Welcome back to the new school year for 2017. It’s wonderful to see all the children and their families back again after the holiday break which I am sure everyone has enjoyed.

I would like to take this opportunity to also welcome all the new families to our school and I am looking forward to meeting you and your children over the coming weeks. I am certain you will enjoy being part of a wonderful school community, in which we strive to provide our students with a quality education in a very caring environment.

After an unusually cool beginning to the new school year, the year has commenced very smoothly with all students settling into their new classes and school routines very well. A number of new students have enrolled this year which has brought our total student enrolment to 719 and the addition of another three classrooms.

The students look wonderful in their school uniform and school hats, and parents are to be thanked for their commitment in ensuring that the presentation of our Wattle Grove students continues to be of a high standard, as it has for many years. The dedication and organisation of our parent Uniform Coordinator, Kerry Henshall, is greatly appreciated and acknowledged.

During the holidays, a considerable amount of work has taken place in preparation for the new school year including the extension of two playgrounds, the inclusion of additional play equipment in K/P play area and lawn rejuvenation in the K/P and various other areas around the school. Many thanks to our gardener, Mr Ken Wallis, for all his efforts in maintaining the lawns throughout the summer break and ensuring its readiness for the new school year.

New Staff
We also welcome and congratulate our new staff members for this year:

♦ Mr Chris Honey—Music Specialist
♦ Mr Cameron Eaves—Teacher Room 28
♦ Mrs Maneet Kaur—Teacher Room 20
♦ Miss Darelle Seal—Teacher Room 3
♦ Mr Rhys Thurston—Teacher Room 24
♦ Mrs Karen Winterburn—Teacher Room 14
♦ Miss Stephanie Wright—Teacher Room 29
♦ Mr Mohammad Joomun—Head Cleaner

I am certain that all staff will continue to ensure that we provide all children with an engaging and challenging learning programme, in a wonderful, safe and supportive environment.

Celebrate Australia Day—Friday, 10 February
To demonstrate our Australian spirit and our school motto of “Give to Receive”, we will be conducting a special ‘Celebrate Australia Day’ next Friday, 10 February 2017 to raise money for a selected charity. Students are encouraged to wear clothing depicting the Australian theme and will participate in a range of learning activities about Australia throughout the week.

Students (K-6) are asked to donate a gold coin to help raise funds for a nominated charity. All students will be asked to nominate a charity which we will draw at the Assembly next week. Funds will be collected and then sent to the selected charity to show the Wattle Grove spirit of ‘Give to Receive’.

Parent Information Meetings
All parents are invited to attend our Class Parent Information Meetings conducted by your child’s class teacher in their classrooms on Monday, 13 February 2017. This, however, is a parent only evening.
**Hat Policy:**  
The School’s Sun Protection Policy requires children to wear a School Sunsmart Hat. All children need to have a School Hat at school. The school’s Sun Protection Policy and School Dress Code includes a “No School Hat – No Play Policy” all year round. Therefore students are required to wear their Sunsmart School Hat for all outdoor activities. NO jewellery except a watch.

**Early Closure on Tuesday**  
The school closes at 2.30pm each Tuesday, to accommodate staff Professional Development in the implementation of new curriculum and assessment initiatives and for collaborative planning and policy meetings.

Children do not remain at school after this time and parents are expected to collect their children promptly at 2.30pm. Limited after school care is provided only for students who need to travel home by bus.

**P&C News:**  
The P&C AGM will be held Wednesday, 15 February at 7.00pm in the BER room. All parents and community members are welcome to attend. All positions will be open for re-election on the night.

The Uniform Shop is open Tuesday 2.15-2.45pm and Thursday 8.30am – 9.00am.

The Canteen operates on Wednesday and Thursdays and orders can be placed online by going to www.ouronlinecanteen.com.au. A reminder to parents to update your child’s classroom number when ordering online.

Volunteer assistants are always welcome and appreciated.

School Banking is changing to Thursdays in 2017 and will commence on Thursday, 9 February in the undercover area.

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**School Development Days 2017**  
A reminder to parents that the School Development Days for 2017 are:

- **Term 1** - Friday, 7 April 2017
- **Term 2** - Nil
- **Term 3** - Monday, 17 July 2017
- **Term 4** - Friday, 24 November and Friday, 15 December

These days are **pupil free days** and children do not attend school. Some of these days may also differ from other schools.

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**I would encourage all parents to attend these meetings so that you can learn more about the learning program that your children will be undertaking this year. The success of your child’s learning requires excellent communication and understanding between the home and the school and these meetings are just the commencement of building a wonderful relationship between parents and teachers.**

**I look forward to seeing you all on this evening.**

*Julie Roberts*  
Principal

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.45–5.30pm</td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.30–6.15pm</td>
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<td>6.15–7.00pm</td>
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<td>7.00–7.45pm</td>
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