Welcome Back
Welcome back to the new school year. It is hard to believe that we are now writing 2014. We hope that all families managed to grab some quality time with loved ones over the holiday break to relax and enjoy the company of friends and families. I imagine that your household was very similar to mine and everyone enjoyed having no routines, lunchboxes or homework! This year we commence the year with 22 students. A warm welcome is extended to our new Prep students, Jacob, Lathyn and Elly, as well as Riley (year 3) and Gemma in (Year 7) and their families. We trust that your association with McIlwraith will be a very positive and productive one.

Staffing
Day 8 numbers will finalise our staffing, but at present we do not anticipate any changes. Miss Hillyard returns as 0.6 teacher, on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Our teacher aids are Mrs B, Miss Carseldine, Mrs Barnes and Mrs McCotter and our specialist teachers remain the same. This year LOTE with Miss Varley, PE with Mr Martin and Music with Mrs Savage will all be on Tuesdays. Mrs Jackson will also be at McIlwraith on Monday’s and Wednesday’s from 9:00am – 12:000pm.

Hats
We are still awaiting our order of blue bucket hats which we hope will arrive this week. All children require either a broad brimmed or bucket style hat. As we are a Sun Safety School, the No Hat – No Play rule applies. Students are also encouraged to have a large water bottle at school.

School Voluntary Levy
Today all students were issued their stationary supplies and will bring home any books that require covering on Friday. This year the Voluntary Parents Levy has increased to $70.00 per student. This was increased due the rise in the cost of supplies. Attached is the School Voluntary Levy agreement form which we ask all parents to sign and return to the school office by this Friday 31st January. Please note that payment is required by Friday 27th June. Students are encouraged to be responsible for their belongings. Please label all items. The only stationary that is not provided is a pencil case, highlighter pens and a biro. All students will require a highlighter pen and biro.

Homework
Full homework will commence next week. This week students in Year 1 – 7 have spelling and reading.

New School Website
The new school website is now live and can be accessed at http://www.mcilwraith.eq.edu.au For parents who have smart phones, the free QSchools app is available to download, which will alert any new updates, calendar events and messages from our website straight to your phone.

Remember to keep these important dates on your calendar!!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>Fri 31st</td>
<td>AASS Permission Due</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Fri 31st</td>
<td>Voluntary Levy Agreement Form Due</td>
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<td>February</td>
<td>Tues 04th</td>
<td>Jake’s Candy Easter Fundraiser Issued</td>
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<td>Fri 07th</td>
<td>School Leader Speeches &amp; Voting</td>
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<td>Fri 14th</td>
<td>Student Leader Induction</td>
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<td>Tues 18th</td>
<td>GRIP Leadership Conference (Yr6/7)</td>
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Prep/Year 1 Science
Students in these grades are asked to send in two photos for an upcoming activity: a baby photo and a photo of themselves aged approximately 2 or 3 years old. These photos will be scanned and returned.

Tuckshop List
Attached is a tuckshop list and bags. Please note that there will be no tuckshop this week. All tuckshop orders must be placed in the tuckshop box located in the classroom by Wednesday of each week. Please write either 1st lunch or 2nd lunch clearly on the top of the bag. We are always looking for parent volunteers, and would love to see some new faces. With enough helpers parents only have to volunteer one day a term. Please see either myself or tuckshop convenor, Tanya Anderson if you are able to help out.

Active After School Sport
Active After School Sport will continue during 2014. This term we will be offering Aerobics and Softball/ball skills.
Miss Carseldine will be running both programs this term with softball/ball skills running on Friday mornings from 8:00am – 9:00am. This means students will be required to arrive at school at 8:00am sharp. Softball/ball skills will commence next Friday 07th February.
At this stage we are unsure of what afternoon aerobics will be held on. Attached you will find a permission form please sign and have this returned to school by this Friday 31st January. Please also indicate what afternoon best suits you and your family for aerobics. We will be holding aerobics during an afternoon session due to the nature of the physical activity required (we may sweat).

Library
All library borrowing will take place every Friday. This will commence this Friday 31st January. Library books may be kept safely in their desk or taken home to read. Younger students are asked to bring in a library bag as often their books will not fit in their reading folder.
This year if students have not returned their book after two weeks, they will not be permitted to borrow until all books have been returned.

2013 School Concert
Finally, a big thankyou to our P & C members for cooking the BBQ and helping to clean up the hall after out end of year concert. It was much appreciated. Thank you also to our P & C who funded the cost of Ten Pin Bowling and lunch at Sizzlers on break up day. As tired as they were after the concert, the students all had a great time.

Correct Pencil Grip
Please ensure you are encouraging children to use the correct pencil grip. This can be seen in the below illustration. If students are having trouble holding their pencil this way a pencil grip can be used. A correct grip of the pencil will help aid neater handwriting.

Yours in Education
Felicity Wallace

Be Safe
Be Responsible
Be Respectful
If children follow these three rules they will have success in all activities!

Reading Tips for Parents
Praise every effort in reading, especially if your child’s confidence is low.
Don’t compare a child’s performance with that of friends or relatives.

Involve your child in the selection of a story or a book. Ask your child to tell you about something that interests him/her. Use this information when selecting reading material for your child.

We as adults seldom read something that we don’t want to so why force young children to read something they are not interested in!

This is not to say that there is not a time and place for compulsory selection and reading of books. You must balance that yourself.