Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays
Richie Hill Staff would like to wish every family a very merry Christmas and a safe and relaxing holiday break. We have enjoyed teaching your children this year and look forward to continuing to improve their education in 2017. A special farewell to our Year 6 students who embark on a new adventure in their life in 2017, attending high school. We hope you take many fond memories from Richie to your new school, and make Richie proud of your future achievements. School resumes on Monday, January 23rd, 2017.

Special Awards Parade
Many thanks to all parents and community members who attended the awards presentation last Friday. It was heartening to see so many families supporting their children whether they were the recipient of an award or not. A big shout out to our Richie students who sat in the very warm conditions for 90 minutes showing excellent audience manners during the whole presentation. Congratulations to all of the award winners and as stated several times we wished we could give every student an award as they are all achieving well.

Teachers Farewell
Sadly we are losing Miss Weston, Miss Marwick, Mrs Burgess, Miss Lowe & Mr Kitchen, from Richie this year. We would like to thank them for contributing their great educational services to this wonderful school. We wish them all the best and we trust they will all take many fond memories of Richie with them.

2017 Staff Changes
- Miss Bush and Miss Ham are going to be District Relieving Teachers in 2017 based at Richie
- Miss McMahon will be taking on the role of Music/Arts Teacher
- Mrs Brooks will be taking a position as a classroom teacher.
- Ms Wendy Sherman-Bryson will be taking on the role of LOTE Japanese Teacher on site at RHSS.
- Mrs Edmonds will be taken out of the District Relieving Teacher pool in 2017 and will be taking a position in the classroom.

New teachers to the school are Miss Eldridge, Miss Cooke, Miss Launer and Mr O’Sullivan.

Report Cards
Report cards were handed out yesterday. It is essential that every parent reads the covering letter which covers information about reading levels at Richie. Also class lists and booklists for 2017 were in the report card package.

2017 Class Lists
The 2017 Prep – Year 6 class lists are in the Report Card Package. These lists are based on the information we have received from parents regarding students staying at Richie in 2017. These lists may change in 2017 depending on overall new enrolments and which grade levels take the most new enrolments. The catchment area enrolment capping is now lifted and we hope to get many more enrolments in 2017.

End of School
School finishes this Friday, December 9th, however there will be no formal lessons on this day as we will be cleaning rooms and furniture and moving resources in preparation for 2017 classes.

2017 School Leaders
The 2017 school leaders were announced last Friday on the Special Awards Parade in front of a large parent crowd. Congratulations to the following Year 5 students who were successful in gaining leadership positions.

School Captains – Farah Caddy, Karen Squair, Harry Gordon, Beau Lavery
Burdekin House Captains – Regan Barkworth, Mallee Hill
Cunningham House Captains – Jessi Schluter, Alex Shaw
Titley House Captains – Amber Miller, Joe Gordon
Some Highlights of Richmond Hill State School in 2016

- Over 84% of our students reached North Queensland Region Benchmarks for Reading
- Made top 20% of schools in NQ region for NAPLAN Results
- Over 90% of our year 3 and 5 students are at national benchmarks in English and Maths
- Won Interschool Athletics Carnival, Swimming Carnival and Cross Country
- Many students from the school made Charters Towers and NQ Sporting teams
- NAIDOC Week
- Reading Morning Tea with parents and grandparents
- Fantastic attendance/participation at public events including ANZAC Day, Music Festival Float and Eisteddfod.
- Book Week, Education week and support for charities through free dress days
- Richie Fete

Award Winners For 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Academic Excellence</th>
<th>Academic Improvement</th>
<th>Citizenship</th>
<th>Allrounder</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep P</td>
<td>Cameron Dehn</td>
<td>Jayden Stewart</td>
<td>Ruby Williams</td>
<td>Jorja Weston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep W</td>
<td>Callin Fielder</td>
<td>Cooper Webster</td>
<td>Julian Sauffs</td>
<td>Jana Michaelis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1T</td>
<td>Megaera Richards</td>
<td>Indianna Young</td>
<td>Fabian Bowman</td>
<td>Chelsea Edwick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1H</td>
<td>Daniel Woolcock</td>
<td>Slade Delacour</td>
<td>Jaime Drummond</td>
<td>Hana Khoatravishirazi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1M</td>
<td>Jack Wells</td>
<td>Grace Gostelow</td>
<td>Lucy Stibbs</td>
<td>James Majid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2C</td>
<td>Bella Miller</td>
<td>Riley Mathieson</td>
<td>Emily Patterson</td>
<td>Abby Hetherington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2B</td>
<td>Julia Gossage</td>
<td>Dale Casey</td>
<td>David Brown</td>
<td>Isabella Kelso</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3N</td>
<td>Braythen Hansen</td>
<td>Trakka Ebsworth</td>
<td>Cooper Nibbs</td>
<td>Renai Forward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3L</td>
<td>Taaleah Drummond</td>
<td>Will Fuller</td>
<td>Chantelle Santo-Hero</td>
<td>Greg Majid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4K</td>
<td>Dakoda Montgomery</td>
<td>Daniel Olver</td>
<td>Erin Kitchen</td>
<td>Amy Brooks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4S</td>
<td>Noah Matthews</td>
<td>Chanel McHattan</td>
<td>Lara Kleem</td>
<td>Fletcher Brook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5C</td>
<td>Jeremy Warren</td>
<td>Kaelin Weston</td>
<td>Matilda Leppien</td>
<td>Amber Miller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5J</td>
<td>Farah Caddy</td>
<td>Jordan Mathieson</td>
<td>Chloie Tuttle</td>
<td>Brooke Oss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5H</td>
<td>Layla Gossage</td>
<td>Nikaela Patterson</td>
<td>Baylee Smith</td>
<td>Beau Lavery</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Could all readers borrowed from the Library please be returned ASAP as many books are outstanding!

Thank You P&C
Our school would like to take this opportunity to thank our wonderful P&C for their tireless efforts during 2016. Not only was our fete a great success despite the rain, they have raised funds for Reading Books, Classroom Maths Books, our new signs at Richie and funding for our new adventure playground to be completed in 2017. Last but not least thank you to the tuckshop staff who supported the school throughout the year providing such a delicious menu and fantastic service.

Have a great Christmas Break everyone!

See you in 2017!

Mark Brady
Principal
FAREWELL  I extend a personal message of thanks to staff departing Richie Hill. We wish each of you every success as you move onto new places to continue your teaching careers. Thank you for your work at Richie Hill supporting students—Best wishes and God Bless.

Mr Kitchen, Mrs Burgess, Miss Marwick, Miss Weston, Miss Lowe and Mr Mossley.

I also acknowledge the support

P&C President Theresa Kitchen—thank you we are grateful for your volunteered hours and support given during your time.

Adopt a Cop Tai Burgess for your time given to support students at RHSS.

VOLUNTEERS THANKED  Mrs Brooks organised the celebration for Term 4.

Kate Phillips, Emma Prior, Manny Forse, Jock Connolly, Jaime Richards, Andrew Richards, Deb Fitzgerald, David Brown, Marnie Niemi, Robyn Smith, Brianna Kleem, Deborah Forward, Dannielle Ellis, Robyn Dietrich, Del Lithgow, Wendy Paxton, Pastor Tom, Carmel Hutley, Julie Lowmow, Andrea Gough, Jo Webb, Theresa Kitchen, Tracey Schluter.

THANK YOU TO OUR RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION VOLUNTEERS WHO SHARED A CHRISTMAS STORY WITH PARTICIPATING STUDENTS IN 2016
WHERE WERE YOU BORN AND RAISED?

Brisbane and grew up in Mackay

THE BEST THING ABOUT BEING A PRINCIPAL?

Being part of the educational growth of every student in the school

SOMETHING YOU DO IN YOUR SPARE TIME?

Play golf, pig hunting, fishing, gold detecting and jewellery making

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE TV PROGRAM?

Game of Thrones

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE APP?

Facebook (and we are not surprised by this)

CAN YOU TELL US YOUR BEST EVER BOOK YOU HAVE READ?

Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O’Dell

The Old Man of the Sea by Ernst Hemingway

WHAT IS THE BEST ADVICE YOUR DAD EVER GAVE YOU?

The more time you spend educating your child at a young age, the less time you spend educating them as they grow older
YEAR 6 GRADUATION CELEBRATION: well done to Year 6 Teachers Ms Bush and Miss Casey and 6B/6C students on your successful graduation event. Organising such an event is HUGE—proud of you!

We wish all students the very best as they head into their Highschool Years.

- A special thank you to Year 5 students Farah, Harry, Beau and Karen along with Mrs Gordon and Mrs Caddy who assisted to sell drinks at the event as our 2017 School Leaders—appreciated.
- Catering by Peppers—was scrumptious thank you to Andrew Sturges and his team.
- Door Helpers—Mrs Ugarte and Mrs Clark
- CTSHS—thank you Mr Copelin and Rhys Rafter for your attendance.
- Special guest Mayoress Liz Schmidt for joining our school family event
- Photographer—Mrs Brady
- Staff who came along Mr Mossley, Mr Miller, Chappy Lydia, Mrs Edmonds, Mrs Ugarte

Many others helped out for the event too—Mr Pat (Kylie’s partner) Mr Wilson, Ms Forno, Mrs Brown, Ms Kate, CTSHS.
Wow! Where has the year gone? I cannot believe that it is the end of 2016….it seems like only yesterday the Prep P students were new to the school, some apprehensive, some excited and all of them oh so little. They have definitely not lost their excitement and it is wonderful to hear their chatter and to be part of their conversations. While not new anymore, the Prep P students have grown in confidence and independence this year. They are no longer little and are ready for Year 1. Mrs Coffison and myself would like to take this opportunity to thank you, our parents, for allowing us the opportunity to teach your son or daughter this year. We would also like to thank you for all of your support this year—it is truly appreciated. Have a lovely, safe and relaxing holiday break. Don’t forget to keep in touch in 2017!
It’s hard to believe that we’re already writing our final newsletter article for the year. 2016 has absolutely flown by! Once again, I’ve been so fortunate to teach an incredible bunch of kids who have grown so much over the year. I know that if they keep up their fantastic work, they’ll all go far.

This is my final newsletter piece at Richie Hill as I will be moving to Townsville during the holidays. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the parents and families that I have had the privilege to meet during my three years at Richie. As a ‘city slicker’, I’ve never come across a tightknit community like Charters Towers and I’m so glad for the experiences that I’ve had here. Thank you for making me feel so welcome.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year. Enjoy your holidays!

-Tess Marwick

Music Notes

It’s hard to believe that the year is almost over already! It’s been another great year in the Music room, with plenty of happy times and great memories. Congratulations to our choir and band students for all of their hard work this year, and a special thank you to Mr Mossley, who is leaving us this year. All the best for your new school, Mr Mossley, we are sorry to lose you! Next year we will welcome our new Instrumental Music teacher, Ms Hueber.

This year in class music we have had another successful year. A big highlight for me was the visit of the music group Amanaska, who performed two dynamic concerts for us. It was also great to see so many of our students successful in the Eisteddfod this year. Congratulations!

Next year will bring big changes for me personally, as I move back into the regular classroom after teaching music for many years. I am looking forward to the challenges ahead, and can’t wait to meet my new class!

I would like to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday, and I’ll see you all again next year.

Mrs Brooks

The last day of school… The closing of one door and the opening of another. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all of the students in 5H on a wonderful year full of learning and fun. In the past year it has been a pleasure getting to know each and every student in 5H and their families. There have been some great memories created and a LOT of learning taking place.

As the holidays approach quickly I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Safe and Happy New Year.

To all of my students— I would like to thank you for all of your hard work and dedication to your learning this year. You are a wonderful group of students and I wish you the very best for your final year of Primary School in 2017.

Miss Ashleigh Ham
To my Year 3 class,

Thank you for a full year of learning that was both eventful and colourful! I have loved teaching you all this year and I am very proud of you and your achievements. We have shared many laughs. I will always remember you as my last class I taught at Richie with fondness. All students have grown in different ways and I wish you the best for Year 4 in 2017!

I would also like to thank Mrs Niebing for being a wonderful partner in crime over the last two years.

Wishing each student and their family a safe and happy holiday season!

Miss Lowe

Well sadly, that time of year has arrived when we have to say our farewells. I cannot express my gratitude for your support throughout the year and your commitment to your child’s education. Without this support, we would not have been able to achieve some of the successes that we achieved throughout the year. I hope you are proud of your children and their growth.

As you read through your child’s report card don’t forget to focus on the effort as much as you do the grade, as usually their effort reflects the grade they were given for a subject area. If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to come in and see me before the holidays or give me a quick call.

Most children in 1H made commendable gains in their PM reading levels throughout the year. I cannot stress the importance of ensuring your child is reading every day over the holidays to maintain that level when they return to school next year. A little bit of writing each day won’t hurt either, they all loved writing Christmas stories, maybe you could write one together.

Well, I will take this opportunity to say one last thank you and I wish you all a happy and safe holidays. I look forward to seeing you around and hearing about your child’s progress and achievements.

Merry Christmas.

Heidi Montgomery—Year 1H teacher
Kym and I would like to take this time to thank all of the parents from Year Two for all of the support you have given us over this past year. Everything from volunteering within the classroom, assisting us on our Reef HQ excursion and your support in nightly reading and homework each week is appreciated. We have enjoyed having so many parents being involved in various aspects of the school community. It has been a pleasure to teach and learn alongside such an intelligent and kind hearted group of children. They have made us laugh each day with wonderful stories (some about you) and cemented our passion in teaching.

We are sure you have heard about the elves currently keeping an eye on all of the 2C and 2B children. Sneaky, Elfred and Sparkles have been up to some mischief since their arrival and the children have loved every minute of having them here. Here are some pictures of what they have been getting up to. Every night, Sneaky, Elfred and Sparkles fly back to the North Pole to report back to Santa on the behaviour within the classroom. We know that there have been positive reports as your child/ren have been busy at work each and everyday leading up to the end of year. Today, we had heaps of fun with: Class party, Gotcha party, music fun, pizza party (2B) and then we cleaned desks and moved classrooms!

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and have a safe and joyous break.

Zoe Collins and Kym Burgess.
I would like to take this opportunity to thank my students and their parents for a successful year of learning! The children are to be congratulated for their flexibility throughout the classroom changes when our building was being renovated and their perseverance and resilience with NAPLAN testing. I am very proud of their achievements and their attitude. Many thanks go out to you, as parents, for encouraging your children in their learning and supporting me as their classroom teacher. I know they go up to Year Four with improved skills. I wish you a very safe and blessed Christmas. May 2017 be a great year for you and your family.

Mrs Niebling

Farewell from 4K for 2016!

Well it is that time of year again when we all bid farewell to our students, parents, teachers and our wonderful staff including teacher aides, cleaners and administrators. Yes, it’s a little sad, but it’s also a good time to reflect on the wonderful times we have had over the year and to celebrate our successes.

It has been a terrific year for myself, and I am very proud of my students! They have worked so hard to achieve what they have done and I leave them knowing that they are well prepared for Year 5 in 2017. I have really enjoyed teaching some very talented and unique individuals whose sense of wonder and exploration made each day a new adventure. To my class of 2016, I thank you very much for all of your kindness, you are truly awesome!

To the parents and carers of all of my students (past and present), I extend my heartfelt thanks for all of the hard work you do behind the scenes. My job would not be possible without your support, ensuring that the students are here, willing to learn and try their hardest every day. Without a doubt, you have the toughest job of all, and I am grateful that I get to share in the glory of their success.

As many of you would be aware, this is my final week at Richie, a school which I have called home for the last 6 years. I have had the privilege of working with and for some excellent people and I want to acknowledge the positive influence that you have had on my teaching career. As demanding and exhausting as it can be at times, it is also one of the most fulfilling and satisfying jobs that I have ever taken on. I have learnt to be patient, tenacious, insistent and conscientious. Above all, I strive to be dependable.

Thanks again to everyone for the kindness and support you have shown to myself, my wife, Theresa and our three wonderful daughters, Holly, Erin and April over the past 6 years. You will always be remembered fondly.

Best wishes for a safe and happy Christmas!

Kind regards,
Mr Greg Kitchen.
This term we have been trying out some computer coding. The kids have really enjoyed the tasks and even have coded some of their own games and mazes. Others have worked through programs giving the instructions for the different characters and features to move and getting rewarded for achieving certain levels. On Monday we video chatted with a computer analyst coder from Pittsburgh USA. It was a real unique experience for the kids to speak with someone on the other side of the world 15 hours behind us. The kids asked her questions about coding and she offered her advice and encouragement. She explained she wished she had started coding when she was ten years old, she thought it was so good that kids were doing this much earlier.

I would also like to wish everyone a very Merry Xmas and a prosperous New Year from all the kids in 5T.

Mr Turner

Well hasn’t this term just flown by! I would like to thank the parents and students in 1M for making my first year of teaching an amazing experience. The students have worked so hard during the year to achieve great results. I would also like to thank this opportunity to thank my two colleagues Mrs Montgomery and Miss Manwicks for supporting me throughout the year. I hope you all have an enjoyable Christmas break and I hope to see you back in 2017.

Hannah Marriott.
What a year!
2016 has seen 5C students mature and learn to take responsibility for their own learning. They have also learnt that life is all about making choices and accepting the consequences that come with these. Almost every student has demonstrated growth across different subject areas throughout the year, which has been very pleasing. I hope their efforts continue next year as they move into their final year of primary schooling.
I would like to acknowledge the AMAZING job that all students did on their Dance assessment. Congratulations and special mention also needs to be given to the 5C award recipients: Jeremy Warren (Academic Excellence), Matilda Leppien (Citizenship), Kaelin Weston (Academic Improvement) and Amber Miller (All Rounder). I would like to recognise all the students in 5C that nominated for Student Leader positions. I was as proud as all of your parents at your decision to do this. Congratulations to Harry, Mallee, Amber and Jessi from 5C. I look forward to watching your leadership skills develop throughout 2017.
Thank you to my students and their parents for their commitment to learning throughout 2016. I hope that you can look back on your year and be proud of your achievements.

Enjoy the holiday break and I look forward to seeing you around the school in 2017.

“If you always do, what you’ve always done; you’ll always get, what you’ve always got!”

Mrs Crow, Lucy & Jack

LIBRARY NEWS

It was wonderful to see many of our students borrowing books on a regular basis throughout the year. Unfortunately a number of books have not been returned at this late stage. It is vital we recover these books so as to provide as wide a variety of books as possible for our students to access. Parents of students with overdue books have had a letter forwarded home detailing the title of the missing book or in some cases missing books. I would appreciate if you could search for any missing books with your child. Thank you in advance for your assistance with this matter. I would also like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe, and happy Christmas period.

Mr Crow
Congratulations on making it through to the end of Primary School. I hope you have enjoyed your time at Richie as much as I have enjoyed teaching you. As you move into High School, I encourage you to make next year even better. Remember that you don’t have to follow the crowd. Do the right thing, even if no one is looking.

Mums and Dads, Grandparents and Carers, I thank you for your support over the past six months. I wish you all a safe and happy Christmas.

Kelly Casey

Our year has been great. We’ve had our ups and downs but we all got along in the end. We had fun with Mr Chinn and Miss Casey. Thank you.

By Scarlett

6B This year has been an amazing adventure for 6B, celebrating the success of the sports teams. The girls and boys Flippa Ball team was undefeated as well as for netball, touch team and softball. The boys cricket team also went undefeated, but the boys touch team came in second place. In Walk Around Australia, Richie walked 5000km’s and in the Spell-A-Thon, we raised lots of money. There were many participants in the Eisteddfod, local show as well as the Premier’s Reading Challenge. Our transition days were great fun and we learnt a lot on the day as we were placed into classes with the other schools too. We did lots of fun classes like maths, science, history, arts and ICT. At Festival of the Bands, we played Paso Flamenco, Blues Down Under and Lions Pride. We enjoyed discos and Gotcha Parties and went along to the Motivational Media event, which was very engaging. The past couple of weeks, we’ve been busy working on our Graduation, which is here at last. We’ve made our table runners, decorations and written speeches. Thank you to everyone who has helped us in some way throughout the year, and we wish all of our friends and peers the best for next year. From everyone in 6B. Miss Bush
2016 HPE in review

What a truly outstanding year for Richie Hill on the sporting fields! This year our Richie Hill students truly excelled at every event they took part in. Here's a list of our achievements in 2016.

**Interhouse Carnivals**

Cross Country Carnival - Winners were Burdekin
Athletics Carnival - Winners were Cunningham
Ball Games - Winners were Burdekin
Swimming Carnival - Winners were Cunningham
Walk around Australia - Winners were Cunningham

**Interschool Sport**

Richmond Hill won the Cross Country, Athletics and Swimming Carnival Aggregate shields
The Girls interschool sports teams were undefeated Champions in every sport this year; Netball, Touch Football, Softball and Flippaball.
The boys interschool Rugby League and Touch Football teams finished third in their divisions and were undefeated Champions in Cricket and Flippaball.

**Representative Sport**

Kathryne Squair was part of the North Queensland squad for swimming.
Jordan Brook was part of the North Queensland squad for Athletics.
Tyler Thompson was part of the North Queensland team for Cricket.
The under 10 Richie Rhinos Rugby League team won the Annandale Challenge in Townsville.

Well done to each and every student who put in their best efforts throughout the year, you helped make Richie shine in 2016.

Regards
Paul Miller
HPE Teacher

Merry Xmas from Richie Hill P & C

Just a note to say a BIG thank-you to all of our parents & caregivers, teachers & teacher aides, office staff, administration and volunteers for all your support throughout the year. We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and a happy & safe holiday.

As most of you know, Greg, myself and our 3 girls are off to Bundaberg next year to start a new chapter in our lives. We have loved being part of the Richie Hill community and have made so many close friends over the past 6 years. It has been a truly wonderful time.

All P&C’s thrive on the generosity of volunteers and I hope that Richmond Hill will continue to receive the support that it greatly deserves. I would like to say a very special thank you to the P&C Committee and our Tuckshop convener, Mrs Lamb. All of whom work so very hard to serve our school.

It has been a wonderful and memorable experience being involved in such a great school. So from myself and my family we wish you the very best for the future.

Theresa Kitchen
Outgoing P&C President 2016

Tuckshop News

Once again a huge thank you to our volunteers this term who have given up time to help in the Tuckshop. Next year we would love to see some new volunteers come through and help Mrs Lamb prepare lunches for our Richie kids.

There will be some changes next year due to the governments Smart Choices which every State School in Queensland must adhere to. It's just making sure our children are eating healthy items during school time. So next year will see a new menu and also only a 3 day trade of the Tuckshop. First lunch only on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday will be the 3 days that Tuckshop will be open. The new menu will be available when school resumes on Monday 23rd January and the Tuckshop will reopen on Wednesday the 25th January, 2017.

Thank you again to Mrs Lamb and the volunteers and we will see you next year at the Richie Hill Tuckshop ☺