FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Term 1 – Week 6

Our key priority this year will be an unrelenting focus on improving reading, writing and numeracy in all students through a whole school pedagogical approach which includes explicit instruction. This means that all students will improve in reading, writing and numeracy because we will be focussing on the best possible ways to teach.

Principal’s conference

Last week I attended the biennial principal’s conference in Brisbane. The conference focused on the importance of:

- implementing a pedagogical framework to support excellence in teaching and learning practices
- connecting with parents and the community to support successful student learning outcomes

Each week over the next few newsletters I will share some of the key messages from the conference and the exciting direction we are heading.

Dr George Otero, one of the keynote speakers, spoke of the educational power of parents and the importance of schools and communities working together. “Effective schools have always been reflections of effective families and communities not the other way around. When schools, families and communities work together in education everybody does well.”

As a newcomer to this community it has been fabulous to observe how true this statement is. Schools and communities that work together can indeed enhance a child’s life chances, wellbeing and achievement. Please continue to communicate with us the things you feel we are doing right and let us know your concerns and then together we can continue to improve the chances of the students at Marlborough State School.

What’s happening?

P-2 are continuing to work on number in Maths. We have been adding 10s, representing numbers in different ways (beads, number lines & using MABs), working hard on the concept of part part whole (where 2 small parts equal a big whole). P-2 have learnt the Month-arena song and this is helping them to learn the months of the year. In English grade 1 and 2 students have been looking at types of questioning (open or closed) and are preparing questions for a character interview next week. As part of the Early Years Curriculum students have been doing puzzles, obstacle courses, threading, play dough and will be getting into role play/dress up later in the term.

This week 3-7 is continuing their work on problem solving strategies. This week the focus is drawing a picture. In number fact recall we are working on skip counting for example 7 add 7 add 7 is 21. We are also learning new ways to do our mental computation using our doubles to add bigger numbers and compensating. In English we are planning our persuasive newspaper reports. Some of these will be presented on our celebration day. In reading we are focusing on the strategy of prediction and consolidating our making connections strategy during independent reading.

During this term in Science, Prep to Year 7 have been engaged in an interactive unit about the concept of plants and plant life. Students have been encouraged to question and explore the aspects of plant life, including the life cycle of a plant from the beginning as a seed. Through guided investigations and student’s understanding of how to set up a “fair” test, students have been recording their own experiments and evaluating why or why not the experiment was successful. This has
been a challenging but fun way to work as a team and share knowledge about plants and their effect on ecosystems. I encourage you to talk to your child about what’s inside a seed if they are in Prep to Year 2, how flowers reproduce if they are in Year 3-4 and how plants affect food chains in Years 5-7. All the students have been really keen to engage in this unit and seemed to have enjoyed the learning process as well.

**Attendance**

One of the priorities recognised for our school is attendance. Our attendance fell to 89% last year and should be around 94%.

*Did you know your child’s best learning time is the start of the school day?  That's when every minute counts the most!!*

**Every Day Counts** promotes four key messages:

- all children should be enrolled at school and attend on every school day
- schools should monitor, communicate and implement strategies to improve regular school attendance
- truancy can place a student in unsafe situations and impact on their future employability and life choices
- attendance at school is the responsibility of everyone in the community.

**1 or 2 days a week doesn’t seem much but.......**

| If your child misses.... | That equals.... | Which is..... | and over 13 years of schooling that’s... | Which means the best your child might perform is ...
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 day per fortnight</td>
<td>20 Days per year</td>
<td>4 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly 1.5 years</td>
<td>Equal to finishing in grade 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 day per week</td>
<td>40 Days per year</td>
<td>8 weeks per year</td>
<td>Over 2.5 years</td>
<td>Equal to finishing in grade 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 days per week</td>
<td>80 Days per year</td>
<td>16 weeks per year</td>
<td>Over 5 years</td>
<td>Equal to finishing in grade 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 days per week</td>
<td>120 Days per year</td>
<td>24 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly 8 years</td>
<td>Equal to finishing at grade 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


This week’s award winners were Sophie for working hard in class and Hannah for listening and being polite. Congratulations Hannah and Sophie for receiving students of the week. Nice work!!! (photo and text by Hugh)
Staffing
The permanent principal’s position has been advertised on Smart Jobs with applications closing on March 21. At this stage there is no indication of when the appointed principal would commence duties.

Student council report – Jessie Noakes
During the last Student Council we discussed the Easter party that is going to be happening on the last day of term and running from 12-3pm. It is going to be a day that all of the students can come to school dressed Easter themed. There’s going to be a $1 entry fee and loads of fun activities for the kids. There is also going to be face painting, treasure hunts and prizes for the best dressed.

We have three bands at the school who have been practising at a lunch times in preparation for their live appearance at our end of term celebration and Easter party.

Classroom Move Update
The long awaited compactor, for the library transition, has arrived and was installed today. On Saturday, Election Day, it would be great if we could have some big strong helpers move the free standing shelves in the library to their new home. We expect that as of Monday the P-2 class will be located in their new classroom.

Looking for a new home
We have assorted pieces of furniture located in the undercover area looking for a new home. For a small donation to the school they can be yours.

Regards

Meg Saunderson

2013

IMPORTANT DATES!

March
Friday 8th - Tuckshop
Monday 18th - Interhouse Cross Country
Thursday 21st March – School Photos
Wednesday 27th – Interschool Cross Country – St. Lawrence
Thursday 28th – Last Day of Term 1

April
Monday 15th – Term 2 Begins
Pub Raffles: Thank-you to all the helpers who have volunteered their time to help out with the pub raffles. Following is a roster for term 1 & 2:

- 3 May Noakes
- 10 May Truelson
- 8 March Gray
- 17 May Chapman
- 15 March McKenzie
- 24 May Sharps
- 22 March White
- 31 May Gray
- Term 2:
- 19 April Wooley
- 7 June McKenzie
- 26 April Olive
- 14 June White
- 21 June Wooley

If you are unable to help on the night listed please change amongst yourselves or contact our Raffles Co-ordinator, Matthew. Remember to purchase tickets to be in the running to win 4 meat trays, a six pack or a bottle of wine. Tickets are available all week from the hotel.

Show Catering: P&C will be catering for the show this year on 20th April. Thanks to all those who have volunteered their time to help. We will further discuss the catering at our next meeting.

Cadbury Fundraiser: A box of chocolates has been sent home with each family. Please sell as many as you can. This will be a great fundraiser for the P&C. The money and the unsold chocolates will need to be returned to school by 22nd March.

Tuckshop: There will be a tuckshop day on Friday 8th March. Order forms will be sent home soon.

Next Meeting: Wednesday 13 March 2013
3.10pm
at Marlborough State School

Agenda:
- WH&S (workplace health and safety)
- Show Catering
- Phone Directory
- Fundraising Ideas for the Year

Please come along to the next meeting, it’s a great way to share your ideas!!!