Principal’s Note

This week our School Wide Positive Behaviour for Learning focus lesson is **Speak politely and kindly.** This is related to our school rule, **Be Respectful.**

There are times in everyone’s life where you get stressed or cranky, that’s pretty normal. But does this mean you then have the right to speak to others in a disrespectful manner? I regularly talk our students about being respectful towards others and what that looks like. It is important that we model this behaviour to our children and they understand that this is the acceptable behaviour in society.

On Friday in Week 8 we will be having the Principals Morning Tea. The first 10 percent of students who reach 60 Gotchas will be invited to a very special event. This is a wonderful time to celebrate the great behaviours we have in our school.

Jo Sinclair-Jones
Principal

We received a letter from Kaileb who goes to Armonda Primary School near Shepparton in Victoria. It is a small school with only 28 students. He sent us a Flat Stanley he had made that he wanted to send on holidays to Magnetic Island. Jai and Luke looked after Kaileb’s Flat Stanley called AJ by showing him our pool, fruit trees, oval and library. Our library Flat Stanley also met AJ, who is now on his way back home with some great holiday snaps!
Hello Everyone! Many thanks to all those that attended the first P&C meeting of the school year held on 16th February. The main topic of discussion continues to be the issue of the Groundsperson. Some of you may not be aware that the School’s Groundsperson retired at the end of last year and since then the Department of Education has taken back the funding for this position. Instead they provided funding for the equivalent of 4 hours per week for maintaining the school grounds. This is seriously inadequate and we are worried for our children with snakes and mosquitoes as well as the rare plantlife, birds and koalas that live in the grounds. We have written to the local MP for Townsville, Scott Stewart, the Minister for Education, Hon Kate Jones and the Director General of the Department of Education, Dr Jim Watterston asking them to re-instate the Groundsman position. I will be putting a factsheet on the P&C Noticeboard about how you can help raise awareness about this important issue.

The P&C’s AGM is on Monday 21st March 2016, at 6.15pm in the Staff Room. All positions will be advertised as vacant and will be filled at this meeting. A General Meeting will follow on from this. I look forward to seeing you there!

Helen Mowat MISS P&C President.
“All students can achieve high standards given the right time and support”

Prep News

We have been enjoying a busy week in the classroom and outside with tree planting and the Bravehearts show.

English - we have been modelling reading with Imagine by Alison Lester and building on our beginning writing skills with some great work. See the samples below.

Maths - we are focussing on number 1-5, recognising the numeral/word/picture, data collection and patterns.

Science - we are continuing with the Weather unit. Last week we made pinwheels with our buddies to check the wind conditions.

History - the children have a family tree worksheet they have taken home for parent assistance. Please help your child to complete this sheet and return it by Friday.

A big thank you to the parent helpers who have been supporting our home reader program each morning. All are welcome.

Swimming - Thanks to the many parents who have been helping the children to get changed after swimming each week as this helps us get organised for the rest of the day much more quickly. Our swimming instructors have requested more parent helpers in the water with the children. If you are able to get in the water to assist, this means that each child receives more one-on-one assistance which is vital to help them improve their swimming skills, but it is especially important to help boost their confidence. It is much more reassuring for the children if they know that someone is close at hand to help them and they will be much more comfortable trying new things. There are only four lessons left for this term, so please come along in your swimmers to help the children make the most of their time in the pool each week.

Julia & Melissa

SWPBL Schoolwide Positive Behaviour Learning

This week’s lesson is:

SPEAK POLITELY AND KINDLY

Mr Pullen, helped by Eve and Mrs Crouch, did a great demonstration of what NOT to do! Luckily Eve was able to show us how to speak politely and kindly, asking nicely to borrow a pen instead of just snatching it away.

Last week’s lesson in correct eating procedures was demonstrated by the Teacher Aides, who had fun pretending to be students. There are obviously some latent acting ambitions there!
**Year 1 News**

**English:** We have been examining emotions in stories. All students completed a planning sheet, practiced their talk with a partner then presented this talk to the class. Well done to all students!

**Maths:** In Maths we are completing our investigation titled *All about Birthdays*. We have made a picture graph and bar graph to represent the birthdays in Year 1, examined calendars and tallied the months and the most common day for birthdays this year on tables. We are answering questions based on these graphs and tables.

**History:** Our History unit will examine personal milestones and significant events for the students. They will need your assistance to gather this information which they will then present to the class. Please watch out for a note detailing this this week.

Many thanks to parents who have helped with listening to home readers and with swimming. Your contribution is much appreciated.

Jo Terkelsen
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**Year 2 News**

Due to our busy schedule and assessment last week, homework was not handed out. Homework will be handed out today and will be due next Monday (7th Feb). Students who complete and return their homework on time receive an in-class reward.

This week we are working on our paper plane maths investigation. So far we have all made three different paper planes. Now we are ready to test and measure how well they fly. We’ll be using trundle wheels to measure and will also graph our results. Watch this space for some photos next issue.

Please ensure your child brings their reader every day, even if they are going to be reading the same book for another night. Notes are always sent home in readers, and it is important for us to check your child’s reading log each day. Thank you again to those parents who have been helping change readers in the mornings.

Delia Koelman
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Year 3 & Year 4/5 News

This term has flown by with only 18 school days left until the Easter holidays. We have had a busy couple of weeks and have now started assessments. Most students have worked quite well and are trying their best with their assessment tasks for our first unit.

In English we are writing our persuasive letter to the principal outlining why we would like to have a family celebration day.

In Art we are focussing on colour and how emotions and moods can be related to colours. We have discussed primary, secondary, warm and cool colours.

In Technology students are improving their accuracy and speed in logging on to a computer and navigating their way through different programs. They have also had a few lessons on Reading Eggs which they love! Students have their own logins and can access it from home if you have a computer and internet.

**Homework** – We have noticed students are not getting sufficient practice reading aloud. We are focussing on this in class but would also like students to read at home for 10 minutes aloud and then 10 minutes independently. When they are finished, please discuss with your child what they have read. This will improve their understanding and confidence in reading. We have also added the LEM sheet to the back of their homework booklet. Please ensure your child is having daily practice with their LEM phonograms.

**Science** – We are investigating symbiotic relations and threats to animals in the Great Barrier Reef. As a part of the student’s assessment they will create a reef diorama. If you have any shoe boxes or small suitable boxes that you no longer need, could you please donate them to our class?

**Bravehearts show** – Students enjoyed the Bravehearts show and remembered a lot of the songs from a couple of years ago. We have sent home a booklet for students to complete in their own time and for parents to reinforce what was learnt in the show.

**Swimming Fees** – Please ensure all swimming fees are paid to the office. Less than half our class have paid.

Kerri-Anne McAtee  
Year 3 Teacher  
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Jeremy Pullen  
Year 4/5 Teacher  
jpull41@eq.edu.au

Our photos show how happy our students are on their new picnic mats.
Year 5/6 News

We are continuing our work based on ‘The Forests of Silence’. Children have begun the planning of the major English assessment task for the term, where they will compose chapter one for their own fantasy novel. We have discussed the various elements of fantasy texts, and have had many discussions about how authors show readers information about characters and settings, rather than simple telling them. Children need to stay focused in order to complete drafts in enough detail to allow them plenty of time to then edit and publish their text, by the end of Week 8.

It was disappointing that many children arrived at school yesterday being very tired, and finding it hard to concentrate. When children start their week this way, it is not going to be possible for them to keep up to date and take in all of the information that is presented. Could I ask parents to please ensure that children have sufficient sleep, especially over weekends, to ensure that the children are well rested for school? Late nights happen from time to time, but wherever possible, please minimise these, and especially avoid them being on a Sunday night. Thanks to those parents who do ensure regular and sufficient sleep for their children.

There are many children still who have work to catch up on. In preparation for high school, the workload is rising, and children must work conscientiously to stay up to date and complete tasks on time. Year 5s are well advised to also focus on these workload limits, as it will be a surprisingly short time until they are heading to high school. I am very grateful to those parents who supported me in sending children along to Homework Club last week to finish off work. Unfortunately this will need to happen again next week, unless children bring home the necessary tasks to complete. Children are advised to do this regularly, but sometimes it takes the extra pressure of homework Club to help them make the better decision.

We have previewed the Maths investigation task that forms our assessment. The crosswords that have been sent for homework also provide practice to prepare for this task. Our operations work in class will help children to complete the task. Children are welcome to take their iMaths Student Book home for parents to view Investigation 6, so you can see what children will be asked to do. This work will be started in class, and if children are focused, should also be competed in class, though some children may need to finish sections at home.

Please be sure to contact me if you have any concerns regarding your child’s progress.

Martin Hammelswang
Tropical Fruit Orchard—Planting Day
Junior My Golf Sessions will re-commence in Term 2 on Monday, 18th April. Children are given a healthy afternoon tea at 3.00pm and the sessions start at 3.30pm. Parents are asked to pick up their child/children before 5.00pm. This popular activity is open to students in Year 2 and above. To register your child, please call the golf club on 4778 5188 and advise your child’s name, age and contact details.

Swimming Team Training
Tuesday & Wednesday at 1pm for 20 minutes. Don’t forget!
Carnival is on Tuesday 15th March at the Long Tan pool in town.
Permission notes will be coming today.

C&K Early Childhood Centre
There are still 5 Kindy places available for children aged 3 1/2 to 5 years at C&K Magnetic Island Early Childhood Centre. If you know someone who would like to attend Kindy - please phone Lana on 4758 1168.
There are also Vacancies for babies under 2 as well as over 2's at Limited Hours Care on Thursdays and Fridays.
Please phone Lana on 4758 1168 for more details.