From the Principal’s Desk

2017-2020 Strategic Plan
Next Monday, 28th November, I invite parents and friends to join me at 12 noon in the Carter’s Gate Building where we will review the School Improvement Unit report and our mission, vision, values and goals. Light refreshments will be provided.

Every four years, schools undertake a Quadrennial School Review process which includes internal data analysis by school teams and a broader review by representatives from the School Improvement Unit. In term 1, our school had a Full School Review to identify goals and improvement strategies for the future. We will build upon what is already great at Aratula State School and ensure that we continue to progress in creative and innovative ways. We are now ready to collaboratively create our next four year plan and need your input to determine or confirm the direction of our school.

Please note, there will be no assembly on Monday 28th November due to this meeting.

Graduation Assembly
On Monday 5th December we will honour our Year 6 students by presenting their graduation certificates. The P&C Committee also have a presentation to make to all students. This will be our final assembly for 2016 so it would be wonderful to see as many family and community members as possible.

School Concert
The concert will be held on Thursday 1st December at the Community Sports Centre behind the school. Students should arrive at 5:45pm for a 6:00pm start. Please bring a plate of food to share after the concert.

School Song
Josh Arnold is back tomorrow and Thursday to film and record the song. There will be some offsite recording on Wednesday afternoon. Parents will need to transport students to Falkenhausen Road after school. Students are likely to get wet so it is advisable that they wear play clothes (no swimwear).

Book Lists
In previous years the school has purchased books as part of the resource contribution. There have been policy changes to the way that resource schemes can be utilised so this process cannot continue. You will receive a booklist home by the end of this week that outlines all the equipment your child will need for the 2017 school year. To make the process as convenient as possible for parents, arrangements have been made with Boonah and Kalbar newsagencies to pack the booklists and store them for collection at the start of next year.

Fun Day
Thursday 8th December is our end of year celebration day. Our wonderful P&C volunteers are providing the party lunch for all students on this day and running some fun activities during the morning.

Dates to Remember
Final ECAP—Wed 30th Nov
23rd & 24th Nov—Josh Arnold recording
Mon-28th-Nov—Strategic Plan Meeting—12pm
Mon—5th Dec—Graduation Parade & Presentation
Mon -28th Nov & 5 Dec -Swimming
Thurs 1st Dec -School Concert -5:45pm
Mon 5th Dec—Yr 6 Graduation
Thurs 8th Dec—Rewards Day

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK
Every day counts!
Our goal for this year is to have 93.6 per cent attendance. Currently, we are achieving 92.9 per cent attendance. There are only 11 school days left so let’s get everyone to school every day and see if we can reach our goal – we are so close!

After hours entry to school
Please be advised that any access to the school grounds by anyone outside of regular school hours must be approved by the Principal. If you see anything suspicious, please don't attempt to intervene. Call the School Watch number - 131 788.

The School Watch Program is a partnership between Education Queensland, the Queensland Police Service and the State Government Protective Security Service. It aims to reduce vandalism, theft and arson in Queensland schools. Let's work together to keep our school and community safe.

No hat - no play
It is a requirement that all students wear their school hat during playtimes. In the interest of health and hygiene, we are not able to provide spare hats for students who have forgotten theirs. Although the school playground has a shade, this does not provide adequate UV protection. Students who do not have a hat will be required to sit in the undercover eating area and will not be permitted to play. The P&C have hats for sale in the uniform shop.

Feedback
If you ever have any feedback you would like to provide, or any ideas or suggestions for our school, I would love to hear from you! Please come to see me, call to make an appointment or email me anytime at aarms55@eq.edu.au.

Have a fabulous fortnight!

Angela Armstrong
Principal

Library news
Thanks to all those wonderful people who participated in our recent Bookfair. It was the first to be held in the school for a number of years and I thank the support I received from the staff at Aratula SS as it was done at very short notice to them. Your support was magnificent and as the owner of The Book Warehouse says, “some of the bigger schools don’t reach the target Aratula attained.” Reading and being able to read is the most important things we can do in our lifetime as without reading we are without the ability to learn and enjoy life.

Over the holidays take your children to a public library (Ipswich and Boonah are both excellent) or walk into a bookshop and just browse. It is the cheapest form of entertainment for you and your children and you can even take it home with you to continue the fun.

Both libraries run holiday fun time with lots of activities. Get them booked while you go Xmas shopping or just have a cup of coffee and relax.

Do you want another bookfair next year? Let Angela know.

Thanks again and have a great holiday

Gayle Wilson
Teacher Librarian