FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Term 3 – Week 8

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.

Marlborough Creek and Heritage Centre Excursions
Notes have come home for the trip to Marlborough Creek September 5 (P-7) and the Heritage Centre September 12 (P-2). Please sign and return as soon as possible.

Father’s Day
We are looking forward to this Friday when many fathers will join us for ginger beer and pizza, games, fun and of course a shave. We have our paddle pop sticks and shaving cream ready!

Well done Years 3-7 - 100% completion of Premiers Reading Challenge
Come on P-2 you can do it too! The reading period for the 2013 Premier’s Reading Challenge ends on Friday 6 September.

Staffroom for Improvement
How many apples will you give in 2013?
QT Mutual Bank’s "Staffroom for Improvement" is back again this year giving our school the chance to win a $20,000 staffroom makeover or in our case a new outdoor kitchen/eating area, overlooking the oval, for us all to enjoy.

The competition kicks off today Wednesday August 28 and we are trying to encourage as many staff, parents and friends as possible to vote for our school in the hope of taking out the top honours in 2013. While the ultimate prize of a $20,000 staffroom makeover will undoubtedly be appreciated by our school staff, there is also a chance for individual voters to win one of five $1,000 QTMB bank accounts.

To be crowned the 2013 winners we will need as much support as possible so make sure you register for this year’s competition and read the terms and conditions at www.staffroomforimprovement.com.au. The most important one I read was DO NOT register more than one email address or we would be disqualified.

Milman visit
On September 6 Year 3-7 from Milman will visit for lunch and a T-ball match. They will arrive at 10.30 and head home around 1.30. The game will take place around 11.30. Please feel free to join us.
There will be a tuckshop available to all students and parents on the day thanks to student council and the P and C. The menu is as follows:
Pies $3
Sausage Rolls $2
Sausage in bread $2
Can of drink $2
Popper $1
Parent and community engagement
Research tells us that students achieve more when schools, parents and the local community work together. To this end our school will be using the newly-launched Parent and Community Engagement Framework to better work with you for the benefit of our children. A group of parents have volunteered to help form this framework and contextualise it for our school. We are meeting at 3.15 on Wednesday September 18 in the library. Please feel free to join us.

Garden visit
Mrs Armstrong came in on Friday and showed the students her refractometer. In gardens and farming it is a tool that can be used to test the health of your crops, via a brix rating system. It uses refractive light passing through plant sap or fruit or vegetable juice to take a reading of nutrient levels. A high rating is good news meaning you’re likely to have a good harvest. A low rating means that your crop will not grow to its potential due to some external limiting factor. But once you know what the problem is you can begin to fix it. Mrs Armstrong and Mrs Chapman bought in vegetables from their gardens and we contributed some from our lunch boxes to test. It was very interesting because we saw that the good looking fruit and vegetables don’t always have the highest brix rating.

Science visit
On Friday August 23 we had a visit from our school's Young Science Ambassador for the Wonder of Science program. Angie was working with our Year 6 and 7 students on a WOW science challenge which involves students undertaking a research project that forms part of their study of science for Term 3. They are making a solar powered car that has to complete a circle in less than 10 seconds.

Repeat notices
Voluntary contribution
Semester 2 contributions are now due. These contributions help the school with the purchase of books, stationery and other consumables that students use each day in the classroom. As recommended by our Auditor, next year we will move to a resource scheme and families will either opt in or out at the beginning of the year. If families opt in they will be invoiced for the resource scheme levy and the school will then provide all of the student requirements. Booklists will be provided for families not wishing to enter the scheme and they will then be responsible for all student supplies throughout the year.

Regards
Meg Saunderson
**MOBILE WOMEN’S HEALTH SERVICE**

**When:** 4 September 2013

**Where:** Marlborough Ambulance

**Contact:** 49325440 for appointment

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**MARLBOROUGH PUBLIC HALL COMMITTEE**

**WANTED**

- **PLANTS**
- **BOOKS & MAGAZINES**
- **CAKES**

The Marlborough Public Hall Committee are holding a Stall at the School on 7 September 2013 (Election Day) to raise funds for much needed repairs to the Hall and general running costs. If you can help with any of the above items please send to Gill Collins at the School by Thursday 5th or Friday 6th September.

Many thanks

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**IMPORTANT DATES**

**2013**

**August**
Friday 30 – *Father's Day Afternoon*

**September**
Thursday 5 – *Marlborough Creek Excursion*
Monday 9 – Friday 13 *Brisbane Camp*
Thursday 12 – *Heritage Village Excursion* – P-2
Tuesday 17 - *Science Final Rockhampton* – 6/7’s attending
Thursday 19 - *T-Ball Competition* – Clarke Creek
Friday 20 – Last day of Term 3