COMING EVENTS

• Book Club now available
  DUE Fri 17th March

Student Absence Line: (07) 4754 6660

Office Hours 8:00AM-3:30 Monday-Friday

Principal’s Message:

Whole School Review

From our Whole School Review that was conducted in February, Millchester has been identified as a Priority Support School. This means that Regional staff and the School Improvement Unit (from Brisbane) will be here to offer support in our Explicit Improvement Agenda and help Millchester become an even greater school! I have already been working closely with our school’s Assistant Regional Director (Lyal Giles) to develop an Action Plan for the next 12 months in 2 Key Improvement Strategies outlined in the Executive Summary (on the school website). The 2 Key Improvement Strategies are:

• Narrow and sharpen the school’s Explicit Improvement Agenda (EIA) including targets for improvement and timelines for actions. Communicate the EIA to all stakeholders.
• Develop and communicate the roles and responsibilities of the principal, key personnel and all staff members in leading and actioning the EIA.

This is a great opportunity to use the wisdom from our Department to drive our EIA in 2017.

Explicit Improvement Agenda

Our EIA for 2017 is still in the area of English. I was asked “Why are we still focussing on English when we have been doing this for a number of years?” My response was and is, we have been on a journey in implementing Quality Teaching and Learning through English which includes, clarity, evidence driven instruction, monitoring learning and the gradual release of responsibility.

Our EIA is focussing on the Gradual Release of Responsibility and Teaching with a Literacy Focus. Teachers ask the question through this process “Who is doing all the thinking in the classroom.” Teachers begin by doing the thinking and showing students how to do something then throughout the lesson students take over the thinking. By the end of the lesson students do all the thinking and creating to show their teachers what they have learnt. This year Allan Georgee and I will be in classes working alongside individual teachers to support them to implement Teaching with a Literacy Focus and at times modelling this process to teachers.
Quadrennial School Review

Every four years each State School is required to complete a Quadrennial School Review (QSR). This is an opportunity for the school community to have input into the direction of our school for the next four years. As a part of this process I am required to develop a Strategic Plan which is the formal document to guide the principal and community over the next four years. Our Whole School Review was a part of this process and all State Schools have a review during their QSR year. Recommendations from the Whole School Review report will also be included in the Strategic Plan.

Next week I will send out a survey to all parents requesting information on your thoughts and this will be collated and the common themes will be included within the Strategic Plan. I look forward to getting feedback from the community to assist me in developing a plan for Millchester’s future.

Kind regards, Belinda

Parent and Community Involvement at School

Our school values and welcomes having parents, family members and the community here in the school. We work hard at school to maintain a safe and supportive learning environment for all students and ask all members of our school community to support us in this. Please be advised all Millchester community members are not able to approach students other than their own children to discuss issues. The appropriate channel of communication is through your child/children’s classroom teacher first or reporting an issue to the office. This ensures no further tension is created between students and families. We appreciate your support in providing a safe and supportive environment.

Below are a set of ways that parents, family members and community members can model respectful behaviour to your child/children as suggested by the department:

- Encourage and model positive interaction
- Discuss and demonstrate ways to show respect
- Discuss what it means to be safe and who can help keep us safe
- Help children interpret their emotional responses
- Model and encourage empathy, acceptance and tolerance of difference
- Encourage skills in good communication
- Discuss conflict resolution
- Discuss and practise coping strategies
- Explore and celebrate your own and others’ cultures
- Explore different family structures
- Discuss and model safe and ethical online and social media interactions
- Identify and celebrate when your child has behaved respectfully.
- Encourage young people to support and care for others

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.
News from Year 2/3R

The age old saying of “time flies when you are having fun” certainly does apply to Year2/3R. It only seems like yesterday the children were walking into their new classroom loaded down with books, pencils, library bags and tissues. Here we are now almost finished Term One. Everyone has settled in very well and are working hard. In this unit of work for English the students will be authors and write their own narrative about friendships and the qualities of a good friend. For inspiration we have read “Matty Forever” by Australian author Elizabeth Fensham. Friendship, betrayal, acceptance, belonging and the importance of family are the key themes of her novel. At the moment we are developing some writing techniques-using expanded nouns groups, language to develop character qualities and identities and using speech marks in our writing.

In Maths we have covered a number of areas including partitioning of numbers, reading calendars, telling the time, graphing and the properties of 2D and 3D shapes. We complete daily number facts to consolidate our mental maths strategies. Each week the children are getting faster and more accurate at completing these.

For Science in Year 2 the children have been discovering the properties and purposes of different materials. For their assessment they need to construct a lunchbox that will hold a sandwich and an orange. The lunchbox needs to be made from recyclable materials. We would appreciate any donations of recyclable materials like cardboard, boxes, alfoil, old waterproof materials like a shower curtain and plastic ice cream containers.

If you have any questions or concerns about your child’s learning please feel free to make a time to talk with me. Looking forward to discussing your child’s progress at the Parent/Teacher interviews next week.

3/4 News

Hello everyone. Our class has settled into good routines since the start of Term and are working hard to complete all of their assessment as Easter fast approaches. Our first English assessment was very enjoyable as students study TV adverts to find how they were persuasive. Students really delved deeply into the visual, audio and vocabulary used by advertisers to persuade viewers. All students achieved great success in the unit which saw Mrs Mathews in our room each work co-teaching with Mr Georgee. Our second unit has started already and is around the Roald Dahl classic, The Twits. Students will be writing their own new chapter to add into the book.

Geography and Maths have been bubbling along well with students striving to do their best. Students have specifically been working on basic addition facts this term with some improvement obvious.

Mr Georgee & Mrs Rose

ageor29@eq.edu.au, erose68@eq.edu.au
Footy News

Our Millie Magpie / BTC rugby league team wrapped up their season last Friday with a spirited effort all day. While only winning one game, the boys worked hard in defence and attack with the team scoring 6 tries across the 4 games. The boys are very thankful for the wonderful support and guidance provided by Mrs Butler and will take a lot away from the experience.

Milly Netball

After a season of 4 Friday afternoons and a Netball Gala Day, it is great to report that our girls finished 3rd overall for the 2017 school Netball season.

Finishing all of our preliminary games in 6th place, it was with some trepidation that we faced 3rd placed Central in a Quarter Final. With a convincing win under our belt we then had to face off with All Souls St Gabriels School who had finished the season in 2nd place. ASSG was too strong for us and so the girls then went into a game to decide who would finish 3rd and 4th overall. With another convincing win, this time against BTC girls, we were able to claim 3rd place overall.

A huge congratulations must go to all of the girls who improved week by week and gave each game their best. Special congratulations to Grace M who was the 'Best and Fairest' for Millchester and super congratulations to Grace M for gaining selection into the Charters Towers Netball team who will go to Home Hill for the NQ trials in late April.

While the weather was extremely hot to play netball in, I was very impressed with how the girls supported one another and encouraged each other to keep on going. It was a pleasure to be able to support them.

Regards, Mrs Dietrich

A massive thank you to Mrs Butler & Mrs Dietrich who gave up their own valuable time each Friday. Your knowledge and expertise was greatly received by all players. Thank you also to Mrs Miller & Mr Georgee for everything you do!

Book Club

Orders and money are due by Friday 17th March.
1st Place winners—Emelie, Rori, Hayden, Violet, Milly & Jesse

2nd Place winners—Zoie, Harlee, Erina, Jessiqua, Ashlyn & Nikita

3rd Place winners—Molly, Maddison, Tzarniah, Georgie & Latia

Encouragement awards—Christopher, Nathaniel and the Donut Bully

Thank you Miss Lydia & Miss Trish for judging!
National Day Against Bullying & Violence—Friday 17th March
Parent Teacher Interviews—Wednesday 22nd March
Milly Interhouse Cross Country—Tuesday 28th March
Behaviour Rewards Day—Thursday 30th March
One Sight testing—Friday 31st March
Term 1 ends Friday 31st March
Term 2 begins Tuesday 18th April.
1-2-3 Magic & Emotion Coaching
Parent Course

A three-session program for parents and carers
at Milchester State School
on Monday 8th, 15th and 22nd May at 9-11am.

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.

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.

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.

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

Dakin Marwill Triathlon
(April 2017)

Register now! www.marwilltriathlon.com.au

[Image of triathlon]