Dear Parents, Carers and Community Members,

It is only early in the term and already we have lots of children coming to school tired – particularly in the lower school. If children are tired they will not be able to focus, listen, participate or contribute to class lessons effectively and their learning will suffer. Parents, please make sure that your children have an early bedtime each night so that they come to school each day fresh and ready to learn.

I cannot emphasise enough the importance of oral language experiences in the early years. Singing nursery rhymes with your children in the first 5 - 8 years of their life is so important in their literacy development. Singing with your children is not only fun but it can be done anytime, anywhere – even in the car whilst driving to and from school!

Our school recently purchased some new laptops and iPads for our students to use. We currently have a full class set of computers in our Resource Centre for teachers to use when teaching technology lessons, however eventually we hope to have a full class set of laptops which can be moved around the school to be used in classrooms as well.

Last week we introduced a Targeted Reading Intervention Program at our school. This program is tailored to the individual needs of the students and aims to address particular reading needs in the lower school. This program runs for an hour each and every morning from 9am to 10am – this is why it is so important that children are at school on time each day as this is when the most important learning is occurring. The aim of this program is to rapidly improve student’s reading ability to bring them up to level with the rest of their peers. If your child is struggling with their reading and you would like to help them by working with them at home, please contact the school and we can send home some fun games and activities for you to do with your child.

Until our next newsletter… Jessica Wertz, Principal

**Wednesday 27th July, 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 28th July

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

July Thursday 28th
Brain Talk for Kids

August Tuesday 9th
LOTE Speaking & Listening Comp.

August Mon 22nd – Fri 26th
Book Week

August Saturday 27th
Cairns Festival Parade

August Wednesday 31st
Prep Open Day

August Friday 2nd
Teacher Aides Appreciation Day

**UNIFORM SHOP**

Open each Wednesday from 8:15 – 8:45am for the purchase of school supplies.

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The best preparation for tomorrow is doing your best today.

H. Jackson Brown Jr.
Year 2/3/4 News – Miss Carvill

At the start of this term we welcomed Miss Jenkins into our classroom. Miss Jenkins is currently studying to become a teacher and has been working with our class to develop her teaching skills. She developed many engaging lessons for our class and the students have very much enjoyed working with her. Last week Miss Jenkins took the class for science as they explored heat and how it can be measured. Students got to take part in many exciting experiments and develop their understanding of heat. Miss Jenkins has now come to the end of her time in our class but we would like to take this opportunity to thank her and wish her luck in the future.

This week I will be sending out our term 3 curriculum letter which will outline what students will be learning this term in each curriculum area. I hope parents will use this as a resource to have conversations with their students about what they have been learning as it helps to consolidate their understanding of new content. As always if you have any questions please arrange a time to see me.

Yr P/1 News – Miss Vallis

I really enjoyed my first week back and beginning our new English unit in week two. The children were amazing at finding human characteristics in the animal characters in our first Julia Donaldson book, The Snail and the Whale. The clever snail had an itchy foot (to travel) – imagine that? She could also think and write and actually saved a whale.

We’ve been learning more number facts (which were previously called tables) in both Prep and Year 1. Preps have so far just been learning addition facts to 5, while year ones have revised addition facts to 10 and subtraction facts to 10 as well. We have also commenced our new Geography unit with beginning to examine and think of how to draw a familiar area.

Well done to the children who have begun their attendance chain with a perfect 9 days present. Remember that attendance is so important, as we cover something new or of high importance in every lesson. These children with great attendance are the ones who are also doing great work at home with their parents as well as being keen to learn and are happy, comfortable at school and their results are reflecting this.

Students of the Week

**Marina** - for always trying her best, great attention in class, always being organised, improved neatness and always using lovely manners.

**Tenequa** - for always having a respectful attitude in the classroom and completing work to the best of her ability.

**Brodie** - for determination within Maths and for always helping others.
Week 2 has flown by so quickly! This week we enjoyed learning about Oodgeroo Noonuccal, an Indigenous poet who has written many works about life in Australia. As our English assessment is coming up, we’ve been working flat out looking at many poetic devices including Onomatopoeia, Alliteration, Repetition and Metaphors just to name a few. We have also explored the positive and negative effects that people have on the land within Geography and enjoyed having discussions about how nature is fighting back.

Homework has been a major item that I have been pushing with all students. Students will receive a homework sheet every Monday with their spelling words and timetables of the week with a set task to be completed Monday through to Thursday night. They have also been given a reading log which they will use to record the amount of reading they’ve completed each night. I stress to students that the homework they do at home will help them with the things we are learning during the week.

Thank you to my entire class who have been striving to complete their homework and are reading every night.

Finally, I have set up a corkboard attendance chart which students use to track how they are going attendance wise. Every day, if they arrive at school before 9am, they are given a pin to place on their line. Once they receive 25 pins, students will receive a lucky dip prize and once they make it to the end of the board, students will receive free a tuckshop lunch, icy pole and lucky dip prize. I’m happy that the students are really taking this on board (no pun intended), understanding the importance about coming to school on time every day and are feeling extremely enthusiastic about the prizes. I hope everybody has a great week 3!

**HOME READING TIPS**

Children who have fun reading will find the process of home-readers more enjoyable and easier. Change where or how they read. Here are a few new and exciting ways to engage your child during home-reader time.

**Get Arty**

Read half the book then draw the ending without looking. Get your child to read the book and have you draw the story line or characters without seeing the illustrations (children will love this and find what you draw compared to what the illustrator has very funny). Read the book then draw a flow chart of what happened. Create a new character and draw their role in the book.

**Act Up**

Look through the book and then find items that you and your child can dress up in. Read with a silly hat on or a wig or a large pair of play glasses. Read with a strange voice. Pretend to be a monster and read with a scary growl. Sing, dance or act out a scene from the book.

**Location, Location**

Find crazy, fun reading locations – read with a torch in the closet or under the bed covers. Read on the trampoline or under it on a picnic rug. Place a large blanket and pillows in the bath tub and read in there. Read under the kitchen table, at a park, beside the pool, to their siblings, pets or toys.
Spinning down the fireman’s pole

Playing fuse ball

Leaf painting and printing

Obstacle course