2016 School Improvement Focus:
Reading Comprehension & Numeracy skills

Tuckshop News:
Please note that tuckshop will be on Thursday this week due to the musical. Please have orders in tomorrow. A reminder that tuckshop orders to be in by Wednesday, late orders will be accepted but only from the available freezer items. Please use separate bags for 1st and 2nd lunch. No bakery items will be accepted as late orders. Please note that all ice-creams will be served in a cup, and not in cones.

Melbourne Cup:
Today we all had the pleasure of holding an expensive bit of history when the Emirates Melbourne Cup arrived at McIlwraith. The Cup has been journeying around the Bundaberg Region with Mr Bruce Dalton, part owner of 2015 winner, Prince of Penzance. Students had the opportunity to hold the famous 1.65kg of 18-carat gold trophy, valued at $120,000 and captured the moment with a photograph. Thank you to Mr Dalton for including us in the tour and to Mr Craven from GGHS, for organising the visit.

Gotcha Awards!
It was very pleasing to see so many cards in the “Gotcha Box”. Congratulations to the following students who were drawn out this week.

Richard Dean: Good use of extended noun groups in Narratives.
Brodie Jenner: Consistent good results in times tables.
Misty Kevill: Beautiful hand writing.
Summer Kevill: Consistent good results in times tables.
Riley Macaulay: Good use of similes in Narrative writing.

Readers of the Month

Hannah Johnson:
For great recall of Sight words.

Raj Rogers:
For great recall of Sight words.

Congratulations to Richard Dean who receives student of the week for creative ideas during writing.
Great Job Richard!
Cross Country Results:
Congratulations to our small contingent of runners who represented our school at the recent District Cross Country Carnival and came away with the winning Aggregate trophy. McIlwraith had a successful morning with Elim Moore placing 2\textsuperscript{nd} in the 11yr boys and Brodie Jenner placing 3\textsuperscript{rd} in the 9yr boys. Congratulations also to Richard Dean and Tallon Booth who put in a great effort. Elim and Brodie will now represent the school and the Gin Gin District at the Bundaberg Zone trials tomorrow at St Luke’s Anglican School. Good luck boys!

ANZAC March:
A special ‘Thank you’ to those parents and carers who made supported their son/daughter in attending the ANZAC Day March representing McIlwraith State School at this important and significant annual event in our community. Our contingent was proud. Students looked very smart dressed in their uniforms, some marching for relatives presently serving or proudly marching with the medals of loved ones. Thank you to Mrs Barns, Bethany and Jayme Jenner for supervising the students in my absence. It was very positive to see McIlwraith State School well represented at this significant community event. Thank you also to Marg Carseldine for the very yummy ANZAC biscuits that were shared at school.

School Banking:
Thank you for patience with the school banking. As the office days have changed this term to the start of the week (Mondays and Tuesdays), could we please ask that banking be handed in on either of these days, ready for banking on Tuesday. If it comes in after these days we will keep it locked away until next banking day.

Hats:
We are still finding hats without names. Please check your child’s hat to ensure that it is labelled clearly with their name.

NAPLAN:
Next week, the National Assessment Program-Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) testing will occur over 3 days - Tuesday 10, Wednesday 11 and Thursday 12 May 2016. Students in years 3 and 5 complete the tests over these 3 days. Students who are absent for one or more tests have an opportunity to ‘catch up’ on Friday 13 May. The data gained from these tests helps us to monitor the progress of our students and at a school level identifies areas of strength or in need of improvement.

Biros:
All students in grade 1 – 6 require a blue or black pen for marking. Please send this in as soon as possible with your child’s name on it.

Free Dress:
Thursday 5 May – Girls can wear their pretty dresses while boys can wear neat casual attire to celebrate Japanese Boy’s Day.
Mothers’ Day Stall:
Our first fundraiser, which is the Mothers’ Day stall will be held on **Saturday 07th May 2016** and is well supported by the Gin Gin community. Our stall is situated in the main street of Gin Gin and we are becoming quite well known for the beautiful flower arrangements, delicious home baking and pretty bunches of chrysanthemums that we sell, grown locally by the Endeavour Foundation in Bundaberg. Each year we rely on our parents to make this stall a success. Volunteers are required to bunch flowers on the day before to sell at the stall. This usually starts about **2:00pm**, is very easy and with many hands is generally completed in approximately an hour. Many hands make light work, so if you are available, we would certainly appreciate your help.

On the day of the stall we ask each family to volunteer an hour to sell the flowers, arrangements and baked items. It is usually all sold out by lunch and is a great fundraiser for our school. Please mark this date on your calendar as we will require volunteers and home baking such as cakes, slices, pikelets, cupcakes, etc.

**Flower Boxes Wanted:** Please keep an eye out for any containers that would be suitable for flower arrangements. Small and medium sized gift boxes are ideal as are pretty coffee mugs, jars, canisters, pots and larger yoghurt containers. If you think you may have containers that would be suitable, we would love to have them to use for our flower arrangements.

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Musical Excursion:
On Friday the whole school will travel by bus into Gin Gin High School to watch the high school students showcase their talents in the annual musical, ‘Bats’. This year’s show is set in the remote village of Humperdink in the Transylvanian Alps. Even though the townspeople can boast Count Dracula’s original castle and his modern lineage, no-one really seems to care. That however is all about to change. As in previous years, the show promises to be entertaining and full of laughs with a great variety of songs. We will be leaving shortly after 10am and returning approximately 2pm. Students are to wear full school uniform and ensure that they have their lunch packed with them.

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Congratulations:
**Brodie Jenner** - On making the Bundaberg School Boys Rugby League Team. We wish you the best of luck at the upcoming carnival.

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School Photos:
This Friday! Please send in correct Money with the order. All orders must be in by Friday morning. Thank you.

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Remember to keep these important dates on your calendar!!

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Yours in Education

Felicity Wallace