Hello, my name is Sara Whittington and I am very excited to be at Monto State School for Term 1 as Acting Principal while Matt is on leave. I have previously been working at Blackwater North State School as Deputy Principal and prior to that I spent some years as Principal at Durong South State School and Orion State School. I am very passionate about rural education and believe students in rural areas deserve a top quality education equal to, if not better than what students in metropolitan schools receive. I am enjoying being back in the small school environment and look forward to meeting each and every one of our school families over the coming weeks. Please drop and say hello next time you are in the school.

I will be teaching the 5/6 class each Monday and Tuesday and teaching the 3/4 class each Thursday whilst Mrs. Hockey assists with swimming. Ms Jasmine Smith will be teaching the 5/6 class during the other 3 days of the week and I welcome Jasmine to our teaching staff at Monto State School. Mrs Carol Scott teaches Prep /1 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Kay Dunwoodie teaches this class on Wednesdays.

Mrs Megan Sinclair has the 2/3 class and Mrs Karen Hockey has the 3/4 class.

One thing I have already noticed about Monto State School students is that every student proudly wears the school uniform. This is a fantastic effort and shows that students have tremendous pride in their school. Please remind your child that he/she will need a hat every day at school.

Sara Whittington
NEWSLETTERS ARE A KEY COMMUNICATION TOOL

QSchools App
All school newsletters are available on our website at montoss.eq.edu.au
If you have an android, apple or windows 8 smart device (phone or tablet), consider downloading the free QSchools app. Once you add Monto State School as a ‘favourite’ school on the app, it will integrate with our website and allow you to view news, events and newsletters that are posted to our website.
QSchools Version 2.0 for iOS and Android are available for free download from the iTunes store and Google Play. QSchools Version 1.2 for Windows 8 phone and tablet is available from the Windows Store. An update to the Windows app is coming soon.

CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS

Prep/YR1
Welcome back and welcome to all our new families for 2015. Day 3 already!! Yes, the Prep/One class is counting our school days again this year.
We have 11 new Prep faces full of anticipation and enthusiasm ready to participate in the 2015 Monto School community. Everybody is settling in well and getting used to our routines and the ways of classroom and school life. Please keep an eye on lunch boxes to make sure enough is being eaten or being provided. If there are ever any issues around food please come and speak to Kay or myself.
For this year, Ms Kay Dunwoodie will be working with the Prep/One class every Wednesday. Ms Dunwoodie will cover the subjects of History and Science this semester as well as maintaining our on-going Literacy and Numeracy focus. I will be working the other four days implementing the Literacy and Numeracy lessons as well as Art and Technology.
We will send home a class specific note outlining more details of our weekly timetable shortly. We will also add the sharing roster and weekly sharing topics list.
If ever you are unsure or have any questions about the program or your child’s progress please make sure you ask either Kay or myself for clarification. Please feel free to contact us by either, speaking to us, writing a note, calling the office to make an appointment or sending an email. (Carol - cscot81@eq.edu.au).
Parents are also very welcome and appreciated as classroom visitors. Once you have seen our timetable you may be able to offer us some valuable support during our day.

YR 2/3
Students (and teacher!) are settling back into a school routine. New students to our classroom have begun to settle in well, while those who are here for their second year are proving to be very helpful in the process.
A detailed classroom letter will be due out next week to explain how I intend to manage things within our 2/3 classroom. Homework will be handed out on each Monday, with the expectation it is completed and returned on each Friday.
Students are already benefiting from our new “Fruit Break” in the middle of our morning session. Thank you to parents who are supporting this by packing fruit snacks ready-to-eat.

BOOKS AND EQUIPMENT

Each and every day is essential at school and important learning occurs from day 1 of the year. All teachers have commenced the yearly curriculum and in order for students to achieve and succeed, it is vital that all items on the booklist are supplied at the beginning of the year. Please ensure you purchase the correct text books and exercise books for your child. Students are required to have these items every day at school to ensure valuable learning takes place.
**SWIMMING**

Swimming commenced today. I apologise for the short notice, but it is important to start as soon as possible so all the lessons can be completed before the weather starts to cool down. If you did not receive a permission note for swimming please contact the office as soon as possible.

The children walk to and from the pool with their class teacher.

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**FRUIT BREAK**

This year, the teachers have introduced fruit break. This is a short time to eat a piece of fruit to keep the brain working at the best level. Please remind your child that only fruit or vegies can be eaten at fruit break. Parents are asked to provide a piece of fruit in the lunchbox for your child to eat each day.

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**SCHOOL LEADERS**

In the next few days, Year 6 students who are interested will be asked to nominate for school leader positions. Students need to write a nomination letter addressed to the Principal expressing their desire to be a school leader and outlining what qualities they believe an effective school leader should have. The students will also participate in an interview with the Principal and present their letters as a speech to the year 3-6 students. Voting will be completed by Year 3-6 students and staff.

Students interested in nominating for school leader positions should have their letter to the Principal by Friday, 6 February, 2015.

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**P&C AGM**

Thursday 19 February

Monto State School Library

5pm
Music News

The Monto Instrumental Community Ensemble (MICE) Senior had their first performance of the year at the Monto Australia Day Celebrations. The students should be proud of their efforts, including a band rehearsal during the school holidays!

Kick-starting 2015 with a holiday band rehearsal.

Instrumental Music Lessons

Instrumental Music Lessons will take place on a rotational basis each Tuesday. This year, they will be held in the new music room (old prep building). Students will be required to bring their instrument, pencil, method book and a display folder to each lesson.

MICE (Monto Instrumental Community Ensemble) Senior will rehearse Tuesday afternoons from 3:30pm—5pm in the new music room at Monto State Primary School. Students in the band will be required to bring their instrument, a pencil and band music to each rehearsal.

Classroom Music

As per the 2015 booklist, all students require a recorder (instrument) and a scrap book for classroom music.

Choir

Choir rehearsal is each Wednesday big lunch in the music room. All students from Prep—6 are welcome to join the choir. Choir members will require a display folder to store their song lyrics.
Monto State School Uniform 2015

Uniform Guidelines

Monto State School is proud of their student uniform and the fact that every day students are always in uniform.
Polo shirts and girl's skorts are available for sale through the school using the attached order form.

Girls

Maroon and white polo shirt with black collar. Embroidered school logo on front.
Black skorts.
White socks and black shoes.

Boys

Maroon and white polo shirt with black collar. Embroidered school logo on front.
Black shorts.
White socks and black shorts.

On interschool sports day students are encouraged to wear their sporting house colours –
Eyre (Red) and Oxley (Green) with black shorts.
# 2015 Uniform Order Form

**Name:** __________________________  
**Class:** __________________________

**Prices:**  
Shirts $28.00 each  
Skorts $25.00 each

I would like to order the following:

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<th>Circle what you would like to order</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Total Price</th>
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| **Shirts**                          | **Other sizes $30.00**  
  **Please specify size** | | | |
| **TOTAL**                           |            |          |             |

Please find enclosed Money/Cheque for this order:

Cheques to be made out to: Monto State School P&C Association

Signed: ________________________________

Name: ________________________________

Please provide a contact/email in case we need to contact you regarding this order:

Phone: _______________________________

Email: _______________________________
HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR CONTACT DETAILS? To ensure that we can contact you in the event of illness or injury we ask that you fill in the form below and return to school so that we can update all school records.

Student Name ________________________________

Address ____________________________________

Email Address ________________________________

Phone Details
Parent/Caregiver 1 Name ________________________

Home __________________ Mobile ____________ Work ____________

Phone Details
Parent/Caregiver 2 Name ________________________

Home __________________ Mobile ____________ Work ____________

Emergency Contact Details (other than Parents/Caregivers)

1. Name __________________ Home Phone ____________
   Relationship to Child __________________________
   Work Phone __________________ Mobile ____________

2. Name __________________ Home Phone ____________
   Relationship to Child __________________________
   Work Phone __________________ Mobile ____________