From the Principal

Welcome Back
A very warm welcome back to our Hebel community for 2017. I hope everyone enjoyed the festive break with their family and friends. I know we are all ready for a fantastic 2017, and at the end of week 2 we have already achieved so much!

Hebel State School has commenced this year with 13 enrolments, which we think is a very lucky number! We introduce 3 preps to our class, Tillie, Tye and Vicki as well as two more new faces, Harry and Tori in years 2 and 4 respectively. We wish you all the best in your schooling at Hebel.

Miss Coombes will also be joining us on a Friday from Dirranbandi. I know Miss Coombes is looking forward to her time at Hebel and will thoroughly enjoy her time with us. Miss Coombes is looking forward to delivering the Science and PE curriculum. We welcome Miss Coombes!

Improvement Agenda 2017
In 2017 Hebel State School will have a very focused and specific Improvement Agenda. This will include improving writing and comprehension in Reading. Reading is a life skill and one we will use for the entirety of our life. It is essential that we develop excellent reading and comprehension habits from a young age. Writing is our second improvement item and will see a focus on structure, ideas, cohesion, spelling, punctuation and grammar.

Parent Information Session
Wednesday the 8th at 2pm The school will be running a parent information session. This session will include information around what and how the students learn in the classroom. Ideas and suggestions for transitioning this learning to the home, as well as expectations around homework, attendance, school events etc. Directly following this session will be a special P&C meeting regarding the Seafood Night.

I look forward to seeing all parents at this session, both new and returning.
Uniform Policy
Thank you to all parents and students for being in full school uniform every day. It is great to see, you all look great! Just a few points from our uniform policy to remind everyone.

Black Shoes: black schools shoes are to be worn every day. This shoe can be either a full black runner, or a leather shoe, it is up the student and parent, however must be entirely black.

On a Friday when we have our PE lessons students are allowed to wear sports shoes of their choice.

Hair: Hair that is longer than shoulder length is required to be worn back and away from the face. Scrunchies, decorative head bands, and hear decorations are not permitted. One simple headband or clip in school colours is acceptable.

Shorts: The school colour for ‘bottoms’ is navy.

If you have any concerns with the uniform policy, please do not hesitate to contact the school. The uniform Policy can be found on our Web Page should you wish to read and clarify further.

Student of the Week
It is always difficult to select a student of the week at Hebel, as everyone consistently puts in their best effort! It is even harder in the first two weeks of school when everyone is fully refreshed, keen and eager! So well done to everyone for continually putting in a great effort.

Porter Rae, during this first two weeks you have gone above and beyond. Your kind and caring nature has seen you help out both our new and retuning students when they are in need, and your dedication to your schoolwork is outstanding! Keep this up for a terrific 2017!
Great Start to 2017!!

RESPECT  RESPONSIBILITY  LEARNING  SAFE
The public debate following the incident where two Melbourne private school students were suspended for asking students to vote for the ‘Slut of 2016’ has been almost as concerning as the incident itself.

While most people via traditional media and social media have expressed outrage and disgust for the students’ grubby postings there has also been a number who’ve defended the students suggesting that we’re going overboard with the condemnation. A theme emerged in their defence along these lines: “Hey, it’s tough being a boy! They’re just going through a phase! They didn’t know they were doing anything wrong! Boys after all, will be boys!”

This is an echo of Eddington, when Collingwood president Eddie Maguire famously suggested that he would pay $50,000 to see journalist Caroline Wilson stay under a pool of iced water and then describing her as “like a black widow” spider. Later this was brushed off as just having a bit of fun, no harm intended. “No one surely takes this seriously! It’s only a bit of fun. Lighten up everyone. This is political correctness gone mad. Boys after all, will be boys!”

Well no! ‘Boys will be boys; it’s only a bit of fun, no real harm meant’ are the types of outdated attitudes that need to change.

As an ambassador for the national ‘Stop it before it starts’ campaign, which aims to reduce violence against women and children I’m convinced that the cycle of violence starts with disrespect.

Not all disrespectful behaviour towards women ends in violence. But all violence against women starts with disrespectful behaviour. And disrespectful attitudes often start at home.

Sometimes without realising it we can say and do things that make children and young people think disrespectful and aggressive behaviours are acceptable. We do this when we play down boy’s disrespectful behaviour toward a sibling; accept aggression as just part of being a boy; and even blaming girls for provoking aggression or disrespectful behaviour.

Gradually, boys and girls start to believe that disrespect is just a normal part of growing up.

Respect starts at home
As parents we have an incredible power to shape positively children’s attitudes and behaviours, including how they treat others. Here are three ideas and attitudes of respect at home:

1. Start by insisting that siblings treat each other well. Encourage both genders to resolve conflict and disputes using low power methods such as talking things through; give and take and apologising.

2. Socialise your sons. It’s easy to excuse boy’s aggressive behaviour as part of being a boy. Yes, their physiology may mean they are more prone to handle disputes physically but that doesn’t mean we accept that. Model for your sons how to resolve disputes in a civil and civilised way.

3. Put respect on the agenda. Healthy families talk about the things that matter to them. If respect matters then you need to hold conversations around disrespectful behaviours – whether they occur in the family outside. Be willing to listen to children’s and young people’s views but also to challenge views that are questionable.

Respect is the core value of a civil society and that’s also the core value in every healthy, functioning family I’ve ever worked with.
**Calendar**

**February**

9th  POCKETS
14th  Cluster Meeting Dirranbandi
16th  POCKETS/Bre Mobile Play Group
20th  SIU Visit
23rd  POCKETS
24th  Womans World Day of Prayer 9am  Hebel
28th/3rd  Principals Confrence

**March**

2nd  POCKETS/Bre Mobile Play Group
4th  P&C Seafood Night  Hebel
9th  POCKETS
10th  Leaders Induction  9am Hebel
14th  NRL Visit  9am
16th  POCKETS/Bre Mobile Play Group
23rd  POCKETS
30th  POCKETS/Bre Mobile Play Group
31st  School Holidays Commence

**April**

18th  School Resumes
21st/22nd  Dirranbandi Show
25th  ANZAC Day

**Birthdays**

February

11th  Tori
18th  Ruby
22nd  Miah

**P&C News**

Special P&C Meeting to be held on **Wednesday 8th February** at 3pm (following the Parent Information Session). This meeting is to finalise the Annual Seafood Night which is on **Saturday 4th March**. We need to place orders and other requirements for the night. Please try to attend this meeting as we need all ideas so this night runs smoothly and hassle free.
Catholic Church Service
February 5th at 10:00am Hebel

DIRRANBANDI SHOW MEETING
FRIDAY 10TH February 5pm
Showgrounds

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE 2017 SHOW & CONCERT SATURDAY 22ND APRIL

Look forward to having you fill a seat.

President: Frank Deshon 0746250969
Secretary Lorraine Crothers 0746250856
Treasurer: Tim Perrottet 0746250951

Friday 24th March 2017
Time 9:00am
Where: Hebel Church
DIRRANBANDI ARTS COUNCIL AGM
(short discussion on proposed events 2017 to follow)
Parcel’s Office
Saturday February 26th
5pm
Meal at Dirran Motel
Please contact or bring anyone who may be interested in furniture restoration, upholstery, craft workshops, basketry, art, music, books or our local heritage including the Rail & River Precinct.
We would love your input for new ideas & direction for 2017.

Dirranbandi Future Search
With Geoff Pike
Inspiration Leader—International Business Excellence Awards 2015

BACKGROUND
The Dirranbandi Future Search is an initiative of the Balonne Shire Council in acknowledging the challenges of the Dirranbandi community.

The Future Search will set the direction of both the Dirranbandi community and business sector, and will plan for a more resilient and sustainable future for the region.

Geoff lives in Thargomindah Queensland. Geoff is an entrepreneur who grew a successful self made business from remote outback Queensland expanding widely across eastern Australia and employing over 300 people at its peak. Born in Eulo SW QLD, Geoff moved to Thargomindah to undertake an apprenticeship as a Plumber and by the age of 20 Geoff began his own Plumbing business. His business struggled through the first years until he integrated ideas into a new innovative company that provided diversified trade services throughout regional and remote Queensland specializing in Energy Construction.

Geoff really understands and appreciates the challenges of getting both a new business or a new community idea up and running in Outback QLD.

WHAT IS THE POINT OF DIFFERENCE ABOUT THIS WORKSHOP?
The aim of this workshop is to empower individuals and the community to plan in detail for future success in challenging times.

WHAT DO I NEED TO BRING?
An open mind and lots of ideas.

WHAT IS THE COST?
Balonne Shire Council is fully funding the Future Search including lunch and smokos on both days.
HEBEL P&C
SEAFOOD NIGHT

SATURDAY
MARCH 4TH
6.30PM QLD TIME
HEBEL HALL

Adults $60ea 16+yrs
Children $2 per year of age
BAR
RAFFLES
LUCKY DOOR PRIZE

BOOKINGS essential

Contact Jodie 0428 345 244
or jml-87@hotmail.com

facebook.com/hebelseafoodnight

NO BYO  NO ESKIES ALLOWED

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