



Term 1 Newsletter

Believe, Expect, Celebrate



What a start to the year!

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2024!

Inside, you'll find lots of exciting updates. From exploring the solar system to hitting the rugby field, cooking up a storm, mastering new trades, and diving into 3D printing – we've been busy!

Our students have been amazing in term 1, putting in heaps of effort and showing real dedication.

We hope you had time to relax and recharge during the holiday break and enjoy some well-deserved rest, ready for Term 2.

Lisa Coles,
Executive Principal

Doing School
Differently

Find us on



Berrinba Campus

As Arethusa's newest campus,

We were so thrilled to open the Berrinba doors to students on Monday 22nd January. Our foundation student group on Day one consisted of 28 students and has now increased to 78 over our first 10-week term. The campus is conveniently

located within the Berrinba business district and right next door to the beautiful Berrinba Wetlands.

We were privileged to hold three transition mornings for students in November 2023, each being successful in providing an opportunity for students to connect and engage with staff, each other and the space prior to the commencement of the Year.

The Berrinba Student Lounge has provided a fantastic space of opportunities for students.

In the mornings, the space is open for students to gather and chat, play board games, or have breakfast and ease into the day. Students can self-regulate using boxing, ping pong or art activities, as well as learn life skills in the kitchen by serving their school community, in preparing morning tea and lunch for each other.

During Term one we enjoyed building relationships and growing our student and staff family.



Starlab comes to Berrinba!

The Starlab Science Theatre and Planetarium provided a plethora of opportunities for our students to be wowed by the intergalactic experience created in the Cosmo dome. Students saw rockets blasting off and asteroids tumbling through space. They watched the International Space Station pass overhead, saw how technology has changed our lives, and took a closer look at the planets while going on a journey into a black hole! The students then designed their very own simulated solar system. All students were fascinated to add in the eight orbits around the sun. Thank you, Paul, from the Teaching and Learning team, for providing a spectacular, hands on experience for our students.



Other noteworthy events:

Stepping out of our comfort zones through sport, food and expressing ourselves through art has been our theme this term. Berrinba celebrated Kindness day with students and staff creating meaningful art pieces and quotes to decorate their kindness wall.



Pathways

Our Pathways Officer, Geoff, has been working with our Year 10 students each Wednesday as an introduction to Work Skill development. Geoff has met with each student individually to discuss their goals for the future.



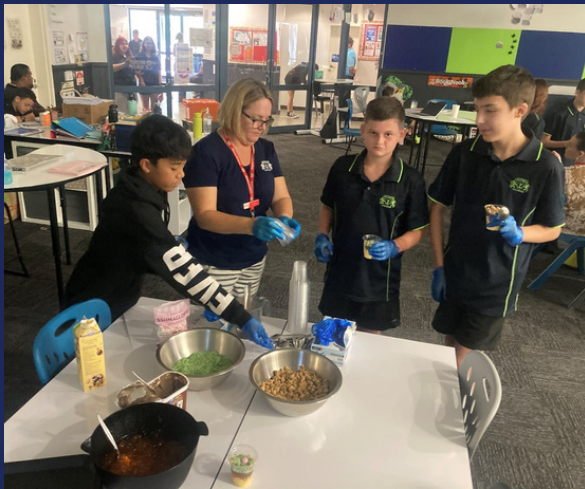
Afternoon Activities

The Afternoon Activity Program is beginning to evolve at Berrinba. Students love visiting the Wetlands and the cooking Program. These have been expanded to several days per week. The cooking program has been focusing on cooking healthy meals and baking simple snacks. Weet-Bix Slice has been a hit with the students! The students also cooked ANZAC Biscuits, Spaghetti Bolognese and Chicken Pasta Bake.





Forest Lake Campus



During the first week, students engaged in a dynamic educational activity centered around food, delving into the layers of the Earth, as they assembled their edible models, each ingredient represented a distinct geological layer, helping students to understand our planet's composition. Through this hands-on activity, they were able to deepen their comprehension of geological concepts that is both engaging and memorable.

We are thrilled to welcome back our First Nations students as they return to school. This new academic year is not just a continuation of their resilience, cultural heritage, and unique perspectives as we honour their journey, support their growth, and ensure that our education spaces remain inclusive and respectful of Indigenous traditions. Wishing all of our students a successful and enriching year ahead.



Across week 2 students engaged in collaborative group work, encouraging teamwork and mutual understanding.

Students benefit from the valuable assistance provided by our dedicated volunteers, who foster strong relationships with our students and are highly esteemed within our Arethusa community.



Our volunteer work program not only benefits our school grounds but also instills invaluable lessons as students actively participate in creating a vegetable garden and planting plants, fostering a deeper connection to nature and promoting sustainable practices.

In our hospitality course, students immerse themselves in learning new skills through trying new recipes.

Our Health and Physical Education (HPE) program is committed to catering to all students' interests while aligning with curriculum requirements. Boxing stands out as one of our most popular programs, drawing a diverse range of kids who eagerly engage week after week in Thursday morning sessions.



During week 4 several of our First Nations students attended a cultural awareness excursion at Ngutana Lui Cultural Centre in Inala. We celebrated and explored the traditions, stories, and practices deeply rooted in Yuggera history, fostering understanding and respect for the way of life on this country we live, learn and work on daily. Our students celebrated indigenous diversity and unity as we embraced invaluable lessons of culture.



Eight of our senior First Nations students at Arethusa Forest Lake have been awarded QATSIF scholarships, celebrating their commitment to senior education. On February 28th we attended a thier Scholarship Ceremony.

Please join us in applauding their achievements and the rich cultural diversity they bring to our campus community. Together, let's support and empower our next generation of First Nations leaders.



Our students volunteering are actively leading the charge in transforming Rudd Hall park in Inala. With determination and dedication, they've taken on the task of not only eradicating weeds but also cultivating lush herb and vegetable gardens. Their efforts are breathing new life into the community space, fostering sustainability, and inspiring others to join in creating a greener, healthier environment.



Senior Students Working together on their term art creations.



Students from the lively middle room, enjoying a fun basketball game. Laughter fills the air as they dribble and pass the ball, showing teamwork and friendship. It's a scene full of energy and happiness.



Our students love engaging in playful afternoon activities to build unity and connection.



We participated in our first interschool esports event held at Canterbury College. Teams of 2 competed against other local schools in the popular game Rocket league, which is a soccer game with cars. Two out of four teams made it through the two-quarter finals, knocking out teams from Forest Lake State High School, Canterbury College, Trinity College, John Paul College, Staines Memorial College and Calvary Christian College. It was a great experience for all involved. Student, Gabriella, our only female e-sport competitor described the experience as exciting and fun. Our Arethusa students were respectful and displayed great sportsmanship cheering on all schools. We are so proud of our students and look forward to the next e-sport competition, super smash bros in May.

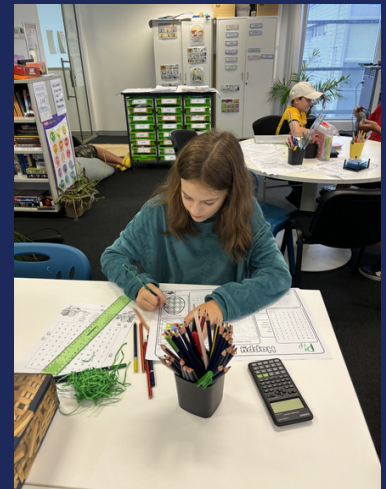




Maroochydore Campus



Year 9 student, Harmony decided to embark on a project to make the Ladies bathroom a more pleasant place to visit. Harmony used her own interior designing skills and her own pocket money to provide this beautiful finished project.



Junior Tranquillity have had a busy term of learning. There have been some amazing contributions of graphic stories using hand drawn elements or PowerPoint with narration. Students also learnt about the solar system and enjoyed painting their own model. In Mathematics, they are masters of angles and finding the area of quadrilaterals and circles. For Integrated Studies, the students researched successful businesses and created their own business profiles.



After all of this hard work they had a day of game playing. Some played group games while others worked on individual Easter puzzles and craft.

Year 11 and Year 12 Visual Art



Students building their skills.





The Bay Campus

It's been pleasing to see how well our students' have been progressing this term. It is hard to believe that it seems like yesterday that we returned from the summer holidays and started the new school year.

There has been so much to celebrate over the past 10 weeks – the most considerable achievement is how settled our young people have been this term even through some challenging situations. Kindness is an essential ingredient to all positive interactions. It is essential for our own well being,

but it also has a positive impact on the people around us. This can cause a ripple effect that spreads through our school community as well as our wider community. As we move into the holiday period let's all remember to be kind to ourselves as well as those around us.

Junior School

This term, the Juniors have been doing amazing work! We are so proud of their efforts. Students have been learning about the solar system and Kepler's Law which explains why planets orbit the way that they do. Maths has involved a lot of hands-on activities to explore area, perimeter and missing angles. Our students have become quite the storytellers this term - they have demonstrated how they write well-structured stories. In ASA, students have been integrating sports into their math lessons, and have learned about how our physical and mental health can affect our performance. Our upcoming excursion to the Ginger Factory will show students how a local business can grow and operate in the global market. Great work, team!!



Middle School

Our middle school students have been absolutely amazing in everything they have done. Not only settled in their approach to their learning but also kind and helpful to others especially our new students.

This term has seen Middle school working on the Theme of Fantastic Worlds. **English has seen our students writing a fictional**

calculations didn't work and the soil was purchased was not enough – we all had crime novel – wow what imaginations our young people have. Math's saw a focus on measurement and space – with one hub doing a project on gardening where they had to measure and calculate the amount of soil required. What a learning opportunity – and when they

to work to find a solution. Science saw the students looking at Earth and Space – all classes enjoyed the excursion to the planetarium. Health and Physical Education saw everyone getting outdoors and being active.

Congratulations to all the students and staff – awesome job!

Senior School

As we approach the end of the first term, it is important to celebrate the way that our senior students have responded to the challenges and opportunities that they are facing for their final two years of schooling.

Our year 11's are embracing a new way of learning and being in the senior school; they are managing their learning across different electives and ensuring they have focus within and beyond the classroom. For the year 12s, they are focused on how they will finish their final year of school as a foundation for life beyond Arethusa.

Assessments are looming for our students, and they are heads down to complete to the best of their ability. We wish them all the best for this time of the term and know that our staff will continue to oversee these students and ensure they emerge ready for a well-deserved break in a few weeks' time.



Excursions

Some of our excursions this term included our junior and ASA students visiting the Ginger Factory, along with the middle students and our AAA students visiting the planetarium.





Spring Hill Campus

Our Term 1 initiative for 2024 began with the words,

‘Life is better when we do it together’

Cultivating Appreciation and Fostering Culture – Our primary focus this term was to support positive contributions building towards a strong campus culture uniquely identifying the role that the climate plays in the everyday lives, experiences, actions and intentions of our staff and students. This focus allows everyone to continue to feel Safe, Valued, Connected, and Respected.

Staff members appreciated the opportunity to nominate students who exhibited these commendable actions and traits throughout the term. Selected students will have the opportunity to participate in an excursion to Urban Extreme marking an exhilarating conclusion to Term 1.

Junior School

Our electives program, operating throughout the Junior and Middle years, remains highly engaging and captivating for our students. This semester, the Fun with Barista elective has proven to be immensely successful, as students delve into the intricacies of coffee and hot beverage preparation, mastering the delicate art. The Fun with Photography elective has also captured the interest of students, who are enthusiastically honing their skills and exploring the intricacies involved in crafting the ideal portrait. Additionally, the Fun with Jewellery elective has garnered significant interest, with students crafting one-of-a-kind pieces, showcasing their creativity and skill. These electives offer students enjoyable and enriching learning experiences beyond their core curriculum subjects, fostering a sense of exploration and discovery.



Fun with jewellery



Fun with jewellery



Fun with Photography



Middle School

This term, our Middle school students were fortunate to delve into the world of boxing as part of their Health and Physical Education (HPE) practical component. Through this engaging experience, students not only honed their physical fitness but also gained valuable insights into the holistic benefits of boxing. As students immersed themselves in the training sessions, they discovered the profound connections between mind, body, and spirit inherent in the practice of boxing.

Senior School

Our Certificate II in Hospitality has swiftly gained momentum, captivating the interest and enthusiasm of the seniors who have embraced it wholeheartedly. Eager to embark on a culinary journey filled with exploration and discovery, these students have demonstrated an insatiable thirst for acquiring new and exciting culinary skills. Introduced this year into our Senior curriculum is Certificate I in Construction. The enthusiastic response from students underscores the value they place on gaining real-world experience and industry-recognised certifications, highlighting the relevance and significance of this new offering in our curriculum. These certificates reflect our commitment to providing students with diverse educational opportunities that align with both their interests and future career prospects.



Camp

Our first-ever Senior camp, held during Week 6 of this term, was a remarkable experience for our students as they ventured to Emu Gully Adventure Education Group, aimed at personal development, team building, and leadership training, providing an enriching environment for our students to thrive. Engaging in a diverse range of activities and programs meticulously crafted to promote personal growth, resilience, teamwork, and leadership skills, our students emerged from the camp with a renewed sense of self-awareness and confidence. The immersive nature of the experience allowed them to overcome challenges, forge meaningful connections with their peers, and discover their potential as leaders.





Awareness Days



Awareness Days for this term, were met with keen enthusiasm and interest. This term, our staff and students are eagerly gearing up to participate in the impactful event known as the World's Greatest Shave. During this initiative, staff members Steph and Haydon, along with student Dimitri, will bravely shave their heads to raise awareness and support. Staff and students support for their efforts and look forward to witnessing the profound impact they will make through their selfless act of generosity.

Harmony Day, set to bring all of us together recognising our diversity. Staff and students spent lunch together sharing a variety of traditional meals from all

different backgrounds, tantalising our taste buds. Through moments like these, we reaffirm our commitment to unity, understanding, and respect for one another, embodying the spirit of Harmony Day.

International Women's Day, raising awareness with the theme for 2024, Inspire Inclusion emphasising the importance of diversity and empowerment in all aspects of society. International Women's Day is a global celebration of the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. Each year, this day serves as a powerful reminder of the progress made towards gender equality and highlights the work that still needs to be done.





Montague Road Campus

We have started this term with a focus

kindness as a choice

that leads to everyone experiencing belonging which in turn increases learning engagement. The vibe and tone of the campus has been inclusive and student engagement in learning has been impressive.

We made some changes such as moving our smaller cohort of Year 7/8 upstairs to share the quieter space with the seniors, which has allowed our newest and youngest students to settle into a routine of learning quickly and peacefully.

Our Year 11s are facing the demands of senior education but they too are finding their groove well, especially as they venture into the VEP areas of Hospitality, Construction and Active Volunteering.

The major change has been to the learning zones downstairs with our middle cohort (Yr 9/10). Dividing areas into Guided Learning (a place for participating in directive teaching of content and skills); Collaborative Learning (a place for setting negotiated goals and working collaboratively with others) and; Quiet Learning (a space for individualized focus on personal learning goals).

Students have responded well to having some autonomy over how they wish to learn at any given part of the day.

We've welcomed new staff including:

- Deputy Principal of Wellbeing and Culture
- Student Counsellor,
- Two part-time chaplains
- ESO

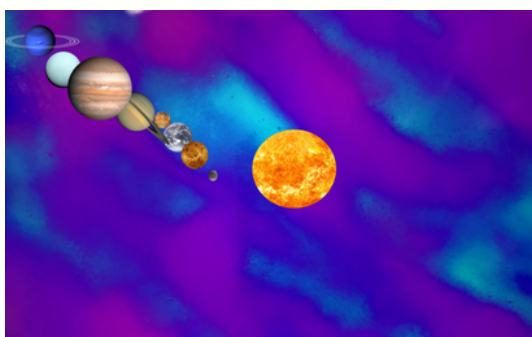
The team is working well together to support giving student greater choice over how they regulate and co-regulate their emotional challenges and learning choices.



Junior School



In English, we've been learning HEAPS about graphic novels. The students can now use things like onomatopoeia, camera conventions, and themes like 'rags to riches' to build and tell stories in a graphic format!



In Science, we've been learning a lot about the solar system. We now know a lot more about the relative size, year length, distance from the sun etc of all the planets. We used this knowledge to construct a realistic model of the solar system in PowerPoint.



And lastly, we have been on a MISSION to conduct 100 ACTS OF KINDNESS. While I hope we are doing this for 'kindness' sake, the promise of some ice-creams when we reach 100 acts may have something to do with it. We are currently up to 88!!

Middle School

In Math, students have been investigating shape and space. Trigonometry and Volume is not as hard as they thought with students successfully completing the assignment task.

In Science, there has been a wide range of responses to the Climate Change challenge we are facing. Students have investigated multiple perspectives of the subject and suggested a range of solutions.

Students are embracing technology for creative purposes. Students have enthusiastically begun exploring digital art on the iPads and the 3D Printer. These processes require the sourcing of files for printing and then the removal of the supports to reveal the finished model for the 3D Printer, and tenacity in trial and error when creating digital art. It has been most encouraging to see the willingness of the students in attempting and understanding new art practices.



Senior School

Year 12 doing their Science Experiment "Making their own Water Filtration System"

The task in Science for Year 11 and 12 expects them to design a new water filtration system with a polluted water supply. They will be focussing on the filtering steps of the water treatment process using limited materials and will work on building their own filtration system and testing the effectiveness of it. At the end they will be analysing their result to determine the quality of the filtered water

Year 11 and 12 visual art students work on their art projects with a key concept in mind - 'looking onwards'. They explore

aspects, interests and emotions within themselves to depict and communicate this through their artistic process.

Quote from a year 11 student:

"I make art to explore and communicate ideas and philosophy in the tangible, physical world."





Springwood Campus

It is with great pleasure and pride that I reflect on the remarkable journey we have embarked on in Term 1. It has been a busy and exciting period, marked by new opportunities, significant developments and great achievements.

I want to express my utmost pride in our

students and commend them for their commitment to their learning and their enthusiasm towards all areas of schooling.

One of the greatest assets of our school is our amazing staff, who bring a diverse range of skills and talents to the college.

Their unwavering dedication to supporting the well-being and growth of our students is truly commendable, and I am immensely grateful for their contributions.

Mary Mansour

Junior School

The Junior Classroom is where tranquility meets boundless creativity. Within our serene environment, students are empowered to explore their interests and present their ideas in their preferred manner, be it through digital graphic novels or hands-on science projects like painting solar systems on postreform balls. Prioritising mental health and physical activity, the curriculum included dedicated sessions on HPE, ensuring students develop both resilience and vitality. Social growth was fostered through collaborative projects and peer mentorship, with Year 8 students taking on leadership roles to guide their Year 7 peers. The classroom buzzed with the energy of improvement and joy, as each student celebrated their progress and embraced the excitement of learning.



Middle School

Middle school buzzed with excitement as students dove into intriguing crime stories, keeping them on the edge of their seats. Alongside their narratives, quizzes sparked curiosity and expanded general knowledge, while Scattergories enhanced oral language skills. In Science, students explored the mysteries of the Big Bang Theory and explored the critical topic of climate change, understanding its implications for their future. Meanwhile,

Mathematics lessons focused on practical applications, with a particular emphasis on measurement. As we welcomed a wave of new students, the school community grew stronger, fostering inclusivity and diversity. Physical activity was enjoyed as students engaged in pickleball and boxing, both in the school's facilities and at the nearby park.



Senior School

In Term 1, our seniors have been focusing on their academics, demonstrating hard work and dedication in their studies. As part of their senior curriculum, they have embraced new subjects such as Visual Arts, Construction, and Hospitality, relishing the practical aspects of these courses.

Additionally, we're proud to announce that several students have taken the initiative to pursue traineeships and TAFE courses, demonstrating their commitment to both academic and vocational pursuits.

As our Year 12 students approach the culmination of their high school journey, they are stepping up as leaders, demonstrating maturity and responsibility in their actions. Their growth and development are evident as they navigate the challenges and opportunities of their final year. Moreover, it's been a joy to witness some of our seniors leading assemblies with confidence and enthusiasm.



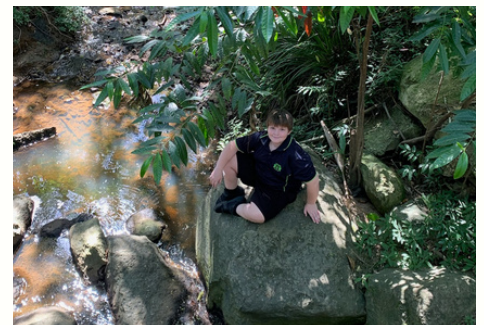
Excursions

Many of our students wholeheartedly embrace the opportunity to explore the great outdoors and immerse themselves in nature. With numerous local parks and reserves at our disposal, we frequently embark on excursions to these natural environments, providing valuable learning experiences beyond the classroom walls.

Even for adolescent students, playing in nature fosters the development of a wide

range of skills, including physical fitness, teamwork, sensory exploration and environmental awareness.

Additionally, the successful rugby program underscored the school's commitment to holistic development, promoting teamwork, resilience, and sportsmanship among its students.



Other noteworthy events:

The Campus Principal walk takes place every Wednesday around our local Springwood Community. The students look forward to their lunchtime walk, spending time with each other and the principal whilst building relationships with our neighbors and wider community.





Vocational Education and Pathways

The Pathways team have had a very busy start to the year delivering a wide variety of vocational preparation programs to students in Years 10, 11 and 12 across all campuses. Vocational education plays a crucial role in equipping our students with the skills, knowledge, and experiences necessary to thrive in their chosen careers. By offering unique opportunities for students to explore their interests, develop practical skills, and gain valuable hands-on experiences, they are much more informed about choices and pathways post-secondary school.

This year our team have been delivering a 'Career Education Program' to all students in Year 10. This program is designed to equip students with the knowledge, skills, and resources necessary to make informed decisions about their career paths and subject selections leading into Year 11 and 12. We cover a range of topics aimed at helping students explore various career options, develop essential job search skills, and enhance their employability. For example this term students have been learning about their self-awareness (identifying their own strengths and interests), goal setting, resume writing and job search strategies.

A number of students have also been busy out on work placement gaining valuable experience in the vocations that interest them. Completing work experience plays an important part of a student overall secondary education. It prepares them for the demands of the workforce, helps to explore potential career interests, develops essential skills, and builds a strong foundation for future success. We encourage you to reach out to the Pathways team if you want any further information or support about this at pathways@arethusa.qld.edu.au



Our Year 12 students have been receiving a similar program as the Year 10s above, however with more of a focus on transitioning into post-secondary employment, training or further study. On top of this, students have also been busy putting together their own 'professional portfolios' by developing their resumes, cover letters, reference letters and collating any work experience completed so far. Heading into next term, Year 12 students will then start to review their learning account in their MyQCE student portal. We will show students how to access their account and then make some informed decisions about their future pathway.

Students in Year 11 have been completing 'vocational preparation' programs in a variety of industries including automotive, hospitality, construction, business, volunteering and sport coaching. These programs are designed to teach students the necessary practical skills required for that vocation, whilst performing them in authentic, real-world environments. This will continue into Term 2, before allowing students the opportunity to enrol in its nationally recognised equivalent course once they are confident this is the vocation they would be interested in pursuing. Again, if you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to reach out to the Pathways team at pathways@arethusa.qld.edu.au





Arethusa Rugby

Just over 9 months ago Arethusa College entered a team into an NRL schoolboys' gala day. We had eight students. We had to borrow jerseys from other teams, as well as additional ring-in players so that we could compete. A few weeks ago, we played in that same tournament once more. This time we had 82 students fully decked out in Arethusa jerseys, shorts, and socks. Furthermore, we were lending players to other teams so they could compete. The NRL officials spoke to us about how impressed they are with how much we've developed since last year. A week later our girls played. We had 21 students, which is an infinite increase from the zero we had this time last year! We've come an incredibly long way in a very short time. But we still have a long way to go.

Sports participation is a powerful transformative tool for our students. We have footy players who have told us that they are only coming to school because they get to play rugby league. Sports builds character. It teaches the importance of teamwork, of making a positive contribution, of loyalty and courage. And it teaches how to win, and how to lose, well. These are all incredibly valuable lessons for life.

Our Arethusa values state that: We will raise the bar and expect of our students, until they can expect of themselves and step towards the exciting possibilities that surround them. This is precisely what we are doing in Arethusa Rugby League. And we are seeing it happen. It is wonderful, rewarding and exhilarating.

Where to next? At the start of term 2 we are hosting a day of friendly matches with four other schools. It's so exciting that other schools are now approaching us to ask to be involved. The following week is round one of The Titans Cup, a prestigious tournament competing with 35 schools, that runs for term 2 for our Middles and Seniors, and then into term 3 for our Juniors. We have teams for both boys (play on Mondays) and girls (Wednesdays). Arethusa Rugby League is on the move!

NRL Gala Days





Arethusa Rugby

Tonie Carroll Cup - Thursday 22 February



**gofor
goldfund**

**\$100 million
Go for Gold
program**

Supporting greater
sports participation
and community use



**Successful
school**

Go for gold fund

We are delighted to announce that our Windsor, Spring Hill, and Deception Bay campuses have been awarded the Go for Gold grant. With this grant, we have purchased athletic equipment and mountain bikes to promote greater participation in sports and physical activities.



Term 2 Dates

Monday 15 April 2024 - Friday 14 June 2024

Term 2 Public Holidays:

Good Friday - Friday 29 March
Easter Monday - Monday 4 April
ANZAC Day - Thursday 25 April
Labour Day - Monday 6 May

Student Absentees

To report a student absence, please call or text the absentee line by 10:00am on the day of absence to report the student being away.

Call 07 2000 0200 or Text 0417 207 465 to report an absentee.

If a student is late to class and the parent has not rung to advise the student is running late, an absentee text may be sent out to the parent/carer.

