Dear Parents, Carers and Community Members,

As we near the end of Term 3, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our wonderful parent helpers who have assisted in some capacity throughout the term, whether it be in our school tuckshop, assisting in our classrooms or volunteering time at fundraisers. We are very lucky to have such an enthusiastic community of parents willing to work hard towards building our school.

I am excited to be introducing some new extension programs next term aimed at extending our high achieving students. At Machans Beach SS we strive to ensure that students who are high achieving, gifted and talented are challenged through a differentiated curriculum, and a variety of extension programs. Some of these new opportunities include:

**Book Club:** High-level fluent readers meet each week to analyse literary features of selected novels.

**Maths Extension groups:** Selected students engage in a variety of activities aimed to develop their higher order thinking skills. Students will also participate in the Maths Olympiad Competitions in 2017 and the Australian Mathematics Competition.

**Quest Challenge:** A 2-day team challenge for gifted and talented students run by BRAINways and the University of Queensland. The challenge activities will be offered in the areas of humanities, science and maths.

**Eco Challenge:** An excursion held in conjunction with GBRMPA for Reef Guardian Schools. Selected students participate in a variety of environmental activities and return to school to undertake small projects based on this day.

We are very proud of the wide range of opportunities that we are able to provide for our students, despite the small size of our school.

Have a safe and enjoyable break and I look forward to seeing you all on our first day back – Tuesday 4th October.

Until our next newsletter…. Jessica Wertz, Principal

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**Wednesday 14th September, 2016**

- **School Office hours:**
  - Mon – Thurs 8:30am to 3:00pm

- **School Watch:** 13 17 88

- **P&C Association Meeting** is held once a month at 6:30pm
  - President: Andy Grainger
  - Next Meeting: Thursday 13th October

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

- **September Thursday 15th**
  - Future Leaders Eco Challenge

- **September Friday 16th**
  - Last day of Term 3

- **October Monday 3rd**
  - Queen’s Birthday Holiday

- **October Tuesday 4th**
  - First day of Term 4

- **October Monday 17th**
  - Pupil Free Day

- **October Monday 17th and 18th**
  - Quest Team Challenge

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**POSITION VACANT**

**Tuckshop Convenor**

Earn 30% of the profits per term!

For more information phone 0431636260 or email: pandc@machbeacss.eq.edu.au

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Arriving at one goal is the starting point to another – John Dewey
Yr P/1 News – Miss Vallis

Well the year is flying by with week 10 here already. We’re progressing with our assessments, but still need to finish some of these, so it’s most important that the children are present every day. Some children have received class prizes for the length of their attendance chains. Each day that they are present before 9:00am and stay for the whole day, they receive another link to their chain. Well done to the children who’ve received these.

We welcomed Mrs Lui back in week 9 from her long service and were pleased to hear of all the exciting things she’d done where it’s much colder than Cairns. After second break we’ve been doing a few exercises and some of the children seem to be increasing their flexibility with these. The children thoroughly enjoyed the P&C’s movie and pizza night and will no doubt look forward to the next fundraising activity.

Have a safe and happy holiday!

Yr 2/3/4 – Miss Carvill

Last week students worked hard both individually and as part of small groups to complete their science assessment. Students had to answer the investigation question ‘How can water be heated?’ Students first worked independently to record all of the sources of heat that they have learnt about this term. They then formed small groups to complete an experiment. Students first placed metal coins into the sun and waited 20 minutes. Secondly students transferred the coins from the sun into the cups and used thermometers to record the changes in the water temperature. Students recorded their data in tables and found that the more coins placed in a cup, the faster the water heated. Many students were also able to identify that these results were due to the fact that a conductor (metal) was used. This assessment wrapped up our science unit ‘Heat it up’ and we look forward to starting our final science unit for the year next term.

I hope everyone has a safe and happy holidays. I look forward to seeing everyone coming back refreshed next term to finish the year off with our best work yet!

Students of the Week

Marnikah - for always putting 100% effort into everything she does and for always helping others.

Mia - for improving steadily throughout this term with her sight words, writing and enthusiasm towards work in the classroom.

Skyla - for showing lots of enthusiasm across all curriculum areas and reaping the rewards in her academic outcomes.
For the past week in grade 4, 5, 6 we have been working hard on our English assessment where students have been writing a narrative using PowerPoint based on the poem ‘Fur and Feathers’ by Banjo Paterson. I’m really enjoying reading the students’ stories and seeing all of the information that they have been learning displayed in a wonderful PowerPoint slideshow. At the end of the week, if parents would like to see their child’s completed work, they are more than welcome to take a copy of it home providing the students have their own USB stick.

Science was another focus this week with students summoning their inner scientists to complete the shoebox mirror maze challenge. Students worked together in pairs to transfer light from one side of a shoebox to the other without directly shining it in that direction. Students had to use prior knowledge to construct walls with mirrors inside the box at angles which would allow the light to bounce around and eventually to the other side. Most were successful with this challenge, those who weren’t could understand their faults with careful analysis and will be given a chance to correct their mistakes this Thursday. A great deal of fun was had by all. Thank you very much to Paul who donated most of the shoeboxes.

Due to parent feedback, I have decided to continue with homework for the remainder of the year for those that choose to do so. This homework will be optional, therefore it is up to parents and students to decide whether or not they would like to do extra work at home and it is the students’ responsibility to collect their own homework sheets which will be displayed at the front of the classroom. The homework will not need to be handed in daily like it has been in the past, instead it will be handed in only on Fridays.

Have a great week and I hope everyone has a happy and safe September holidays!

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**QLD Disability Review**

The Department of Education and Training is committed to inclusive education and continuous improvement to maximise education outcomes for students with disability.

As part of this commitment the Minister for Education has approved an independent review into disability policy in Queensland state schools. This review will identify what the Department is doing well and areas for improvement.

Parents and students are invited to have their say on the educational provision for students with disability in Queensland state schools by completing the survey available via the link below.

https://deloitteau1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_aeYth8sEwykgFdH

The opportunity to complete the survey and make a submission will be open until 30 September 2016.

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**canteen national bandanna day**

Together let’s raise vital funds for young people living with cancer

Bandannas can be purchased from the Yr 4/5/6 classroom
Last week gymnastics was the children’s choice of activity in After School Care.

Upwords is popular in Before School Care, along with ‘Piggy in the Middle’.

Mr McGregor finally got his makeover and he can now stand tall in the garden. Mrs McGregor is quite relieved! Thank you Wendy and Ella!