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

**Major behaviours** are those that:

- significantly violate the rights of others
- put others / self at risk of harm
- require the involvement of school Administration

**Major behaviours** result in an immediate referral to Administration because of their seriousness. When major problem behaviour occurs, staff members calmly state the major problem behaviour and remind the student of expected school behaviour. The staff member then fills out the office referral form and escorts the student to Administration. A report of the student’s behaviour is recorded on OneSchool.

Badge presentations
Some very excited faces this morning as our Sports Captain and Student Council representative badges were handed out. Parents of the elected students did an amazing job of congratulating their children and pinning on the badges (no blood was drawn). Thanks also to Mrs P our stand in mum.

**Friday March 20 National Day of Action against Bullying**
At our school we aim to create a safe and supportive school community for everyone. You are an important part of our work to prevent bullying and to respond effectively if it happens. Stopping bullying involves everyone.

**What is bullying?**
Bullying is an ongoing misuse of power in relationships through repeated verbal, physical and/or social behaviour that causes physical and/or psychological harm. It can involve an individual or a group misusing their power over one or more persons. Bullying can happen in person or online, and it can be obvious (overt) or hidden (covert). Online bullying refers to bullying through information and communication technologies, e.g. the internet or mobile devices. Bullying of any form or for any reason can have long-term effects on those involved, including bystanders. Single incidents and
conflicts or fights between equals, whether in person or online, are not defined as bullying. In short, bullying is an ongoing misuse of power involving a pattern of harmful verbal, physical or social behaviour.

**Is every conflict between students bullying?**
Not all aggressive or harmful behaviour between people is bullying. While conflicts and aggressive behaviour need to be addressed, it is important to be clear when these behaviours are not actually bullying.

*The definition of bullying has three critical aspects - a repeated pattern, the misuse of power within relationships, and behaviour which causes harm; all three aspects need to be present in order for behaviour to be called bullying.*

**Why is the definition of bullying important?**
A clear, comprehensive and shared definition is essential to enable schools to identify bullying, and distinguish it from other types of conflicts or violence, so that appropriate strategies and interventions can be used.


**Reminders:**

**School Cross Country**
- **When:** Wednesday March 18
- **Where:** Marlborough State School
- **Time:** 9:00am start
If your child is in 3-6 they are free to wear old shoes and socks and bring a fresh pair to change into after the race as some of the track is through wet areas. Parents are welcome to come and cheer on their children. Please join us for a shared morning tea afterwards.

**District Cross Country**
- **When:** Wednesday March 25
- **Where:** St Lawrence Recreational grounds
- **Time:** 8.30 marshalling for a 9:00am start
Please advise the school ASAP if you need transport for your children.

**Long service leave**
I will be taking a week of long service leave from Monday March 16 to Friday March 20. In my absence Mrs Tania Biddulph our HOC will be the acting Principal. Please make her feel very welcome.

**Classroom news**

**Geography P - 2 - Mrs Brady**
We have been exploring different types of environments in geography. This week we will be looking at how we can care for these by discussing which environments need looking after, who provides this care and why. They will also be investigating what would happen if these places were not taken care of.

**Geography 3 - 6 - Mr Holmes**
The mapping skills unit is continuing with a major part of lessons being supported by the interactive whiteboard. The students are being taught the skills and then completing individual grade level activities in a booklet. All booklet pages will then be glued in their geography journals. The whole class lessons are very useful as they revise past skills for the older students and introduce new ones to the younger ones. This way all students get opportunities to learn from others. Every student has access to an atlas for the finer searches. All lessons are inquiry based so students are asked to explain what they are thinking when they demonstrate a skill to the class eg. map co-ordinates for features in Africa or countries to the north west of Australia using compass directions.

**Swimming – Mrs Brady**
It is vital that our children first learn proper techniques before they focus on endurance and speed. This is because it is a fundamental building block for great swimming. Building a proper stroke technique enables the children to obtain a skill that they can later enhance upon at a competition level.

So far this term the children have been busy building upon their technique of each swimming stroke. They are always
broken down into parts to give the children an opportunity to be successful in some part of the swimming stroke. The lesson is broken up into 3 parts:

- The kick,
- The stroke and
- The breathing.

Bringing these together all at once is proving a challenge to all and we are impressed by their determination to get it right. Constant individual feedback throughout the lesson and suggestions on ways to improve is essential and the children are responding well to the extra bodies in the water this term.

**Science - Mr Holmes**

This week the students commenced a plant experiment to see how bean plants can twist and turn in and around barriers to search out light. The lesson was mainly taken up with designing and building a maze ready for the following week when they will plant the seeds in the dark corner of their maze box. It was pleasing to hear feedback from many students stating how much they enjoyed the activity and this reinforced one of our major aims which is to make learning science an enjoyable experience. I am also on the lookout for science misconceptions so we can build a truthful understanding of the around us. The prep to year 2 class are also doing the same experiment. Drama was used as part of their predictions about the where the light source would be for the bean plants. Designing and manipulating these cardboard box mazes is an important part of the inquiry skills being developed. During informal class discussions and writing in their science journals, all students are encouraged to use science language which is one of the assessment criteria this term.

**P - 6 room**

**English**

Prep, Year 1 and Year 2 have been working on their letter formation again this week. You will see many letters written on the concrete around the school as we practise getting better at writing the letters correctly. The move from being able to code orally to using sound pictures has been going very smoothly. They are also getting much faster at identifying the sounds that each picture makes.

This week Year 3-6 students have participated in the ACER international trial tests for reading, maths and writing. Students are using it as a practise for our NAPLAN tests next term. We continue with our sound cards and students are moving quickly through the Duck levels.

**Maths**

This week the Prep to Year 2 students are using number lines to work out what number is missing or which is the closest 10 to a number. We have continued with recognising patterns in number sequences, such as adding 10 always results in the same final digit. For homework students need to continue to work on their rainbow facts.

Students in Years 3 - 6 are continuing placing four-digit numbers on a number line using an appropriate scale. We have worked on abstract additions in the 1000’s using no MABs. A daunting task at first for some but with practise we are improving. They are also continuing work on recognising that 10 000 equals 10 thousands, 100 hundreds, 1000 tens and 10 000 ones. For homework they should practise their tables. This week it is the 4x tables.

**Birthdays**

No birthdays this week!
SSP Duck Level Awards
Awards this week went to:

**Duck Level 2**
Bonnie Truelson
Jake Armstrong

**Duck Level 3**
Madison Wooley

**Duck Level 4**
Sophie Olive
Meg Truelson
Hannah Chapman

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Student of the Week Award
Award this week went to:
**Justin Sharps** for Being Responsible and showing enthusiastic participation and encouragement to others in cross country training.

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Bookwork Awards
Awards this week went to:

**Polly White** and **Wade Armstrong** for neat and consistent work in their word work book.
Student council news – Clayton Armstrong

Easter is here!
Student Council has decided to have an Easter parade

When will it take place?
Friday April 2 at 9.00am

Games
- choc 6 (throw a 6 to get some chocolate)
- carrot bopping
- bunny hop
- toss the egg

Prizes
(are a secret)

Parents and younger siblings are welcome to attend the Parade however games will take place later in the day

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**IMPORTANT DATES!**

March 18  Inter-house Cross Country 9am (shared morning tea) Show Catering set up and Meeting
25  Interschool Cross Country – St Lawrence
27  Meet, Greet and Farewell BBQ 6pm – School

April 2  Student council – Easter parade - End of Term
17  Show Catering Prep 2-5pm
18  Annual Marlborough Show
20  Term 2 commences
22  P & C Meeting 3.15pm
Thank you to all who attended our recent AGM and took on a P & C roll. Your ideas and inspiration will be greatly received. I would particularly like to congratulate our new executives President Joe Olive and Vice President Mandy White. I would also like thank Sharyn Truelson for once again putting her hand up for the 6th year running and accepting another executive roll as treasurer of our wonderful P & C. Thanks Sharyn.

**PUB RAFFLES:** Thank-you to all the families who have volunteered their time for these. Following is a roster for pub raffles for the remainder of this term & term 2:

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**Term 2 (from Term 1 order)**

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If you are unable to help on the night listed please change amongst yourselves or contact myself. Remember to purchase tickets to be in the running to win 1 of 4 meat trays, a six pack or a bottle of wine. Tickets are available all week from Marlborough Convenience Store. Thanks to Bob and Annie at the Marlborough Hotel for their continued support with this great fundraiser. Thanks also to Matthew Noakes who is still collecting the meat trays for us.

**MEET AND FAREWELL BBQ:** Our postposed Meet and Farewell BBQ will now be held on **27th March @ 6pm**. Please complete the attached RSVP form and return to school by Friday, 20th March for catering purposes. Hope you can make it to meet our new family and farewell the Noakes family who have contributed much to the school.

Please bring a plate to share: Prep – Year 2 Salad Year 3-6 Dessert Staff Either (Meat is supplied)

**NOTICE:** 2015 Marlborough Calendars on sale $5 Available at Marlborough Convenience Store and School
SHOW CATERING:  P & C will cater for the Annual Marlborough Show on Saturday, 18th April. Thanks to all those for volunteering time in the catering shed. This is also a great fundraising event so, if you would still like to help out on the day, it is never too late to let Sharyn know..... Sharyn also has a Jobs Guide for all those who have chosen to get supplies in the lead up to the Show. Again contact if you are uncertain of your roll or if you can help.

SHOW CATERING ROSTER

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10AM ONWARDS  GARY & SHARON POLKINGHORNE COOKING HOT CHIPS (Thanks Gary and Sharon)

PRE-CATERING CLEAN UP AND MEETING:  Wednesday, 18th March (after Inter-house Cross Country (Meeting at 1pm)
It would be appreciated if you could hang around after our shared morning tea at the Inter-house Cross County to help clean catering shed and take non-perishable supplies to the grounds. This will save us from opening school over holidays and cutting into our precious holiday time.
Friday 17th April we will have a quick shed clean and prep food at the grounds from 2-5pm. All help appreciated.

MORNING TEAS:  We are also asking for any donations for morning tea items for the show. If you are able to make a cake/slice/patty cakes/ biscuits and deliver them to the grounds between 2-5pm Friday, 17th April or Saturday morning of the show it would be much appreciated. Please let Sharyn know what you’re supplying for catering purposes and so we don’t double up.

NEXT MEETING:  Wednesday, 22nd April @ 3.15pm
Marlborough State School

Meet and Farewell BBQ
Friday 27th March 2015 @ 6pm
Marlborough State School
RSVP Form

Please detach and return to school by Friday, 20th March

Family Name: _________________________________

___ Yes, we will be attending       ___ No. of Adults    ___ No. of children ___

___ No, we are unable to attend
You are invited to attend Livingstone Shire Council’s post Cyclone Marcia Community Meetings for updates and important information.

The meetings will update you on the present and future recovery efforts across our Shire and in your local area.

It is also a great opportunity for you to raise questions or request assistance.

Councillors will be on hand to discuss your matters along with the following:

- Department of Communities representatives
- Insurance Council of Australia representatives
- Council Officers

If there is no meeting scheduled in your immediate area, we encourage you to attend the meeting location closest to you.

Sausage Sizzle After Meeting.

If you have any questions regarding the Community Meetings, please contact our Customer Service Centre on 4913 5000 or 1300 790 919.