Our School Vision: “That everyone is treated with respect and dignity, allowing them to participate in an environment where they feel safe, supported and valued.”

2014 School Priorities: Comprehension Skills, Vocabulary Writing Skills, Spelling; Quality Teaching and Learning

Volume 1, Issue 4 18th February 2014

**Robotics Club**
Please be advised this year Robotics Club will run from 3:00pm – 4:30pm every Tuesday afternoon. Please arrange for prompt collection of children.

**Student Leaders**
Last week I had the pleasure of inducting our school leaders for 2014. It was lovely to see so many parents attend the morning to support the students as they take on the responsibility of their new roles. The staff and I look forward to working with our school leaders throughout the year and have every confidence that they will thrive in their individual roles.

Today the year 6 and 7 students have attended the GRIP Leadership Conference with other school leaders from the Gin Gin District. The focus of today’s conference is to install confidence and skills within the students to take on leadership roles in the future.

**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.

- **Amina Banda**: Brilliant work on Sight Words.
- **Richard Dean**: Quietly completing handwriting.
- **Jordan Moloney**: Being a responsible classroom helper.
- **Jordan Moloney**: Working quietly during Maths.
- **Gemma Vyner**: Coming into the classroom and reading quietly at her desk.

**STUDENT OF THE WEEK**

Congratulations to Jordan Moloney who receives Student of the Week for always demonstrating a mature work ethic.

Well Done Jordan!

**Tuckshop Update**
Due to a power outage on Friday, tuckshop will be on Thursday this week. This will now be the training day for new parents. Please have orders in tomorrow.

- **Special this week Thursday 20th February**
  2 Tacos & choice of drink – $4.50
- **Special next week Friday 28th February**
  4 Chicken Garlic Balls & choice of drink - $4.50
Great Results Guarantee
As reported in last week’s school newsletter, our school will receive up to $5000 in the Great Results Guarantee initiative. This money is to be used to improve learning results of all students. At the recent P & C meeting, we discussed how this money would be best spent in our school and came to the agreement that the funds will be utilised to purchase extra teacher aide time. These funds are very much needed as unfortunately this year we have lost 9 hours of teacher aide time, which equates to almost two days. Like all schools we value our teacher aide time immensely, and certainly do not want to lose any.

Prep Computer Skills
Our prep students participate daily in Reading Eggs, an online reading program with a focus on letters and their sounds. They all have a password which allows them to access this from home. This is a great program that allows the students to move through different levels according to their ability. At the moment some Preps are having difficulty finding the letters on the keyboard to log on with. We encourage the children to do this independently. If you have a computer at home, please encourage your child to log on and play and to also practice finding the letters on the keyboard for their log in and password.

News-Mail iPad Competition
The Bundaberg News-Mail is giving away a set of ten iPads to one lucky school. We want that lucky school to be us and need your help! Please rally your family, friends, neighbours, local businesses and anyone else you know to collect the special tokens that will be published in the News-Mail every day from Saturday 22nd February until Monday 31st March. The school with the most tokens at the end of the five week period will win the set of iPads. All schools stand an equal chance of winning as the News-Mail will pro-rata entries across the number of enrolled students to determine the winner.

Thank You
By now you have probably noticed our very impressive mailbox. A special thank you goes out to Mrs McCotter’s son Jayden, who not only made the mailbox, but donated his time and all the materials for the project. Thank you Jayden! We are very grateful for the kind donation and I’m sure you will all agree with me that McIlwraith now has the strongest and the best looking mail box in the district!
Curriculum

Maths
This week students are consolidating the near doubles + 1 strategy.

Near Doubles:
In Year 2 and 3, students use their knowledge of doubles to work out the answers to the neighbouring subtraction facts. If the first number is near (i.e. one more or one less than) double the number being subtracted, the answer will be one more or less than that number. These subtraction facts are called:
• doubles + 1
e.g. 15 – 7 (15 is one more than double 7, so the answer is one more than 7)
• doubles – 1
e.g. 13 – 7 (13 is one less than double 7, so the answer is one less than 7).

Prep: Number 4, simple picture graphs, which number has the greatest value.

Yr1/2: Partitioning numbers different ways: (eg: 45 = 40+5, 30+15, 20+25), addition and subtraction with 2 and 3 digit numbers, representing fractions and analysing graphs.

Yr3/4: Partitioning 3 and 4 digit numbers, analysing graphs and representing/adding fractions.

Yr5/6/7: positive and negative numbers, subtracting fractions, decimals/percentages, working with graphs/data tables.

Phonics
Preps are learning to recognise the letter ‘e’ and the sound ‘ee’ as in egg’. Through their spelling words all other grades are consolidating the following letter combinations that also make the short ‘e’ sound.
• ‘e’ as in egg,
• ‘ea’ as in head,
• ‘ai’ as in said,
• ‘a’ as in many.

Active After School Sport - Softball
Should the weather be raining tomorrow we will still have active after school sport, commencing at 8:00am SHARP. Instead of participating in softball skills on the oval we will participate in an extra session of aerobics activities in the library. Please ensure all students arrive at school on time. Prizes awarded at the conclusion of Term one.

Interschool Summer Sport
Next Friday, 28th February we will commence the interschool summer sport competition. Year 4-7 Students will travel to Maroondan State School to combine with Maroondan State School to play Fritz (Gin Gin SS). We will be departing school at 12:30pm and returning at approximately 2:30pm. Miss Carseldine will be accompanying the students each week. Please ensure that your child has a water bottle and hat to take and returns the attached permission form by next Tuesday 25th February.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Vs</th>
<th>Venue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28th Feb</td>
<td>Fritz</td>
<td>Maroondan SS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07th Mar</td>
<td>Mt Perry</td>
<td>Mt Perry SS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14th Mar</td>
<td>Bullyard</td>
<td>Bullyard SS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21st Mar</td>
<td>Fritz</td>
<td>Gin Gin SS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28th Mar</td>
<td>Mt Perry</td>
<td>Maroondan SS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

School Website
Don’t forget about the school website. It can be accessed at [http://www.mcilwraiss.eq.edu.au](http://www.mcilwraiss.eq.edu.au)

Parents who have smart phones, can download the free QSchools app, which will alert any new updates, calendar events and messages from our website straight to your phone.

Student Council Update
Jakes Candy Easter Drive: Please ensure you ask all family members, friend and neighbours. The more funds we raise as a school the more our students benefit.

Orders are due back on Tuesday 18th March and chocolates will be returned to school and sent home on Thursday 27th March.

P&C Update
P&C Meeting: It was wonderful to see so many parents at our P&C Meeting last week. The first fundraiser that the P & C will be holding is the Mothers’ Day Flower and cake Stall on Saturday 10th May. Please mark this on your calendar. On this day we sell flowers and home- made cooking, such as cakes, slices, biscuits, jams, etc. For the flower arrangements the P&C is looking for donations of small/medium sized gift boxes, tins or coloured noodle boxes that you may have received at Christmas time. Please keep an eye out for these and let your friends and family know that we are on the hunt for these.

P&C AGM: The annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 18th March in the library. This will be a quick meeting to elect office bearers for 2014. A normal meeting will follow to discuss expenditure of P&C funds. Please bring your ideas to the meeting or pass them on to one of the executives.
Positive Discipline Workshops
UnitingCare Community are offering the chance for parents to attend a number of upcoming workshops aimed at positive discipline for children.

**Positive Discipline**
**Parenting 0-13yrs**
Positive Discipline uses warmth and firmness to teach children long term skills in self-discipline. The program will help you to build a mutual respectful relationship with your child.

- **When:** Monday March 10, 2014 (4 week duration)
- **Time:** 6.30pm to 8.30pm
- **Cost:** Gold coin donation

**Create Dream and Connect**
Workshop for women
This workshop is designed for women to encourage you to imagine a vision for your future, set some goals and create an action plan to guide you.

- **When:** Tuesday March 25, 2014 (1 day workshop)
- **Time:** 9.30am to 4.00pm
- **Cost:** Free

**Cool, Calm and Collected**
Stress
Cool, Calm and collected is a 2 hour workshop that explores the causes of stress and offers some practical tips and exercises for managing stress.

- **When:** Wednesday March 26, 2014 (2 hour session)
- **Time:** 9.30am to 11.30am
- **Cost:** Gold Coin donation

To register for any of the above workshops please contact UnitingCare Community on (07) 4153 8400, bookings are essential.

Grace Lukan Fundraiser
Come along to the Gin Gin Pool on Sunday 23rd February for a fun filled day. Free jumping castle and sausage sizzle on sale from 10:00am. All proceeds will go to the Grace Lukan Foundation to help cover the cost of ongoing treatment.