Hello all and welcome to our first newsletter for the year. We aim to provide this resource as another port of call for parents where they can find out what is coming up over the term, what to expect from their child and how they can help their child get the best out of their education. Read on to learn more....
Your class teachers this year are: Mrs Judy Radke (5R) Mr Damien Bird (5B) Mrs Indra Samrai-Smith (5I) Mrs Ngaire Hart (5H) and Mrs Tamsen Versluis (5V). We are a team of professionals who work diligently and cohesively in conjunction with administration and support staff to provide the best opportunities for your child at all times. We are guided by the advice and expertise of both our Deputy Principals, Mrs Lynn Hunt and Mrs Michelle Leadbeater as well as our Principal, Mr Bobby Harding. Should you have any concerns or issues that cannot be rectified by your class teacher, please feel free to contact Mrs Hunt or Mrs Leadbeater via the office. We are very excited to share this stage of your child’s learning with you and to help all our students achieve their best. Here’s to a great year!
Literacy

• Our school is working hard to increase the outcomes of our students across all areas of literacy. Our Reading Programs are continually being refined to reflect best practice for all. Our balanced reading programs are structured to ensure all students experience opportunities to improve: fluency in reading, enhanced comprehension, word knowledge, oral skills, vocabulary development and higher order thinking skills. These experiences are provided in fun, engaging activities that are based on a variety of successful strategies. Come in, have a look around, ask questions and volunteer any spare time you can. Of course, all parents are welcome to head to Raz-Kids.com.au to share one of newest online reading experiences your child is participating in.

it is important to remember that....
Numeracy

• We use a curriculum to find out what our students need to know. We use data to identify what they can do. We program units of work that help develop a path leading to be successful and numerically literate members of society. We alter what we do based on the individual needs of students. We reflect on the teaching / learning relationship to continually refine what we do. It is a dynamic process. It is challenging, it is rewarding and it is who we are. Please keep an eye on our weekly emails that highlight what we will be doing each week and how you can help. Also, you are invited to become familiar with your child’s online Maths activities at mathletics.com.au. Look for the definitions and theories that help parents understand the concepts we are studying.
This is the 2nd year Geography as a learning area in Queensland primary schools has been implemented. The first unit we are studying extends our students’ mental map of North America and Europe whilst focusing on Geographic concepts, Mapping and location, Characteristics of places, Geographical data and Human and environmental influences on places. This is a 20 week unit that extends throughout both Term 1 and Term 2. Students will be assessed via a portfolio of a collection of their work over the semester.

Our unit of work in history also spans 20 weeks. Our inquiry focus asks: What do we know about the lives of people in Australia’s colonial past and how do we know?

- How did an Australian colony develop over time and why?
- How did colonial settlement change the environment?
- What were the significant events and who were the significant people that shaped Australian colonies? We expect our students to further enhance their sense of Australian identity and history over this course of study.
Our esteemed specialist teachers of Science, Music and H.P.E. have been planning units of work that reflect the guidelines of our National Curriculum in fun, challenging and inspiring ways. We are very lucky to have such passionate professionals teaching at Windaroo State School.

These teachers excel in what they do and are only too happy to speak with you about their programs. Often opportunities arise particularly in music and sport that are new for students and we encourage everyone to ‘Have a go’ and ‘Enjoy the ride.’ Due to their demanding timetables it would be appreciated if you could make an appointment to speak with your child’s specialist teacher via the office.