Achieving and Improving

Key Priorities
Our key priority this year are an unrelenting focus on improving reading, writing and numeracy in all students through a whole school approach which includes explicit instruction. We also have an unrelenting focus on attendance.

NAPLAN results
I was thrilled to receive the NAPLAN results last week, and I am so proud of the students and our staff. We have so much to celebrate with our NAPLAN data this year. As parents and carers, we all take great interest in our children and their paths in life. We know it is really important that they develop key skills such as literacy and numeracy to help them through school, work and life. NAPLAN results provide additional information, which can be used along with school assessment and testing. It allows you to compare your child’s achievement with other children across Australia.

By itself, NAPLAN does not improve the quality of education, but it provides us with information on the effectiveness of the programs we are implementing and any areas requiring improvement. Reports will be sent home as soon as we receive them in the mail. I encourage you to read the report in the context of what you already know about your child’s academic performance and in conjunction with other reports you have received from the school. Further information on how to read the report is found on the NAP website: www.nap.edu.au/results-and-reports/student-reports.html

New P-2 teacher appointed for next term
I would like to take the opportunity to introduce myself formally to you all. My name is Marissa Brady and I have just completed my Bachelor of Learning Management (Teaching), majoring in Early Childhood. It is an exciting time for me and I feel extremely privileged to be involved in your children’s learning journey. I grew up on a cattle farm, 20 minutes outside of Biggenden, and love the small community environment. I moved to Rockhampton 14 years ago, where I met my lovely husband, Troy and settled down. While we don’t have any children, I do have a Great Dane, a German Shepherd and 2 cats, and with the country girl in me, I also have 6 chickens and 2 bearded dragons. I understand the importance of parent – teacher communication and would love for you to come over and have a chat anytime. I hope to have a wonderful time at Marlborough, as I am extremely excited to be a part of such a wonderful community.

Anticipated enrolments
Most primary schools will be feeling the impact of losing two year levels to high school at the end of this year. Yesterday I sent in our anticipated 2015 enrolments to Central Queensland Regional Office. Most of you would be aware that we will drop to a one teacher school next year. Each enrolment will make a different to the number of teaching, teacher aide and administration officer hours the school will be allocated. If you know anyone considering our school next year please ask them to contact the office for more information or an enrolment package.

Premier’s Readers Challenge
Don’t forget to bring back your folders to Mrs Collins!
Father’s Day Stall
We are off to the Marlborough Craft Shop again, this time to purchase a Father’s Day gift. The ladies at the shop have been busy making ‘Dad’ things. Next Friday the 5th of September at 1:30pm we are walking down as a school to purchase a gift. If your child is interested in shopping please send no more than $10.

Classroom news

Science – Mr Holmes
In our classes we are treating physics as a way of explaining the world around us. The year 3-4 class was turned into a laptop class when they started to build a PowerPoint presentation using photos from their discus throwing investigation. This is an opportunity for individual students to show how talented and creative they can be when sharing their science thinking. Pushing and pulling forces with bar magnets was a part of the physics lesson for the P-2 class. They will continue to manipulate these tools to build their knowledge and understanding of magnetic forces. The older students in years 5-7 collected data to compare their discus wind up throws with a standing throw. They analysed their data to see if their predictions were correct. Then the students were encouraged to explain reasons for unpredicted data e.g. poor technique. Any students who enjoy science and want to do extra lessons are welcome to get extension activities. These can be supplied as emails or hardcopies. The aim is to have fun while developing higher order thinking skills.

HPE – Mrs Fallon
We are on the countdown until Tameka and Clare visit us next week. The students have been practising their skills during class time and at lunch time. We are working on strategies and goal scoring this week.

P – 2 Classroom Update

Maths
This week we are focusing on number. All students are learning about place value, modelling numbers and refining mental strategies for addition and subtraction. The prep students are looking at numbers up to 50 and ordering them on a number line. They are also matching number names to numerals and making equal groups of objects.

English
This week we are looking at the Wombat Stew story (in preparation for Wednesday’s exciting excursion). The students will be sequencing the story, labelling pictures, writing their own blurbs and making their own wombat. All students are looking at the ea sound and making a list of words with this sound in it. Prep students are also doing revision of initial sounds and matching it to the correct letter.

EYC
Students are nearly finished their paper skeletons. They have shown a keen interest in learning all about their bones.

Geography
Students are investigating the purpose of different spaces within the school area. They will be identifying the current purpose and creating a pictorial map of new purpose of their choosing.
3 – 7 Classroom Update

English
We are currently writing our traditional tales. Our planning is complete and the stories are coming together nicely. We have continued to build our vocabulary, brainstorming as many words as possible in 2 minutes around a main theme. We then share these words with each other. Our explicit teaching for our writing this week is focused around super sentences. Word of the week this week is: plumage

Super sentences
Seven different ways to change a sentence
1. add in words
2. drop in chunks
3. add on at the beginning
4. add on at the end
5. change words
6. add a simile
7. use an alliteration

Maths
This week we are converting our sport skills (throwing a ball and catching it, hitting a T-ball, shooting baskets etc.) into percentages and fractions. We have finished our fraction fish and are working independently to multiply decimals. Our work on fractions on a number line continues. This week we are focusing on our 4x tables.

Geography
This week we looked at the many landforms and different vegetation found on maps. We identified them and wrote up the definitions. We created a map of our own and made representations of different landforms and vegetation on it. Work on our map of Queensland continues.

Home reading
Woohoo! This week our percentage is 100%. Raffle tickets for everyone. Well done to all students and parents for your efforts with home reading. Please continue to encourage reading by signing the homework folder each night.

Student of the Week Awards
Awards this week went to: Wallace Noakes for Being Responsible and showing maturity in the playground. Brodie McKenzie for Being Respectful and using his manners in class.

Bookwork Awards
Awards this week went to: Wallace Noakes, Tayla Chapman, Charli White and Katelyn Rasmussen for neat and consistent work in their Homework book.

Remember Everyday counts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Per Day</th>
<th>Minutes Per Week</th>
<th>Weeks Per Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15 minutes</td>
<td>15 minutes</td>
<td>15 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 minutes</td>
<td>30 minutes</td>
<td>30 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 minutes</td>
<td>45 minutes</td>
<td>45 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 hour</td>
<td>60 minutes</td>
<td>60 weeks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Get your contact details correct?
Please advise the office as a matter of urgency if any of your details have changed, in phone numbers, address, emergency contacts.
Preparing for Prep
The Queensland Government has launched a new website for the general community and parents. This website has some significant information there for prep parents:
Prep is the first year of school and provides the foundation for your child's education. It is a full-time program held in primary schools. Children attend Monday-Friday, generally from 9am-3pm. Children must be 5 by 30 June in the year they enrol. If your child was born between 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010, make sure you contact us so that we can keep you up to date on what we're doing at Marlborough State School to Prepare For Prep!

Kindy counts! Facebook competition
Parents with kindy-aged children are invited to tell how kindy has benefitted their child. By doing so you will have a chance to win a Samsung Kids Tablets and $1000 in educational materials for your child’s kindy. Simply submit a video, or photo and up to 100-words that shows the benefits of kindy. To enter, your child must be participating in kindy this year, or have participated last year. Go to: www.qld.gov.au/kindyfun for competition entry requirements, prizes, deadlines and full terms and conditions.