**FROM THE PRINCIPAL**

Welcome back! We are looking forward to an exciting year. I hope you have had an enjoyable summer and are ready to send your children back to us well rested and ready for a new school year. We want all children to learn because we know that all of your children are capable. You, the families in the community we serve, enhance the high quality of our school. You have high expectations for the school and your children’s performance, and we applaud and welcome those expectations.

**Key Priorities**

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. We also have an unrelenting focus on attendance as research shows that poor school attendance is associated with:

- lower academic achievement including literacy and numeracy
- early school leaving
- leaving school with fewer qualifications
- reduced opportunities for students to learn and access educational resources, further limiting achievement
- further absenteeism in higher year levels
- increased alcohol, tobacco, and substance use in adolescents

**Responsible Behaviour Plan**

With the start of the school year we will be reviewing with the students our Responsible Behaviour Plan. The school rules are aligned with the values, principles and expected standards outlined in Education Queensland’s Code of School Behaviour and were endorsed by all staff and our school P&C. Our school community identified the following school rules to teach and promote our high standards of responsible behaviour:

**Be Respectful**
- We treat people the way we like to be treated
- We use our best manners

**Be Responsible**
- We stop and think
- We keep our hands and feet to ourselves

- We always try our hardest
- We always play safely

Each week a student is acknowledged on parade for displaying responsible behaviour. More on how we reinforce our responsible behaviour plan in next week’s newsletter.

**Parent and Teacher Interviews**

Parent and Teacher Interviews will take place later this term. A calendar will be sent home for parents to nominate times that are suitable. We would like students to attend interviews with their parents. If you have any concerns prior to these times please don’t hesitate to contact us. If you cannot make it into the school please phone or email us.

Michelle Fallon  mvary1@eq.edu.au
Meg Saunderson  msaun23@eq.edu.au

**Student of the Week Awards**

Awards for bookwork and being a responsible member of our school community will be presented to students on Mondays at parade.

**Classroom news**

**Prep – Year 2 room update**

**English**

In the P-2 room this semester we are focusing on narrative writing in English. Students will be breaking down stories to discover the plot, characters and conflict.

**Maths**

In Maths our focus is number, with elements of shape, data, place value, patterns and money being taught. For the early years curriculum students will be improving fine and gross motor skills through hands on activities and learning about themselves and their family by making a ‘my family’ book. The preps will be busy learning the school rules, the timetable and meeting new friends.

**History**

This term the unit is exploring my local community. Students will pose questions about the experiences of people in the local community and listen to and appreciate...
the role of family stories, recognising how the past is communicated across generations.

Year 3 – Year 7 room update

English
In English this term students will listen to and read a range of short stories by different authors. They will investigate and compare differences in the ways authors use text structure, language features and strategies to create humour. They will then create their own humorous short story to share with the P-2 students.

Maths
Throughout the term we will be covering many aspects of number in mathematics, focusing on number facts and place value. We will be undertaking drills in times tables, number facts and shape information. This week we are looking at odd and even, prime and square numbers, as well as multiples and factors.

History
This term we are investigating the diversity of people in Australia. Students will research how Australians came to live together and be governed over time as well as locating and comparing information from a range of sources to explain the experiences of Australian democracy and citizenship from the perspectives of different groups and individuals.

NAPLAN
During term 1 and 2 students will be reviewing NAPLAN style questions in mathematics, grammar, spelling and reading comprehension as well as practising work with calculators.

Student leadership applications came home this week
Elections of Sports Captains will take place this term. On Tuesday students in Year 5 and 6 were given the Student Leadership Framework and application book. Student application booklets are due back on Monday in week 2. During the next week senior students will be preparing their speeches to present to the other students. The speeches will take place on Friday of week 2.

Student leadership conference
On Thursday February 20 there will be a leadership conference in Rockhampton for our Year 6-7 students. It will begin at 9.00 and conclude at 2.30.

All students in P-7
Science
In science this term students are working on a unit called Bug Attack in which students examine the biology and habits of stored grain and other insect pests that are problematic to farmers, merchants, exporters and consumers involved in the food value chain.

Design Technology
In design technology all students will be making puppets and performing a mini show in class at the end of the term.

PE
In PE this Semester we are learning two sports. Students will partake in swimming lessons for the first 5 weeks and netball will be the focus for the second half of term.

Art
This term students will be busy preparing their pieces for the Marlborough Show.

Library
Don’t forget library borrowing day for the P-7 is on Thursday. Please remind students to bring a library bag.

PREP DAY 1

Brodie
Grace
Katelyn
Shelby

Welcome to Marlborough State School
School Timetable
We are still waiting for a third teacher to be assigned to our school to cover my Administration Day, until that time I will be teaching for the full 5 days. It also means our Science/PE day may change if the teacher is unable to work on a Wednesday. Please find below a copy of this terms draft timetable.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2013 Term 1</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
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<tr>
<td>8.30-9.00</td>
<td>Fitness</td>
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<td>9.00-9.45</td>
<td>Parade</td>
<td>P - 2 Maths</td>
<td>3 - 7 Maths</td>
<td>3 - 7 Swimming</td>
<td>P-2 Science</td>
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<td>9.45-10.30</td>
<td>P - 2 Maths</td>
<td>3 - 7 Maths</td>
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<td>LUNCH</td>
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<td>11.15-11.30</td>
<td>DEAR</td>
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<td>P - 2 EYC Construction</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.30-12.15</td>
<td>P - 2 English</td>
<td>3 - 7 English</td>
<td>P - 2 English</td>
<td>3 - 7 History/Science</td>
<td>5 - 7 Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.15-1.00</td>
<td>P - 2 English</td>
<td>3 - 7 English</td>
<td>3 - 7 English</td>
<td>3 - 4 Borrowing</td>
<td>P - 2 Borrowing</td>
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<td></td>
<td>P - 2 English</td>
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<tr>
<td>AFTERNOON TEA</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.30-2.50</td>
<td>Student Council</td>
<td>P - 7 Design Tech</td>
<td>Year 6 Maths</td>
<td>P - 2 Swimming</td>
<td>3 - 4 Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.50 -3.00</td>
<td>Pack up classroom; gather homework folder, readers, spelling</td>
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<td>5 - 7 Science</td>
<td>P - 7 History</td>
<td>P - 7 Independent study</td>
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<td>End of day parade and messages</td>
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**December:** 23rd Mrs Polkinghorne; 27th Joshua; 29th Shelby

**January:** 7th Brodie; 18th Cooper; 20th Madison; 29th Hugh
2014

February
Tuesday 11 – Ms Saunderson & Mrs Fallon at 7 Steps to Writing – Mrs Bryant teaching
Tuesday 18 – Ms Saunderson & Mrs Polkinghorne – Parkhurst Budget Workshop
Thursday 20 – GRIP Leadership – Year 6 & 7 Rockhampton
Tuesday 25 – School Photos

March
Saturday 1 – Bunnings BBQ
Monday 10 – Cricket Queensland visit
Wednesday 26 – District Cross Country

DATE CLAIMER

Its time to dust off the sewing machine and pull out the fabric stash

We are going to make something to enter in the Marlborough Show.

I would like to share my knowledge to motivate others to get creating.

Starting 9am

Sunday February16 at the Marlborough Hall

First project will be the “Fridge Towel”

Or bring your own ideas and I will help you create.

If you are interested email/phone me for fabric requirements.

btarmstrong@bluemaxx.com.au or 49356635

There will be a small charge to cover hall hire for the day.

Please bring a lunch item to share.

If only a few reply, I am happy to have the day teaching at home.