Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to new staff and students.
Welcome to a new school year at Gilles Plains. Thank you to all the families who have already introduced themselves. It has been wonderful to meet with and talk with the students and start to get to know them. First impressions of Gilles Plains and the sense of community is fantastic and I look forward to working with everyone in 2015. If you haven’t had an opportunity please pop in and say hello.

Welcome also to our new families and children. We hope that your time at Gilles Plains is a wonderful and rewarding experience that you will remember for a long time to come.

We also have some new staff members joining us this year:
- Sarah Wills has been appointed as the School Counsellor and will be working Monday—Thursday.
- Jason Dean who will be working with the year 4 –7 supporting literacy and numeracy. Jason will also be taking PE for all classes in the afternoons.
- Tammy Williams will be supporting R—3 students with their literacy and numeracy and providing Art to classes.

Literacy and Numeracy Achievement
Before students started back teachers spent time planning, looking at student achievement from 2014 and being involved in professional learning to support literacy and numeracy development. We are fortunate this year for students to be supported, challenged and encouraged in small groups until lunch time. Please see your child’s teacher if you would like more information about this.

A Successful Start
We have got off to a great beginning with students and their teachers in the first week setting up classroom expectations, routines and relationships. Students have been involved in a range of activities that have been designed to develop safe conditions for rigorous learning. As I’ve visited classes and talked to students it has been great to see students building ownership and belonging into their learning space.

2015 looks to be a wonderful year at Gilles Plains and I look forward to working with you and the students.

Belinda Smith