**Principal’s report:**

Congratulations to each of our School Leaders who were inducted into their positions a couple of weeks ago. Each leader has already shown they are responsible and willing to represent our school with pride.

School Captains - Summer G and Jesse I, Cape House Captains - Latia G and Grace M, Fletcher House Captains - Brandon K and Ryan M, Flinders House Captains - Freya W and Connor W. We know they will perform their duties to the best of their abilities and wish them a successful year!

**Whole School Review**

We have received the report from our Whole School review. The Executive Summary is on our website for everyone to view. This document highlights key findings and key improvement strategies to be implemented within our school. Over the coming weeks in the newsletter you will get to understand the Explicit Improvement Agenda for 2017. The Key Improvement Strategies and other recommendations from the full report will be included in the Strategic Plan to outline the direction for the school over the next four years.

Thank you once again to everyone who contributed their input into Whole School Review it was a positive experience to have others come into our school and give feedback.

**Principals’ Conference**

I have been away from Wednesday this week attending the State School Principals’ Conference to hear the direction and focus for the Department of Education and Training. All State School Principals are attending this conference which is held every two years. Thank you to all the staff for continuing the excellent work and taking on extra responsibilities in my absence.

Kind regards, Belinda
Year 2/3 News

Hello families of 2/3W! Our first 6 weeks of Term 1 have been very busy! Our Year 2’s have been writing an alternate character description and our Year 3’s are writing a persuasive letter about which fairytale they preferred. A new English unit will begin next week. We will be studying the novel Matty Forever by Elizabeth Fensham. It would be of great benefit to your child if they were able to have their own personal copy of Matty Forever, but it certainly is not a requirement.

We have been focusing on partitioning numbers and some mental maths strategies for both Year levels in our mathematics lessons. We will be spending some time working with money, fractions and problem solving over the next 4 weeks.

Some reminders:
Home Readers are changed on Tuesdays.
Library is on Tuesday.
PE is on Monday.

Yours in education,
Yvonne
ywatt3@eq.edu.au

Prep News

The preps have come to school with bright smiles and full of enthusiasm. They have made great leaps and bounds, settling into the routine of participating in all the activities at school. They show growing confidence when going off to music and P.E., making friends and talking in front of the group.

The students now participate in daily writing, which is either their name or sight words. Reading groups are progressing, with a focus on reading the pictures and eventually the words. Knowing the direction of sentences, what is the difference between a word, a letter and their sounds. This is only the beginning.

In science, preps are learning about “Our Living World”, this includes the needs of plants and animals. Thanks to the parents whom assisted in revamping the garden, so the children could plant some seeds. As young scientists, they have been very involved in the caring, observing and making predictions about the plants, which are growing exceptionally well. The watering is a favourite activity during the break times.

In English, students are discovering about stories and their characters. We have discussed how the stories make them feel and relate what happens in the books to their own experiences. Currently they are practicing to speak in sentences and give eye contact during a book presentation. The speaking will then overflow into History, when the preps will orally share a poster about their families.

Oral language is an important part of a child’s development. There are many areas of oral development but being able to understand a child’s speech, children expressing their thoughts in sentences with the correct grammar, using a wide vocabulary are part of the children’s metalinguistic. When talking to your child have fun with rhyming words, play “I Spy” with initial sounds and model speaking in correct sentences. These little things do matter in the bigger picture of language.

Kind Regards
Mrs Brumby
cbru1@eq.edu.au
5C News

We are over halfway through the term already – how time has flown! It has been a busy start to the school year in 5C, but it's very encouraging to see how all students are putting in their best effort across all learning areas!

In English, we have been looking at creating short story animations that focus on an ethical dilemma (a choice between right and wrong). Over the past week and a half, all students have been working extremely hard to create their own short story with an ethical dilemma through planning characters and developing a storyboard so they can take photos of their dilemma and these turn into an animation in PowerPoint. Once we have completed our short story animations we will be inviting all of our parents in for a 'Showcase' event to view the students' creations. Even from such humble beginnings it is shaping up to be a must-see event!!

In Maths, we have been looking at using strategies (such as algorithms, split and compensate) to add, subtract and multiply large numbers. We have also studied unit fractions – a fraction with 1 as the numerator – and being able to locate and place these on a number line. This week we have started to look at data where we are creating categorical (based on categories – e.g. favourite food, eye colour, etc.) and numerical (based on numbers – e.g. number of people in a family, hours of TV watched in a week, etc.) questions to collect information from groups of people. We will also be learning to read different types of graphs to answer questions about the information included.

In Science, we have been exploring the different properties of the states of matter – solids, liquids and gases. Students have had the opportunity to engage with different experiments to better understand how solids, liquids and gases act in different ways.

In History, we have been looking at secondary settlements and the reasons behind Moreton Bay becoming a penal colony then a free settlement.

We have been engaging in Second Steps, which is a social-emotional program aimed at helping students to develop their social and emotional wellbeing. In these lessons, so far, we have talked about empathy and active listening. It is great to see students starting to use these skills in their interactions with others during class time and out in the playground. I encourage you to have some conversations with your students at home each week about the skills we are learning in Second Steps and encourage them to be using these skills more actively in their lives.

REMINDERS:

Monday – LOTE lesson; and Music lesson
Tuesday – HPE lesson
Wednesday – Library
Thursday – Religion class
Friday – Parade

Please remind students to bring in their Reading Logs on Friday! Students need to be reading at least 10-15 minutes each and every night.

Everyone seems to have settled well into the school year and into our class routines. It's great to be seeing some wonderful work being produced by all students. If you have any questions or concerns please make a time to come and talk to me.

Stephanie Curran
scurr95@eq.edu.au

Book Club

Orders and money are due by Friday 17th March.
Country Music – Ideas Session

Can you feel that rhythm in the air?? Can you hear that country beat??
Can you smell………………………………………?? The Country Music Parade will be gaining momentum and yodelling down Gill Street before we know it. Thus I need ideas for a song, I need ideas for the costumes and so come and have a cuppa and scones around the campfire – no I can not do that at school unless I fill in a risk assessment. But I would like to have an “Ideas Session” next Tuesday after school to get the wagon wheel rolling. Prep room at 3:15pm.

Thanks in advance
Mrs Brumby

Chaplain News

Hello everyone, today we watched an amazing show about stamping out bullying. Everyone deserves to feel safe and we take it very seriously at Milly. We are encouraging the whole school to enter the challenge to create a poster that stands for no bullying here! The Preps will be given some colouring in pictures to work on and each class will have the chance to win first, second and third prizes. All artwork will be judged on Tuesday March the 14th and winners will be announced on parade the following Friday, March 17th which is National Day Against Bullying and Violence.

A huge thank you to Kirsten who came into school on Monday and showed us how to make folded stars. The town library are looking to make as many stars as possible to make a united statement against violence. If you get a chance see either Kirsten or the wonderful staff at the town library if you would like to help. Willow and Grace are the students to see if you need some extra help to learn how to make the stars.

This week, some helpful students put their hands up and their heads down to complete a Food Handling Course with the desire to help with the Breakfast Club this year. Congratulations to everyone who participated as we had some computer issues which made the already lengthy course, a marathon to finish. We wouldn't of made it without Miss Janine’s wisdom and I really appreciate the teachers patience and understanding with the release of their students to complete the course. I look forward to seeing these helpful students assisting with the Breakfast Club. Thanks so much to the parents who supported them as well.

Have a wonderful fortnight, Love and God bless, Lydia.

Road rules around schools

Drop off and pick up times are always a busy time around school. Please obey all roads rules to ensure all our students are not at risk. The speed limit, crossing supervisors and drop off zones are there to ensure this, so please consider this as you drop/pick up your children each day.

**Speed limit**—40 km’s an hour

**Crossing Supervisors**—8:00am – 8:55am—2:55pm –3:25pm

**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.
What's still to happen in Term 1

- 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.
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

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

Surplus Parade Chairs (Approx 20)
AS IS, Various conditions so will need to be inspected! $2.00 each

MILLY PLAYGROUP
Each Thursday—9am – 10.30am.
Please bring along a gold coin donation, morning tea and a hat for your child/children.

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

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.