**Principal’s report:**

**Whole School Review**

Thank you to everyone who spoke with the School Review Team last week. They had many positive things to say about our school. We will be given a report in two weeks which will clearly identify what the school is doing well and the next steps for Millchester. Part of this report will be placed on our website for all the community to read. This report will also identify recommendations which will be addressed and included in the Strategic Plan which guides the school’s direction for the next four years.

**Hot Weather Relief**

Thank you to the P&C for providing all students with an ice block on Monday to give our students some relief from the heat. All students thoroughly enjoyed slurping on an ice block. P&C wanted to provide ice blocks again on Tuesday but they could not purchase any more of the particular type of ice blocks that are acceptable under the Smart Choices Healthy Food and Drink Strategy.

**Smooth Transition into Eight Classes**

All students are settling well into the new class formations from our Day 8 enrolments. Please remember if you have any concerns about your child please talk with your child’s teacher as soon as practical. Teachers want the best for your child and are always willing to work with you to achieve this. Teachers also appreciate being given the opportunity to solve any issues first. After you have spoken with your child’s teacher and you still feel your concerns are not being addressed please call Janine to make a time with myself so we can discuss them and come to a resolution.

Kind regards

Belinda
2017 Staff

Principal
Belinda Mathews

BSM
Christy Barkworth

Admin
Janine Nicholson

Teacher Aides
Mrs West
Mrs Bennett
Miss Mary
Miss Jasmine
Ms Knuth

Music
Mrs Dietrich

Music
Elaine Heuber

HPE
Allison Miller

Classroom Teachers
Carolyn Brumby

Leah Pollard

Narelle Newnham

Judy Reid

Beth Rose

Peta Berney-Cook

Steph Curran

Allan Georgee

Chaplain
Miss Lydia

Cleaner
Tania Murphy

Cleaner
Carmel Lillyst

Cleaner
Laurel Rainbow

Groundsman
Dave Hill-Warner

Cleaner
Carmel Lillyst
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.

Behaviour PLC

As part of the Behaviour Support offered at Millchester we have a team of teachers who meet regularly and have input into the operation of the Responsible Behaviour Plan.

Some of the things that we cover include

- analysing Behaviour Data
- setting the Behaviour Focus Areas each week (based on data)
- discussing ideas related to positive Behaviour Strategies
- implementing the Second Step program
- organising the Behaviour Reward Days

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, Staying on Task and Showing Empathy. Please take the time to ask your child/ren what they are learning about in Second Step and encourage them to use the skills that they are learning in the home environment.

Supporting Learners at Millchester

Many of you will know me as one of our Year 1 teachers but I am also working as a support teacher in the school. I currently work in this role in the mornings and in the Year 1 classroom for the last half of the day. While working in my support role I am working with some students on a 1 to 1 basis and others in small groups and in some cases provide in class support to students. Some children may require intensive and long term support while others may require support for a short time only to guide them. Therefore the children and classes that I work with will change throughout the year. Part of my role as a support teacher is to liaison between the school and support agencies from outside of the school.

Learning is a unique experience for all students. Some students travel through the learning journey with little or no difficulties. However, some students find their learning journey to be a little more challenging. At Millchester we aim to cater for the needs of all of our students. I am lucky enough to lead a dedicated team of teachers and teacher aides who form the Students at Risk Team. This team is working to review and develop processes necessary to provide intervention and support to help students along their learning journey.

If you have any concerns about your child’s learning please contact your classroom teacher to discuss them.

Leah Pollard
**1NP News**

While we began the year as a multiage class we have sadly said goodbye to our Year 2s and are now 1NP. All students have coped with this change really well and we are off to a great start learning new concepts and making new friends.

In English we are learning to write Character Descriptions and are focussing on writing sentences using capital letters, full stops and finger spaces appropriately. We have been reading lots of books as we explore the traits of different characters so that we can write about what they look like, their emotions and feelings and the things that they can do.

In Maths we are looking at number patterns, counting and solving simple addition problems. Where possible we are using lots of hands on materials, but we are also learning to set our work out neatly using the Maths grid books.

In History we are learning about our personal history and sequencing important events and in Science we are finding out about living things and their requirements as well as the habitats that they live in.

Some things to remember:

- Monday is our Library Day – this is the day to return library books and home readers
- Tuesday is our Health/PE Day – don’t forget to bring a hat and waterbottle

Everyone seems to be well settled in now and we are seeing some great work samples from all students. If you have any questions or concerns then please make a time to talk to us.

Regards,

Leah Pollard and Narelle Newnham

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

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Hello Parents and Caregivers,

5/6M have been settling in well and are gradually improving their focus and work rate in class. In English they are just in the beginning stages of their assessment whereby they are planning a short story animation based on an ethical dilemma. Next week they will be taking photos of their stories using dolls/figurines from home and then put their photos on to a PowerPoint so they can add speech bubbles, music and special effects. I wish we did that for English when I was in school!

In Science the Y5s are learning about structural and behaviour adaptations of animals in different environments while the Y6s are going to be running a fair test linked to how environmental factors affect the growth of organisms.

In Maths both the year 5 and 6s have a test next week about reading different graphs and the difference between categorical data and numerical data. Please make sure they spend a few days studying for this next week.

Could you please start helping your child gathers materials for their technology unit where we are building percussion instruments and encourage them to prepare their backgrounds (on cardboard) for their English short story animation? Lastly, thank you for signing their reading logs and checking that they are studying their spelling words from Friday to Wednesday (Test every Thursday). I hope to see you at school in the future.

Regards,

David Milanovic

dmila3@eq.edu.au
Welcome to 4B!

4B is officially into its second week of existence and it has been a busy period of adjustment and organisation for us all! Thank you to all the parents who attended the meet and greet, it was nice to see such friendly faces!

I am Peta Berney-Cook and I am thrilled to be teaching such a fabulous bunch of learners this year. I am familiar with most students, having taught all but the new-comers in some role throughout the last few years. I am looking forward to guiding the Year 4's to achieving their best and encouraging increased independence and goal setting in regard to their learning.

This term in English, we are being advertisement detectives! No longer content to sit back, watch ads and whinge to our parents about products we want to try, Year 4's are investigating the clever tactics used to sell products in print and on television. The subtle and persuasive tactics marketing agencies employ to sell to consumers are under our microscope and we are discovering there's more to ads than meets the eye!

PRIDE IN 4B

Our focus in 4B is on pride. The students have designed pride cards and are working on the following areas in our classroom:

- **P** – stands for please and thank you, manners are necessary in 4B.
- **R** – is about respecting ourselves and others at all times.
- **I** – independent learning goals and work ethic are encouraged.
- **D** – don't give up, even when it's difficult!
- **E** – excited, enthusiastic and engaged students are learners in 4B!

Of course, next term is our wonderful camp to Paluma! There will be notes coming in the next few weeks regarding fundraising and costings. If you have any questions about camp or anything in general, please feel free to contact me by email: pbern4@eq.edu.au.

A Huge thank you to Mrs Miller, Mrs Dietrich, Mr Georgee & Mrs Butler for all your time and effort spent coaching our Netball & Football teams. All players had a fantastic time playing their first games last week.

Next games are Friday 17th February.

School Banking.

Mrs Rigby has once again volunteered to be our school banker. Filled in bank books are picked up each Wednesday by Mrs Rigby and returned on a Thursday.
Leaders’ Induction

CAPE

FLINDERS

FLETCHER
**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**

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**TUCKSHOP NEWS**

The P&C decided last night that only one student is able to assist with breakfast club each morning. Student helpers must be 10 years and over and hold a Food Handlers Certificate. Students are able to complete a Food Handlers Course by visiting the Charters Towers Regional Council and following the prompts. (It is free) Miss Lydia will also be offering to assist students at a later date.

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**P&C Committee AGM**

13th March 2017

5:30

Treasurer, Secretary, Vice-President & President positions are needed.

**Volunteers Wanted!!**

Millchester P&C Assoc needs help NOW! Parents, Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles, anyone wanting to help in ANY way possible would be greatly appreciated. Help with fundraising events; dances, raffles, mother’s & father’s day stalls, cent sale.

Help is needed in the Tuckshop on Monday or Wednesday 8:30am-12pm

Contact P&C via email; pandc.millchester@gmail.com or 0409724625

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Towers Players presents

**OLIVER**

AUDITIONS

February 16-18

Male and Female Roles

Aged 6 and up

More details email

towerplayers@gmail.com
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!

Millchester SS Auskick Program/
Charters Towers JFC Auskick Program
Auskick is returning to Charters Towers in Term 1, 2017!
Starts: Wed 22nd Feb
Times: 4:00pm – 5:00pm
Venue: Mosman Park Jnr Cricket Fields
Session 1 is a Free Trial some come and give it a go!
Each child receives their very own Sherrin Footy and Auskick Benefits Pack!
More info and to register: aflauskick.com.au
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

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 Bullies’ - 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

Thursday 23rd February.

Family envelopes are available from office. Please remember Milly office does not handle any money or envelopes for the photographers. Make sure you have the correct change on the day as we do not keep money/change.