Dear Parents, Families and Community Members,

I have received a very warm welcome over the last week and am gradually learning many new faces and names. Charters Towers is a great town and I already feel very at home here.

Each day I have been visiting classrooms to ask students about their learning. This year, our Explicit Improvement Focus has been Teaching with a Literacy Focus. This is where teachers focus on preparing students for assessment tasks by giving them repeated opportunities to practise and rehearse the skills that they need to complete end of unit assessment. It is also based on the foundations that students need to know what they are learning (the learning intention) and what they need to be able to do to be successful in the assessment task (success criteria). Each teacher works with Mr Georgee and myself to unpack each unit and reflect on student work. When you next visit a classroom, have a look at our learning walls which are developed to display our learning intentions, success criteria and evidence of our learning each day.

We have a lot to celebrate this fortnight, with many of our students involved in a range of community and inter school events. Go Millchester!

National Science Week Celebrations
This week, we have been celebrating National Science Week at Millchester State School. Kelli Pukallas, our School Scientist, has been running lunchtime clubs for our students based on the National Science Week theme of ‘Future Earth’. Our teachers have been busy planning exciting science experiments and activities that took place during our open classroom afternoon on Tuesday. It was great to see so many families come and share in this afternoon. This week also saw, Emily-Rose and Zoe travel to Warwick to the Ag Science Expo to showcase their entries in the DAF Heritage Plant Science Awards. Congratulations to the girls on this achievement. See the photographs in this edition of the newsletter.
Weekly Parade
CHANGE OF DAY AND TIME
Thursdays 2.30—3.00pm

Making a Payment?
BPOINT is our preferred method of payment as it saves us administration time in following up payments. Please try BPOINT for your next school invoice.

If your child will be absent or late...
Please call the school and leave a message if your child will be absent from school on the School Absence Line 4754 6660. School Administration will follow up absences from 9.30am each day.

P & C Meetings
3rd Tuesday of the month
Contact: 0409724625
President: Kelli Pukallas

Playgroup
Thursdays
9.00 – 10.30am
Coordinator: Mary Moxham

Breakfast Club
Each morning
8.00 – 8.30am

Tuckshop
Monday, Wednesday & Friday

School Uniforms and School Hats
We have pride in our school at Millchester and to show this, we wear our school uniform and school hat proudly. Please ensure that your child is ready for school each morning in their Millchester State School shirt and hat. Shirts and hats can be purchased at the School Office. We look great in our uniforms! Thank you for your support in this matter.

Attendance—Making Every Day Count
Teachers work hard each day to prepare engaging and informative lessons for our students. Using our Teaching with a Literacy Focus priority, students who are absent from school, miss activities that give them the opportunity to practise and rehearse for assessment items. Often it is difficult for students who miss days to catch up on the learning that they have missed. This puts students behind in their learning and understanding. Students who are late also miss key learning time at the beginning of each day. We want to make sure every child is succeeding each day. Please help us make ‘every day count’ by ensuring your child is at school, on time, each day.

Absences—Please Ring the Absence Line
We are asking parents to use our school absence line if their child is going to be away. While we work hard to make sure ‘every day counts’ we understand that there are times when students are ill or have family or cultural reasons that require them to be absent. Parents can ring our absence line anytime of the day or night and leave a message with their name, their child’s name and the reason for the absence. This also saves Mrs Nicholson ringing families each day to follow up on unexplained absences. We thank you for your support in this matter.

Interschool Athletics
This Thursday, Millchester is hosting the annual Interschool Athletics Carnival at Richmond Hill State School. We are looking forward to cheering on our competitors and seeing our students show great sportsmanship. I look forward to seeing you there on the day.

Eisteddfod
It makes us very proud to see so many of our students involved in the upcoming Eisteddfod. I am looking forward to volunteering on Wednesday night and Saturday morning to support this event. Thank you to Mrs Newnham for coordinating this for our students. Good luck to our Millchester Students.

Charters Towers Community Day 27th August
We are looking forward to showcasing our great state school at the Charters Towers Community Day on Sunday 27th August. I will be there throughout the day, joining our teachers and some of our students to put our school on display. There is so much for us to share and celebrate. We look forward to seeing families and community members at this event.

Prep Open Afternoon
On Saturday 2nd September from 3.00—4.00pm, prospective Prep 2018 Parents are invited to come and join Mrs Brumby, Mrs Moxham and myself in the Prep room for an introduction to the Millchester State School Prep Program for 2018. Come and see our classrooms, meet our teaching staff and join us for afternoon tea and a presentation about our school while your Prep children participate in a range of fun activities. Please register through the school office on 4754 6666.

ICAS Testing
ICAS is an independent, skills-based assessment program which recognises and rewards student achievement. Each test is sat at the student’s school and is invigilated by teachers under normal examination conditions. Students from Millchester sat ICAS tests this week. Thank you to Mrs Dietrich for coordinating this for our students.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me regarding any questions, issues or concerns.

Yours in Education,
Kendall Seccombe
News from Mrs Brumby in the Prep Class

For the start of the term 3, Mrs. Cook (3rd year JCU Student) was visiting and teaching in prep. She took the children through the many of the activities, including maths. These activities included, concepts of heavy and light, adding numbers and place value. So out came the balance scales, the pretend seesaws and the dice. Rolling two dice, leads to a great addition activity. Placing big and small teddy bears on a seesaw proved a balance challenge. Making the balance scales balance, did not always happen but it was always the heavy bucket lower. Last week the students explored growing patterns. So the children made growing patterns, on white boards, with counters and with pegboards.

The English focus is being Rhyme Detectives!! We can - Hear the Rhyme, Say the Rhyme and Write the Rhyme. This just like poetry prep style, but better. We get to act it out. Can you see the fat cat on the mat? Where is the dog on the log in the fog? The children do require not just a good bank of sight words, but also a great bank of sight words to succeed well in this task? We are writing sight words 4 mornings a week but home support makes the difference.

Please continue to read and write sight words every night with your child.

The Prep scientists have been observing, predicting and experimenting with materials to make a wind chime. The students had to look carefully at the properties, in order to pick the right materials. Top of the list was, windproof, waterproof, rigid and could make a noise. After going through the experiments, the children had to design their final product. There were some great designs. The final test was if the properties were correct to fit the criteria. Once put together did they actually work? This was not just science but the end result was very creative, artistic and enjoyable.

Geography is about to be introduced formally, but there has been a lot of great drawing about towns, roads and other items in a town, whilst playing outside. The children have been constructing in chalk on the cement a mini version of Charters Towers, inclusive of roads, shopping centre with parking lot, school, hospital with helipad and Burdekin River. This is their Geography in action.

I am still requesting small glass bottles with lids, ASAP. I need these by Tuesday 15th please.
News from Mrs Watt in the 2/3 Class

We have been super busy in 2/3W writing our Narratives about overcoming a fear. The children have been writing about some interesting fears and they have been working hard re-reading their writing and editing it, because that’s what all good writers do. They will also be publishing their stories with PowerPoint. Next week we will be starting a new unit all about poetry. The students will be learning about different poetic devices like alliteration and onomatopoeia.

Maths has been focused on multiplication. We have been practising our tables with Mr DeMaio on YouTube. The children are especially enjoying the 3x tables that have been sung to “Uptown Funk.” We will be working with fractions next week and telling time later in the term.

Geography lessons are all about the features of places for both Year 2’s and Year 3’s. Year 2’s are more focused on places at a local and personal scale and the features of those places, whilst the Year 3’s are focusing on mapping and human and natural characteristics of places and the similarities and differences between different places.

Next week, I will be absent all week as I am attending “Take The Lead,” which is an Education Queensland run program for aspiring small school Principals. Ms Hannah Romano will be taking the class for the week, and their learning will continue as normal.

Don’t forget, readers are changed on Tuesdays and PE is on Mondays – remember your hat!
**News from Ms Curran in the Year Five Class**

Over the past five weeks, the learning in 5C has been phenomenal. Students are putting in their best effort to complete all work and attempt all tasks. Congratulations Year 5 students, I am very proud of you! Keep up the wonderful effort in class.

**FOCUS ON TECHNOLOGY:**

We have been busy in all learning areas, in particular Technology. It is great to see all the students in our class engaging with learning how to code using the program ‘Scratch’.

Here is what one student in Year 5C had to say about Technology:

“In Technology, we have been learning how to use Scratch and make games. The game we have made is ‘The Dragon Game’. It works with the sprites (characters) and it is really fun. The aim of the game is to stay away from the dragon for as long as possible.

The game we are working on now is a maze. We are finding out how to move our sprites with the arrow keys and learning how to make the characters go back to the beginning when they touch the sides. I really like Technology - it is super fun.”

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**Our Second Step Focuses**

To support our students on their Social Emotional Journeys, and to support our school Behaviour Processes, all classes participate in explicit lessons that introduce a common language for talking about managing strong feelings, problem solving and helping our students to self-regulate their behaviour.

The program is implemented by classroom teachers and focuses on skills including listening, staying on task and focusing attention. We encourage all parents to ask their children what they are learning about in Second Step lessons.

Don’t forget to ask your children what their focus of the week is this week and to share their learnings.

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**Our New Millchester SS Facebook Page**

Follow our new Millchester State School Facebook Page.

https://www.facebook.com/MillchesterSS/

This page is a showcase of the great things that are happening at our school.

*Please remember that this is not an avenue for parent communication, but a celebration of our great school. Please come into the school if you have any questions, queries or concerns rather than post on our new page.*

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**What I Love about My School**

Each fortnight, I like to ask students why they think Millchester is such a great school. Here are some of their responses:

The learning helps me be smart. **Lilly, Prep**

The teachers are really kind. **Percy, Year One**

We get to use computers and do science. **Hank, Year Two**

Playing with my friends in the playground. **Tristan, Year Three**

The teachers make learning fun. **Shane, Year Four**

Nearly everything. We get to play different games. **Monica, Year Five**

We have great teachers who improve the school by helping kids learn. **Ryan, Year Six**
National Science Week Celebrations

Monday
Future Earth.... what will it be like?
- Water World or Desert?
- Mud pies...which one is best?

Tuesday
What’s in the poo?
Soil safari...who is in there?

Wednesday
Make your own Ecosystem
Create our GREEN earth

CONGRATULATIONS-Highly commended awarded to Zoe-An & Emily
presented by Costa Georiadis—2017 DAF Hermitage ‘the Dirt on Soils’ Plant Science Competition
Show Success

Congratulations to all of the students who had their work displayed at the Charters Towers Show this year. Our school exhibit looked fantastic and certainly highlighted what talented students we have at Milly. In the Schools Pavilion Millchester was well represented in the handwriting and poster competitions. All of our students should be very proud of their efforts but special mention goes to all of the prize winners:

**Posters**

*Second*
- Prep - Molly S
- Y2 – Trey R
- Y3 – Summer-Rose T
- Y5 – Alex P

*First*
- Prep – Lily G
- Y2 – Belle R
- Y3 – Zoe-An R
- Y5 – Brock S

**Champion Poster** – Y2 – Belle R

**Handwriting**

*Second*
- Y5 – Sienna N
- Y2 – Meckenzie T and Logan B
- Y3 – Amelia B

*First*
- Y3 – Ethan S
- Y5 – Grace B
- Y6 – Summer G

**Champion Handwriting** - Y5 – Grace B

Rosettes for these students were awarded on Parade in Week 5. Congratulations to everyone involved!

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**Farewell Mrs Matthews**

**Parade**

*Congratulations*
Notices

Millchester School

Prep Open Day
Saturday 2nd September 2017
3:00 - 4:00

Come meet our wonderful Prep Teacher Mrs Brumby, Teacher Aide Miss Mary & Principal Miss Seccombe.

Please call the school office if you have any inquiries on 4756666.

CHARTERS TOWERS
ATHLETIC CLUB INC
NEW MEMBERS WELCOME
2 FREE TRIAL DAYS
COME ALONG GET INVOLVED
WHEN: MONDAY 5PM - 6PM
WHERE: 9 NAGLE STREET
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: ROBERT WALLIS 0429 878 683

NEW Venue: Choristers Hall York St

Tuesday:
5:30 - 6:30 pm
Intermediate - Hatha Yoga

Wednesday:
6:00 – 7:00pm
Beginners - Hatha Yoga

Thursday:
5:30 pm – 6:30pm
Laughter Yoga

Contact : Carolyn 47874871 or 0418793260

Drop off Zone – This is NOT a parking area. This zone is provided to parents who want to drop their children and go. Drivers who use this area need to drive through to the end of the zone, ensure your children enter/exit your vehicle in a timely manner (there is a 1 minute limit). Using this area as it was provided for gives all drivers the opportunity to utilise this zone correctly. There is ample parking provided if you need to stay longer.

More information:
https://www.facebook.com/ChartersTowersEisteddfod