as emergency contacts.

Thank you for your assistance in this regard. All information is kept confidential and only disclosed to the relevant staff required to supporting your child. For any enquiries, please contact the school office on 4092 8100.