Welcome back to the 2017 school year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for making me feel very welcome over the past couple of weeks; it is already starting to feel as though I am at “home” being part of the Surrey Downs community and I look forward to meeting many more members of our school community in the coming weeks.

**Staffing Update**
As we start the year, there have been a number of changes from 2016. One of the big changes has been a change in our Leadership team. Along with me being new, we also welcome Erica Solowij as our Assistant Principal for 2017. Erica joins us from Northfield Primary School and brings a wealth of experience as a school leader within DECD. We welcome back four teachers to our school this year; Karen Meddle (Library), Lauren Totani (JP Special Class), Krystal Pryor (Rooms 8 & 15) and Suzi Jarratt (Rooms 11 & 18). I would also like to welcome back a number of SSOs who are returning and also welcome Nelsie Talladira and Mary Randall who are joining our SSO team this year.

**Student Update**
The start of any year brings a range of new students to school. This year we welcome 25 new students to Reception and 16 new students across the other year levels. This gives a total student enrolment number of 224 students. As well as having 25 students starting Primary school for the very first time, we have 29 students who are starting their final year of Primary schooling as Year 7 students. We wish all of our students across the school all the very best for what is sure to be an exciting year here at Surrey Downs R-7 School.

**Acquaintance Night**
On Wednesday 15th February we will be holding our annual Acquaintance Night from 6-7pm. All classes will be open on the night and it would be great to see as many people as possible visiting classes to meet teachers and see where your children undertake their learning. Both Erica and I will also be around the yard and classes hoping to meet many new families, so please come and say hello.

**Governing Council AGM**
Our Governing Council AGM will be held on Monday 13th Feb at 7pm in the staff room. More information, including nomination forms for positions on Governing Council can be found later in this newsletter. I would like to thank those Governing Council members who are finishing their term on the Council and would encourage anyone who may be interested, to attend the AGM.
School Facebook
We now have an official Surrey Downs R-7 School Facebook page. This page will be used to share some of the great things that we are doing here at school and also to remind everyone of any upcoming events and sharing of information. Please feel free to like our page, any posts and add comments if you like. Please also note that any comments on posts are monitored and that any of a derogatory or offensive nature will not be tolerated and will be removed. The page is also not a forum to air grievances regarding the school or teachers.

Allergy Reminder
Please be aware that we have some students at school who have a severe allergy to certain foods. To combat these allergies it is important for everyone to be aware that we are a fish free and nut aware school. Please try to make sure that you do not send food that contains fish or nut products to school with your child.

Information Pack
This week we will be sending home an information pack containing the 2017 Materials and Services invoice, a Direct Debit by Instalment form and general consents. Please complete all of the forms and return them to the school as quickly as possible.

Trees
On Monday 13th February we will be commencing maintenance work on a number of the trees around the school. This will involve the removal of some trees and the trimming of a significant number of trees around the entire site. This work has come about as a result of a tree audit that was carried out last year.

Student Support Services
Children and young people who need extra help are often referred to the Student Support Services team by their teacher. Student Support Services include social workers, behaviour support coaches, psychologists, special educators, speech pathologists and provide support to children and teachers in state schools and preschools.

If your child’s teacher feels that your child or their class as a whole is having difficulties they may engage with the Student Support Services team regarding these difficulties. Your teacher will discuss this with you and obtain your consent before making a formal request for support for your child.

For more information, speak with Erica Solowij or visit www.decd.sa.gov.au
Kind Regards
Russell Barwell
Principal

Performing Arts 2017
What an enthusiastic welcome I have received to the Performing Arts program from both parents and students. So far we have played a few percussion instruments and started our Growth Mindset units which were outlined in the letter your child brought home in Week 1.

Thank you to all the parents who have connected to Class Dojo. There have been a few teething issues when trying to add a second child however if you email me at kendall.hurst472@schools.sa.edu.au or let me know your email address, I will be able to invite you directly. If you did not receive the letter with your child’s personalised code, please contact me and I will organise to send one home.

Thank you also to the people who have brought in chopsticks and 4L ice-cream containers. I would still appreciate any you are able to donate, even next term, (once your family has finished eating the tub).

Junior and Senior Choir have started this week and auditions have commenced for the Vocal and Percussion Groups. We look forward to sharing our hard work with you at assemblies this year. Thank you once again for the support shown and if you have any questions please email at the address shown above.

Kendall Hurst

Student Safety
A reminder to all of our community members that morning drop off and afternoon pick up are very busy and potentially hazardous times of the day. Please remember that the Staff Car Park is out of bounds and that students and parents/carers must use the eastern and western gates.

Please help us to keep your children safe and avoid a potential tragedy. Thank you for your support.

Any students wanting to do School Banking
Please collect Forms from the Front Office

Please Remember to return your Sunscreen slip if YOU DO NOT PERMIT THE SCHOOL TO USE SUNSCREEN ON YOUR CHILD.
Thank You

School Card Application And Direct Debit Forms are now available from the Front Office
We got to taste lots of different herbs.

We used our body heights to measure the sunflower plants.

We found carrots, potatoes and beetroot growing in the garden!!!
Hi All

Great to see you all and welcome back to the 2017 school year. For those I’ve yet to meet, my name is Barb Page and I am the Pastoral Care Worker here at Surrey Downs R-7 School. I am employed by the School’s Ministry Group. My role is to provide care and support to students, families and staff. I have been part of the team here at Surrey Downs R – 7 School since October 2011. It has been an adventure!

Speaking of adventures, when I was a little girl one of my mum’s favourite sayings was, “We’re going on an adventure.” Sometimes we’d do fun things like taking a trip to the shops or to the park or going to the movies. Sometimes it was learning how to do jobs round the house. Have you ever polished brass with brasso? My Mum would call that an adventure! Sometimes, when we were camping at our holiday block at the beach, Mum would say, “We’re going on an adventure. We are walking to the point today”. To me, only a child at the time, that point seemed a million miles away! There were occasions when I really didn’t want to go on an adventure! But now, the funny thing is that when I am faced with life changes, difficult situations, or I am learning new things, I hear my Mum’s voice in my head saying, “We’re going on an adventure”.

The start to a new school year can often be filled with all sorts of mixed emotions. Especially if it’s your child’s first year, a new school, or you’re restarting school routines. Well I’m thinking “We’re going on an adventure” together. This year all of us will have new experiences, be that learning new things or discovering gifts and abilities we didn’t even know we had. I am looking forward to sharing that adventure with you and your families in 2017.

If you ever want to chat my door is open. I am located in the D mac building Room 6A. I am at the school on Tuesdays, Wednesday mornings and Fridays. Take care and enjoy the adventure of 2017.

Barb Page
PCW ©