Principal’s Report:
I wish to welcome all our families back to Milly and extend a warm welcome to the new families who have joined us. It has been a wonderful start to the school year with students settled in their classes, practicing routines and learning across the curriculum.

Thank you to P&C members for giving their time to have the uniform shop open the week before school to help our families get organised with school uniforms. Please remember P&C is a voluntary group who raise funds to support all students at school. They appreciate any help that is offered so please touch base with our P&C if you are interested.

Day 8
Today was the eighth day of the school year where the department collect our enrolment numbers to determine how many teachers and teacher aide hours will be allocated to our school. We have been fortunate to have just enough students to have 8 classes in the school. We still need to wait to hear from HR to confirm our numbers before making these changes across our school. As soon as HR confirms our numbers we will send a letter home notifying all families of changes and how this may or may not affect your child/ren. This is a wonderful thing for our school as it will reduce our class sizes. I wish to thank everyone for your patience.

Playground Changes
Some play areas have been reduced across the school due to the reduced number of students and hence staff reductions. The Leadership Team met in 2016 to discuss possible solutions to our issue and needed to keep in mind the working conditions for all employees in regards to the appropriate amount of break times and the duty hours performed in a week. It was decided during 8:30 - 8:55 the oval would not be available for play but the classrooms and library are areas students could access during this time. Many schools do not offer play on ovals before school for similar reasons. During lunch breaks students still have the library, under B Block and toilet area, all forts and bottom oval to play. We are also trialling a swap of playgrounds for the Year 1-2 students and the Year 3-4 students. This change will be reviewed towards the end of Term One.

Over the last week we have experienced high temperatures and on these days we implement shade play where all students are to remain in the shade during any play time. Therefore students in 4-6 have only been allowed to play under the MPA or under the shade of trees during the high temperatures. Shade play has been implemented for a number of years in the school during very high temperatures.
School Priorities for 2017

Our goals for 2017 will be:

- Embed Quality Teaching and Learning to achieve 90% of students attaining a 'C' or higher in English.
- Embed the Three Cuing System in the teaching of reading and writing to achieve 90% of students achieving at or above the North Queensland Reading Targets for their respective year level.

We will be working hard to get it right in these 2 areas and this will flow onto other subject areas to support students' learning. We are looking at offering some sessions for parents to get to know what this looks like and how you may be able to help at home.

Principal Priorities

As the leader of the school it is my job to ensure the curriculum is being taught effectively and all students are achieving. This year I will be working in classes with teachers and students to support and monitor the implementation of our goals. I will also be planning with teachers and having regular meetings to discuss students’ progress and identifying the next step. Therefore my priority will be focusing on the work to achieve our goals and I ask for your understanding if I am not available to talk immediately. I will endeavour to follow-up with requests as soon as practical. I thank you in advance for your co-operation and understanding.

Whole School Review

At the beginning of next week 3 members of the School Review Unit will be visiting Millchester to identify what we are doing well and areas that we can work on. Whole School Reviews are conducted in all State Schools across the state. This will be a great opportunity to gain feedback from trained School Reviewers on how Millchester is meeting the learning needs of all students. The reviewers will provide some recommendations for future focus and these can be included in the new strategic plan which will be developed throughout this Semester and determine our direction for the next four years.

Kind Regards
Belinda

Unexplained Absences

The department has implemented same day notifications advising parents/carers when a child has an unexplained absence from school.

Millchester State School Admin will make phone calls at 9:30am every day. If a message is not able to be left when contacting parents/carers, we will go through the emergency contact list until notification can be made. This is a timely reminder, if your child is absent with a reasonable absence, can you please call the absence line on

47546660
Towers Players presents

**OLIVER**

AUDITIONS

February 16-18

Male and Female Roles

Aged 6 and up

More details email
towerplayers@gmail.com

The Millchester P&C Association will hold its first meeting for the year Monday 13th February - Time and place TBC. Please consider coming along.

The secretary is in the process of writing the agenda for this meeting, so feel free to contact pandc@millchesss.eq.edu.au with suggestions and completed membership forms.

Every person will need to fill out a new 2017 Membership form prior to our AGM to be held 13 Mar 2017. All positions will be dissolved and reallocated on this date.

Please feel free to join our Milly Parents facebook page. This is a great way to communicate with other Milly parents.
Welcome to 2017:

I am Ann Christiansen your school’s Guidance Officer. I will be attending every Monday. If you would like to arrange a meeting with me to discuss any concerns you may have, please telephone Janine in the office to arrange an appointment. 2017 will be another great year at Millie!

Remember:

- Regular school attendance means your child will:
  - Have a better chance in life.
  - Achieve better results.
  - Make friends.
  - Be happier.
  - Have a brighter future.
- Research shows that in Queensland daily and on time student attendance at school is associated, on average, with higher student achievement.

Please help us to help your child to a successful future!

Ann Christiansen

Second Step: Social and Emotional Wellbeing Program

This year at Millchester we are introducing the Second Step Program to all classes. Several students will already be familiar with aspects of the program as some teachers have used it in past years. Second Steps will now be implemented schoolwide and all classes will be following the lessons and introducing a common language for talking about managing strong feelings, problem solving and helping children to self-regulate.

Second Step aims to develop the Social and Emotional wellbeing of all students at the school. The program will be implemented by classroom teachers and some of the skills being covered include Focussing Attention, Listening and Staying on Task. Please take the time to ask your child/ren what they are learning about in Second Step and encourage them to use these skills in the home environment.

What a lovely start to the year with almost all students 'having a go' in Music. As I’ve said to all students - my two expectations in Music this year are 1. Listen well and 2. Try your hardest. Things have changed a little with a slightly different organisation of music lessons along with some furniture re-shuffling in the music room... but students seem to be coping well with the changes so far. If you would like to see what students are doing or how they can achieve great results please don't hesitate to drop into the music room on either Monday or Tuesday morning. I'd love to see you.

Regards,

Robyn Dietrich

rdiet1@eq.edu.au
**Prep B**

A sincere Milly welcome to all new and older prep families. Starting prep is a bag of mixed emotions for children as well as parents. Although it is early days, I am pleased that children are settling into routine, making friends and enjoying the activities. It will be a busy year and your child will grow and flourish, especially with your support. In week one we learnt about whole body listening in order to learn. This is when we listen with our eyes, our ears, our head, our hands and feet are still. At the parent meet and greet in week 3, I will be able to give you more information of what is to come in Term 1. Hoping to see you then.

Miss Mary & Mrs Brumby

cbru1@eq.edu.au

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**Welcome to 1/2NP.** We have started the year off with lots of happy faces and a huge amount of enthusiasm. It has been great to see such a motivated group of learners walking into the classroom every morning. Thank you all for being so prepared for the start of the school year. Your efforts have helped enormously. The children are really enjoying having their own desks and tidy trays. We are encouraging them to become more independent in taking care of their own belongings and being responsible for keeping their desks tidy. We are looking forward to meeting with you all at the meet and greet next week. Please remember that we all want the best for your child so if you have any questions or concerns please let us know. Working together we can achieve great things.

Regards

Narelle & Leah

nnewn2@eq.edu.au & lpoll9@eq.edu.au

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**Year 2/3W**

Welcome back! 2017 is going to be a great year for 2/3W. All the students have started the year on the right foot, with all them taking pride in their behaviour and trying hard to do their very best work every day. I’m looking forward to catching up with everyone, and please if you ever have any concerns or just want to have a quick chat, my door is open every morning before school, and I am available after school.

Mrs Watt

ywatt3@eq.edu.au

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**Year 2/3R**

Welcome back to 2017. This year promises to be just as busy as previous years with lots of learning happening in all areas of the curriculum. From our chats all children enjoyed their break and had an enjoyable time with their families and are now eager to settle back into a year of learning. I am enjoying learning more about them through the different activities we are doing in class.

On Monday the students have Health and Physical Education with Mrs Miller so it essential that they have their hats and water-bottles. Music and Library will be on Tuesday mornings with Mrs Dietrich. This is when they will get their home readers for the week. Please record the number of nights reading using the recording sheet in your child’s homework folder.

Mrs Reid

jreed2s@eq.edu.au
Dear Year 5/6 Students and Parents,

Happy New Year. I hope you had a fun and relaxing holiday. If you are feeling a bit nervous coming back to school, do not worry, I feel just as nervous but we will get through our term together as a class that shows understanding and helps each other. This will be my first year teaching year 5/6 so I will learn a lot myself. I started teaching in 1998 and I have mostly taught year 7 and 8 but I have also taught high school History. I have taught mainly in New Zealand but also in Canada and the Cook Islands. I really respect people who put effort into their work and are prepared to make mistakes and ask for help as these habits are what the best learners in the class do regularly. I hope you can give me a chance to help you develop this year and come into 5/6M ready to do our best and let the success follow.

Mr. Milanovic
Year 5/6 Teacher
dmila3@eq.edu.au

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Mr. Milanovic
Year 5/6 Teacher
dmila3@eq.edu.au

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Welcome back to 2017. We’ve had an awesome start to the school year here in 3/4G. Our behaviour focus this year is taking PRIDE in your own behaviours and the behaviours of the whole class. It has been amazing to read the things which the students take pride in. They have all really strived so hard to do the right thing so far this year and I can’t wait to see every child progress throughout the year. Keep an eye out for the exciting things we have planned for 2017.

Mr. Georgee
ageor29@eq.edu.au

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Mondays: LOTE and Music lessons
Tuesday: Health / PE
Wednesday: Library
Friday: Parade

It has been great to meet a lot of the parents so far this year. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to come in and see me at school or send me an email. Reminder: Parent / Teacher Information night is on next Monday 5th February. Our timeslots are at 5.00pm and 5.30pm with 15 minutes given for each session. I hope to see you there!

Stephanie Curran
scurr95@eq.edu.au
Walk Around Australia has started. It will be on a Monday and Tuesday 8:30 - 8:50 up until week 9. I will talk to each class this week and next but please encourage all students to come out and do at least 1 lap.

Students- 1 point for their house
Teachers- 2 points for their house
Parents- 2 points for their child's house
Parents with a pram- 3 points for their child's house
Grandparents- 4 points

Everyone Welcome!

Netball and Football notes have now been sent out.

First games are on Friday 10th February.

Please hand notes in be Wednesday 8th February.

From the Sports Shed:

Welcome back! I hope you all had a lovely break and are ready to jump straight back into sport!!!!

Walk Around Australia started this week and it was great to see so many students participating. All students, parents, pets, family members are encouraged to come to the oval Monday and Tuesday mornings at 8:30. Points for your sporting house are awarded as follows: students 1 point, teachers 2 points, parents 2 points, parents with prams 3 points, pets 1 point, grandparents 4 points. Please come down and join us every Monday and Tuesday mornings This is a great chance to get some training in for our cross country which is going to be held in week 10 this term.

Rugby League and Netball start in week 3. Teams have been finalised and notes sent home. Please return all permission notes to Miss Janine in the office. Rugby League training days are Wednesday and Friday mornings 8:00am with Mrs Butler and Mr Georgee. Netball trainings are Monday and Tuesday first break with Miss M.

If there are any families that have some spare tyres lying around, I am looking for 6 to use in my Year 5 and 6 PE unit. If you have any and want to get rid of them, please contact me at the school.

See you on the oval!

Mrs M
amill311@eq.edu.au
Millchester State School has once again gratefully received stationary packages from Ron Donnellan the Trustee of Joyful Foundation Inc. This is the third year that Millchester State School has received these packs and the school distributes the packs to children who have returned to school with minimal equipment to start the year. It is great when students have received the packs their eyes light up and they feel special that someone has thought of them. This small moment not only makes a difference to the children but also to teachers when we see that joy on the children’s faces. School staff are very grateful and thank the Joyful Foundation for these stationary packs.

The Joyful Foundation Inc. was created in the memory and efforts of the late Joy Donnellan. The Foundation provides disadvantaged students with basic needs and educational support which in turn may allow them to have the opportunity of greater success in life and therefore benefit our community as a whole. Hand Heart Pocket the charity of the Freemasons Queensland conducted a Christmas Appeal in 2016 to raise funds for the Joyful Foundation Inc.

In 2017 stationary packs will be distributed across Townsville, Charters Towers and Ingham, with the possibility of extending to Ayr, Tully, Hughenden and Mount Isa in 2017. If you know a child who would benefit from a stationary pack, please contact the Joyful Foundation Inc.
Welcome to Milly Playgroup for 2017. My name is Mary Moxham and I am running our Playgroup program this year.

If you don't know me, I am a Teacher Aide in the Prep classroom and I have worked at Milly for 20 years, all of those years in Preschool and then Prep.

**Playgroup will commence on Thursday the 9th of February from 9am – 10.30am.**

**Suggested Timetable:**
- Indoor activities are from 9-9.45
  - (including painting/collage/playdough/books/puzzles.blocks)
- Outdoor activities are from 9.45-10.20
  - (including water play/sand pit/playground fun/balls)
- Morning Tea
- Story/Songs to conclude the morning 10.20-10.30

**What you need to bring:**
- Gold coin donation
- Small snack
- Hat

I am looking forward to meeting new and old children along with their parents, grandparents and carers in 2017.

Regards,
Mary

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**WHAT IS PLAYGROUP**

Playgroups are an informal session run each week where Mums, Dads, Grandparents, Carers, children and babies meet together in a relaxed environment.

Playgroup will help your child:
- Develop their social skills
- Participate in new experiences
- Share
- Cooperate
- Follow a routine
- Interact with adults and children in a safe environment

Playgroup will help adults meet other families, develop friendships, share experiences, and play with children. Playgroup is LOTS OF FUN!
What's happening in Term 1

- Meet & Greet—Monday 6th February—5-6pm
- Whole School Review—6,7,8th February
- Milly Playgroup begins—Thursday 9th February—9:00-10:30am
- Grip Leadership—Townsville—Thursday 9th February
- 2017 Leaders’ Induction 9:00am—Friday 10th February
- Netball & Football begins—Friday 10th February
- Netball & Football—Friday 17th February
- Whole School Photo Day—Thursday 23rd February
- Netball & Football—Friday 24th February
- School Performance ‘Too cool for Schools’ - Tuesday 28th February
- Netball & Football—Friday 3rd March
- Netball & Football GALA day—Friday 10th March
- National Day Against Bullying & Violence—Friday 17th March
- Milly Interhouse Cross Country—Tuesday 28th March
- Term 1 ends Friday 31st March
- Term 2 begins Tuesday 18th April.

School Photos

All information will be sent home next week once we have received it from the photographers!