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.

Responsible Behaviour Plan
Reinforcing expected school behaviour
Key messages about student behaviour are backed up through reinforcement, which provides students with feedback for engaging in expected school behaviour. This reinforcement system is designed to increase the quantity and quality of positive interactions between students and staff. All staff members give consistent and appropriate acknowledgement and rewards.

This can be but is not limited to:
- Stickers
- Raffle tickets
- Certificates
- Class /school responsibilities
- Public recognition of awards at parade
- Positive communication with parents
- Recognition in the newsletter
- Awards at presentation night

Attendance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If your child misses ..........</th>
<th>That equals ..........</th>
<th>Which is ..........</th>
<th>and over 13 years of schooling that's...</th>
<th>Which means the best your child might perform is ...</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 in grade 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Steam train excursion
What an amazing trip on the train we had. It was so interesting to see the properties from a different perspective. Standing out on the verandas: wind, smoke and coal in our hair was so much fun! The staff on board were so helpful and answered all our questions. Thanks to all the parents and community members who came to wave to us as we passed by. It was thrilling to see you all.
Parent information session
What a great turn up for the parent information session. Thank you for supporting your children in their endeavours at school. Miss Emma’s YouTube name is the Reading Whisperer. You can also check out her website http://www.wiringbrains.com/

Download the free app
Use the SSP Spelling Piano app to reinforce code knowledge, blending skills, and to overcome phonemic awareness issues while having FUN!
Tip: If you can’t hear Miss Emma’s voice when you play the piano keys, go to Settings and then Sound. Check that the ringer and alerts button is switched all the way up. Once this is done it should all work.

Relief Teacher
Next Wednesday we will be welcoming back Mrs Brady who will be filling in for me on my admin days and will be assisting with swimming lessons. We look forward to having her back.

Contact Details Update
A Student details print out for each student has been sent home today. Could you please check all details and make any changes on the print out and return it to school. If there are no changes there is no need to send it back to school.

Classroom news
Science - Mr Holmes
Once again we will be participating in the DAFF (Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries) science competition. This term our students will conduct a series of experiments to investigate the role of light in plant growth. The topic is: No Light-no life. The students will be required to produce a science report on their favourite experiment. This report will be submitted to DAFF as our competition entry. Each student has a science journal and in their journal they will glue a task sheet and assessment criteria sheet to be used for their final assessment. The guiding belief will be science is a way of explaining the world around them and is based on evidence that can be repeated and proved by colleagues.

Geography 3 - 6 - Mr Holmes
The term 3-6 class will be using an inquiry approach to investigate the topic of “floods”. They will collect evidence of their learning by creating a blog in a Department of Education secure website. Each student will be able to add information and new understandings as we work our way through the unit. The blog can contain video clips, written notes, digital photos, voice recordings, cartoons, tables of data, maps, interviews with experts and individual explanations of concepts. Each student will be given a task sheet and assessment marking sheet to be glued in their geography journal. This blog will be used for their assessment. The intention is to access expert information about the Fitzroy River catchment so students can understand the complex nature of the world around them.

Geography P - 2 - Ms Saunderson
This week we will view maps that have different purposes and forms (for example, weather map, mud map, alpha numeric map, atlas maps and street directory) and make observations about different types of maps (for example, what features
they show, when and why they might be used). We will then jointly construct a model of the familiar place using blocks, modelling clay, cardboard or similar to represent the location of features.

P - 6 room

**English**

We are all progressing at our own pace. Remember, to move to the next level students need to be able to identify sounds anywhere in a word (not just the beginning or the end), be able to identify how many sound pics are in the words in their level and then correctly spell the words. Prep and Year 1 are working on letter formations and each day we have been building our writing stamina so that we can write for longer and longer periods of time.

**Maths**

This week the grade 1 and 2 students are working on skip counting and place value 10’s and ones. The prep students are busy counting forwards and backwards and learning our days of the week and months of the year songs. Students in years 3 - 6 are looking at odd and even, place value in the 1000’s and subtraction of numbers in the 100’s. From Monday next week they will start to practise their tables beginning with the 3x tables.

**Civics and Citizenship**

This week we began by discussing the State election and our own student council and sports captain elections. We discussed how these remain fair, what a secret ballot was and the roles people take on. We also revisited the National Anthem.

**Homework**

Homework came home this week in the form of readers (or chapter books for more fluent readers). Coded words will come home Thursday. For students in 3 - 6 NAPLAN style questions will also come home as of next Monday.

**Design Technology**

Designs are well under way and next week we will be starting to make our prototypes using play dough.

**Art**

Students began their draft copies for their Marlborough Show entries.

**Library**

Don’t forget library borrowing day for the P - 6 is on Thursday. Please remind students to bring a library bag.

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**Student Council - Clayton Armstrong**

Congratulations to our student council executive for 2015 who were elected this week.

President – Clayton Armstrong
Secretary – Hannah Chapman
Treasurer – Meg Truelson

We are all looking forward to the events and fundraisers for 2015.
**SNOW CONES**

Snow Cones will be for sale again starting next Wednesday 11th February

$2.00 each