Hi everyone and welcome to the Week 6 Newsletter. As you already know I am filling the role of Principal while Ms Mathews takes some Long Service Leave this week and next. She will be back in the chair in Week 8, and I do want to thank the school community for their support while I am filling this role. It has been a great experience to take on the role and see the school and the students from a different perspective.

I have been keeping in touch with 2/3W by taking on the co-planning role with Mrs Young as we implement Teaching With a Literacy Focus. The students are responding very well to TWLF. The teaching is very explicit and what the children are expected to know and understand by the end of the lesson is very clear. We go through a process called Gradual Release, where we first show the children how to do it – we call this the “I do” phase – and the role of the children is to watch and listen. The second phase is where the students do most of the talking and we all work together to achieve the lesson focus – This is called the “We Do” phase. The final part of the lesson is the “You Do” phase where the children do all of the work independently and show what they have learnt. All their work is then collected and Mrs Young and I monitor their learning. We then decide on the next lessons focus based on the work they have produced, the Learning Intention of the unit, the Success Criteria of the unit (what they need to be able to do to show they have learnt it) and the Guide To Making Judgements (the criteria we use to mark their assessment). I am definitely seeing incredible improvements in the students writing, and am looking forward to continuing this process throughout the year.

I am also pleased to announce that we received a $20 000 from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund to install two new shade structures over the Senior Fort and the bottom fort. This is of great benefit to the students and will assist in keeping them safe from the sun’s harmful rays at lunchtimes, which is particularly important in North Queensland.

Kind regards
Yvonne Watt
If the weather is kind to us this Thursday, parents, careers and children will enjoy a hive of activity during the morning. You will find many photos in the next few pages.

But the activities at prep just never stop, even when there is rain. In Maths the students have been focusing on sorting and looking at the properties of different shapes. These shapes were then used to design a house. The students were exposed to comparative language of tall, taller, tallest & long, longer, longest as they measured distances that they jumped and the height of their buildings. Next is having fun with numbers 1-10 and language of more and less.

During science sessions the students have been investigating different movements. Why do objects roll, slide or bounce? When do they use the force of push or pull? What way can we move?

Hannah said “I pull up my sheets” while Byron informed the class “I can push the door shut”.

The students enjoyed moving in a variety of different ways and pretending that they were a ballerina, a basketball player or a swimmer.

Art is always fun and creative, especially when there is a variety of media available. The students had a lovely time learning how to make a pottery bowl and the different stages the clay goes through to reach the end product. After decorating, this was given to their Mothers as a Mothers Day present.

The focus of English in term 2 is to retell a story. The students have to cut and paste pictures in the correct story sequence and then draw their own pictures. We are using story language of first, next, then and finally. After they have the order, the children are being encouraged to write some words for the pictures. When writing, students are using a combination of sight words and words from the English story board. For all these skills to develop in the preps, it is important for the support of the nightly reading at home.

Regards

Mrs Brumby

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2/3W

2/3 W have been having such a busy term. Our new English unit that is being co-taught and planned with Ms Mathews is progressing really well. The students have really been understanding what is being taught and have been producing some excellent writing examples. They will be writing a persuasive text explaining why they prefer the images from one story over another and they will be reading a text and answering some literal and inferential questions about the text.

It’s been all about the money in Mathematics, with the Year 2’s learning how to add notes and coins together and the Year 3’s learning how to calculate change. As we all know, being able to handle and understand money is a really important life skill. You can help your child at home with these skills by letting them add up how much their tuckshop order costs and how much change Miss Tash would have to give them.

Mrs Young has been doing a great job keeping the students learning on track while I am filling the Principal role for Weeks 6 and 7. Please drop in and see her or myself if you have any concerns or questions.

We have finally set up our new Reading desks in the classroom. A gigantic thank you to the P&C for this generous purchase for our classroom. They are being put to good use every day as you can see from the photos.

Regards,
Yvonne
ywatt3@eq.edu.au

Still to come in Term 2

- Bookfair—Monday 22nd—Friday 26th May—Dress up parade on the Friday—Pirate theme
- Touch Football Gala Day—Friday 26th May
- Volunteers morning tea—Thursday 1st June
- 4/5 Camp Paluma Camp—Wednesday 7th—Friday 9th June
- P&C Meeting—Monday June 12—5:30 in K Block
- Winter Wonderland Disco—Friday 16th June—6:00-7:30
- Athletics Day—Monday 19th June & Tuesday 20th June
- Behaviour Day Celebrations
- Last Day Term 2—Friday 23rd June
- First Day Term 3—Monday 10th July

DATE CLAIMERS FOR TERM 3

Grandparents Day—Friday 27th October
Cent Sale—Saturday 28th October
5C News

What a term we have had! Public holidays, ANZAC Day ceremonies, Country Music parade, Bookfair, the Trash Test Dummies and Crazy World of Science performances... and that is not even to mention the NAPLAN tests or sporting events like Cross Country and touch football. Plus, we have Year 4/5 Paluma Camp coming up in two weeks time. Life in the classroom this term has been crazy busy as we navigate around all the changes and interruptions to our normal routine to be able to continue with our learning.

In **English**, we have been learning how to create our own opening chapter of a fantasy novel with a ‘good’ and ‘evil’ character. It has been wonderful to see the creativity that is being shown by all students, particularly as we explore figurative language (similes, metaphors and personification).

In **Maths**, we have been looking at different types of angles – and how to measure and draw these; and at different types of symmetry in everyday objects and shapes. After this, we will be looking at multiples, factors and decimals.

In **Science**, we have been looking at animal adaptations – behavioural and structural. We will be starting our assessment next week where students will be creating two different animals that need to survive in different locations and explain their choices of behavioural and structural features.

In **History**, we have been looking at the Gold Rushes in Victoria during the 1850s where the Lambing Flat riots and the Eureka Stockade took place. We have started our assessment this week where students are involved in an historical inquiry looking at the Eureka Stockade, Peter Lalor and how both were significant in creating change for Australian democracy.

In **Drama**, we have been exploring improvisation where students have been challenged to take on the persona of another person to think and behave like that person. Over the next week, students will be creating, rehearsing and performing an improvised drama as well as a scripted drama. It has been so fantastic to see how enthusiastic all students are to participate in our Drama lessons and get involved in the whole process.

Our Second Steps lessons have been focused on attentive listening, taking others’ perspectives, accepting difference and predicting feelings. We have been focusing on how others may be feeling and accepting any differences respectfully. Respect is something we found that has crept into all aspects of our learning – both academic and socially – this year, where we need to make sure that we are treating others how we would like to be treated. Respect goes both ways and, regardless of how others are treating you or what they believe, we need to make sure that we are treating others with the utmost respect, kindness and understanding. This is so very important to be able to communicate effectively with others, both staff and students.

**REMINDERS:**

**Attendance** each and every day is important for our learning – especially during the next two weeks as we complete our assessment. This is the time of term that I have noticed that our class attendance drops off significantly. I encourage you to make sure that your child/ren are attending school every day.

**Reading** is our homework focus, so please make sure that you are encouraging your child/ren to be reading for at least 15 minutes every night. It is such an important skill for students to be practising regularly. **Reading Logs are due every Friday.**

Year 4/5 Camp is in two weeks, so please make sure all medical and permission forms have been returned to the Office.

Stephanie Curran
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Sites we might see in Paluma
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.
Emily, Zoe-An, Becky and Ruby had an interesting time at the Soils workshop learning all about soil.
Under 8's Day
This is fun!!

CHEESE

YUM YUM

WE LOVE GREEN GOOP

BANG BANG