



ACACIA RIDGE ROCKETS
We are the Acacia Ridge Rockets.
We are **respectful, safe, learners.**



From the Principal's Desk

Welcome back everyone to the 2016 school year. We had a great start on Wednesday with all students meeting teachers, settling into their classrooms and getting on to their work quickly. It was fantastic to wander through the school and feel the calm environment, with both students and teachers seeing the first day as 'business as usual.'

On behalf of the school I extend a warm welcome to everyone and hope that you enjoyed your break. I would like to acknowledge our new students and their families and hope that you enjoy your time at Acacia Ridge State School.

My name is Miss Leigh Smith and I am replacing Ms Penny Grant through Term 1. Ms Grant is currently fulfilling a Principal role over at Mt Crosby and we wish her all the best with her endeavours there, while continuing the excellent work she has started here. The students and staff at Acacia Ridge have made me feel very welcome and I look forward to spending the term with you all. Please feel free to contact me at any time; I simply ask you to make an appointment through the office.

Our newsletter is one of the ways that we keep in contact with our families. Newsletters are sent home to families every fortnight. Copies of current and past editions can be downloaded from our school website. If you cannot download the documents and require a copy, please contact us and we will provide you with one via the school office.

Assembly

Last year we held our assembly on a Friday afternoon. Due to some timetable changes, we have had to change the timing of these events and we will now be holding our assemblies on Monday afternoons, from 1:45pm-2:15pm. Students will need to return to classrooms with their teachers at the end of assembly before being dismissed. Parents and caregivers are always welcome at our assemblies and we look forward to seeing many of you there each week.

Reminder

At Acacia Ridge State School we have before school procedures which enables us to provide a calm and safe start to each school day. Our students are supervised in our undercover area between 8:00am and 8:30am. We ask parents to please ensure drop offs don't occur until after 8:00am.

The school year ahead

I am looking forward to the 2016 school year. Schools are an ever-changing place and as staff we are constantly reflecting to ensure we are striving to create the best school we can be. We have a number of changes that will be implemented across the year as well as many exciting school events.

Our school vision will continue to be a focus for our staff this year to ensure we are making a difference for our students, our school and our community.

At Acacia Ridge State School- Our School Vision

We value respect, honesty, learning, harmony, persistence and community. We believe that every child can learn given the appropriate support and learning environment. *We provide an education which caters for and is responsive to the needs of every child.* We have a consistent approach to teaching from Prep to Year 6 which focuses on the explicit teaching of the key learning areas in the Australian Curriculum. *We provide learning experiences which are challenging, engaging and where every child can be proud of their achievements.*

We create a learning environment which is harmonious, safe and supportive and one where we all work together to encourage a sense of belonging. *We encourage our students to be persistent and actively participate in all that they do.* We build positive relationships with each other and our community, so that we feel valued and respected. ***At Acacia Ridge State School we are respectful, safe learners and we strive to excel in all that we do and all that we are.***

Staffing update

Each year staffing for the school is determined by student 'Day 8' enrolments. Over the next few days we will be finalising our enrolments through the Day 8 count on Friday 5th February. Once this number is established we will be able to finalise our staffing and classes. If there is a need for change we will talk with any affected families.

In 2016 we welcome a number of new staff to Acacia Ridge:

Roisin Forrest - Prep/ Year 1	Jane Wessels - Year 2 (Friday)
Catherine Pickham - Year 2/3	Melissa Sundblom - Year 4
Jenny Hughes - SEP	Christine Dipple - Admin Officer
Vicky Montgomery - Guidance Officer	Kerryn Jones - Speech Language Pathologist

All of these teachers bring enthusiasm, experience and a love of teaching and learning to their roles and I look forward to having them in our school.

Thought of the Week

Education is filled with our greatest hope in this world: our kids.

Have a great week!

Leigh Smith

