Dear Parents, Carers and Community Members,

It’s hard to believe that we are almost halfway through Term 2 already! With lots of great events planned over the next 7 weeks, this term is sure to fly by.

Next Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday morning, students in Year 3 and 5 will be participating in the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). These assessments are undertaken nationwide, every year, in the second full week in May. NAPLAN is made up of tests in the four areas (or ‘domains’) of:

• reading
• writing
• language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation)
• numeracy

Our students should be feeling confident and well-prepared for these tests. There is no need to ‘prepare’ for these tests as they are simply assessing what students have already learnt over the past few years of schooling. Our students have however, completed some ‘practice’ tests to ensure that they are comfortable and familiar with the testing format.

NAPLAN provides us with a useful ‘snapshot’ of our students in comparison to students of similar ages across Australia. This data is also very useful for school planning and gauging student and school progress. NAPLAN forms only a small part of our schoolwide assessment and data that is collected each term.

I am so pleased to see a significant improvement in our school attendance rate over the past few weeks – we had 92% attendance last week which is a great effort! If this trend continues over the rest of the year then we are sure to achieve our overall target of 90%. Well done everyone!

Until our next newsletter…. Jessica Wertz, Principal

No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted – Aesop
Prep/Year 1 News – Ms Vallis

We all participated in Anzac Day commemorations last Friday and we learned of different ways of honouring these brave people. This fitted in well with Year 1’s History this term.

In Science, we’ve been thinking of suitable and unsuitable materials to use when making our wind ornaments. Some suitable materials are plastic, wood, driftwood, coral, shells, fishing line, cotton string and CD’s. We decided unsuitable ones are wire, metal, paper and cardboard as they won’t last outside in the weather. The children are going to be busy collecting these materials and need to bring them to school this week.

Congratulations to Lex and Caleb who achieved 100% on their spelling test last week.

Parents, your child will focus better when you engage with them when they are doing their homework. They will become wonderfully independent learners because of this.

Year 2/3 News – Miss Carvill

I am sure that many of you have now had a chance to see the lovely sunset artworks that the students have created. Over the last couple of weeks we have been experimenting with colour during art lessons. We have experimented by mixing colours to create a sunset background. This was challenging at first as we needed to have an understanding of colour mixing. We had many sunsets that turned brown as we learnt through experimentation. Over the coming weeks we will continue to practise these skills as we explore our primary and secondary colours further. Students are also experimenting with brush strokes as they aim to create straight lines across the page.

In art last week we also started some simple knitting. Students have really taken to this and we are seeing how long our knitting can get before we decide what to turn it into. Many students have already set their minds on making scarves for either their loved ones or their teddies. During this knitting activity it was great to see most of the students showing perseverance, patience and problem solving skills. This activity requires students to develop all of these skills as well as their fine motor skills.
I had my first week back last week and was quite impressed with how the students had been going in my absence, thank you to Ms Martin for the work involved.

Athletics is the name of the game in Term 2. Machans Beach will be holding its annual athletics carnival at the end of Term 2 so the students will be learning and reviewing the events they will participate in. I have told my class to bring a change of clothes to wear during their lesson. It is starting to cool down now but it can still be uncomfortable and unhygienic having to wear the same clothes after PE. I know a lot of families don’t have multiple uniforms to spare so if students bring a light shirt for the PE lesson then change back afterwards it will be fine.

Reading is being highlighted as an important area to focus on this term. It is essential that students read every night and I will be checking their reading logs every morning to ensure that they have read. Starting this week students who don’t bring their reading log book in to be checked will be spending 10 minutes of their own time at lunch catching up on reading. If you need a book or have lost it come and see me.

**Students of the Week**

**Danisha** - for improved attendance and classroom attitude.

**Makiya** - for producing a great narrative independently.

**Tramaine** - for improvement in work across his subjects, improvement in focusing and an overall improvement in attitude.

**OSHC NEWS**

P: 0467 289 193  E: mbss.oshc@gmail.com

6:30 – 8:30am
2:50 – 5:50pm

**DISCO**

THIS FRIDAY 6TH MAY!

If your child is not already booked in, book them in for a Friday dance off!

We are seeking expressions of interest for vacation care. Please call or email us if you would be interested in using a vacation care service at Machans Beach!

**Year 4/5/6 News – Mr L’Orange**
Under 8’s Day

9am – 11am Wednesday 25th May, 2016

- Face Painting!
- Races!
- Obstacle Course!
- Craft Activities!
- Lucky Dip prizes!
- Food and drink stall!

All children who are not yet of school age are welcome when accompanied by an adult!