2016 School Improvement Focus: Reading Comprehension & Numeracy skills

Student Leader Induction Ceremony
On Friday we had the pleasure of inducting our School Leaders and Student Council representatives for 2016. It was lovely to see so many parents, family members and friends supporting our students in their new roles. We had a very pleasant morning with the students, parents and Division 3 Councillor, Mr Honor who presented the students with their badges. Thank you everyone who helped make the day special for our students.

Voluntary School Levy
Parents are asked to sign the agreement form and return to school ASAP. These forms are now overdue and must be returned. Payment is $75.00 per child which is not due until the end of Term 2, Friday 24th June 2016. Thank you to the families who have already sent in their agreements and who have already made payment.

Remember to keep these important dates on your calendar!!

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>February</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri 26th</td>
<td>No Tuckshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 29th</td>
<td>Leadership Camp (Yr 6)</td>
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<th>March</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 01st</td>
<td>GRIP Leadership Conference (Yr 6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 03rd</td>
<td>Japanese Girls Festival (girls wear dress)</td>
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<td>Tues 22nd</td>
<td>Easter Raffle Tickets Due Back</td>
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STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to Misty Kevill for always trying her best during class, walking herself into school and showing an overall interest in school life and Tallon Booth for neat presentation of book work.

Well Done Misty and Tallon!

WEEKLY HOMEWORK AWARD

Congratulations to Riley Macaulay who receives the homework award this week for his very impressive sentences writing.

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.

Hunta Adams: Great work with Short Division
Olivia Anderson: Helping others.
Tallon Booth: Beautiful presentation in homework book.
Richard Dean: Great work with Long Division.
Elly Pearson: Always completes homework.
Be Safe
Be Responsible
Be Respectful

If children follow these three rules they will have success in all activities!

School Internal Audit Review
Thank you to P & C Reps, Parents, staff and students for your participation in our recent school internal review. The findings of this review will be used to plan and write the 4 year strategic plan for McIlwraith. At present I do not have the results as they will take approximately 4 weeks to be finalised. However, the auditors did leave me with a brief list of affirmations and celebrations that I would like to share with you.

- There is a strong commitment from all stakeholders within the school.
- Strong alignment exists between the school and the North Coast regional priorities
- Reading is a clear and deliberate focus
- The principal sets high expectations and standards
- Data is used very effectively and is derived from a range of tools
- Students are aware of their learning goals and parents are kept well informed of their children’s progress
- The school has actively sought Yr7 & Yr9 NAPLAN data to track the progress of former students
- Everything about the school is focussed on learning
- A very high level of trust is evident within the school
- Students exhibit a very high standard of behaviour
- A great informal network has been established between local schools
- The school sources resources through engaging with many local community organisations
- The school is very well resourced and resources are targeted towards student learning
- It was very clear that there is a strong teaching team at McIlwraith SS
- Staff feel looked after and valued
- Outstanding work has been undertaken around Robotics!!
- Students are challenged, explicit learning goals are evident
- Reports are excellent and opportunities exist for parent interviews

State School Consent Form
Attached to the newsletter is a State School Consent Form for each child currently enrolled at McIlwraith State School. The forms are a new requirement of the Education Department and give our school permission to use record or disclose copyright material, images, recordings, student’s names and personal information. Please tick the appropriate box/es in section 1, complete section 4 and return to the school office by next Thursday 03rd March 2016.

Leadership Camp
Next Monday 29th February 2016 our Year 6 students are invited to attend the Gin Gin Cluster Leadership Camp, facilitated by Miss Leanne Lawrence, Chaplin of Gin Gin and Mt Perry Primary Schools. This camp will be held at Wyper Scout Park in Bundaberg and conclude with all students attending the Grip Leadership Day at the Brothers Club. Approximately 50 students, newly elected into leadership roles, will attend the camp which has a focus on team building, conflict resolution and leadership. The camp looks set to be a wonderful experience where students will be able to apply their leadership skills and forge new friendships with students from our cluster schools.

A Parent Guide to Reading at Home
Want to help your child with reading at home, but don’t exactly know what to do? Please use the following tips & tricks to help when reading with your child.

- Help them think about the story
- Point out the title
- Point out the author
- Point out the illustrator
- Read the dedication, if any
- Look at the cover illustrations and predict what will happen in the story
- Look at the story pictures before you read and predict what will happen in the story
- Use expression
- Let your child take the lead sometimes but let them comment or ask questions as you read

Activities to Extend Your Child’s Reading
- Talk about the characters in the story. Describe them, using character traits such as shy, kind, foolish, or patient.
Police Talk
Yesterday we had the pleasure of meeting Constable Mick Wray from the Gin Gin Police Station, who visited us to talk to the students about bike safety and the laws they need to know. Constable Mick spoke about the importance of wearing helmets with straps done up, protective gear and other protective measures, such as hand signals, flags, high vis clothing, etc., that students can take to keep themselves safe as they ride either on the roads, pathways or on private land. Students were all presented with some follow up activities that they will complete in class and had the opportunity to ask Constable Mick questions about the police force and what he does in his job. We look forward to Constable Mick’s next visit.

Maths Fun Day
We are super excited to be attending a Math Fun Day at Wallaville School on Friday 11th March. All students from Prep – Yr 6 will attend to participate in a variety of hands on activities. The day consists of fun rotational activities where students have to apply their skills to solve problems. Students will be consolidating concepts, learning new skills and having fun at the same time.
Wallaville P&C is running a canteen on the day and we have attached an order form. Please note that all hot food items, sandwiches and wraps need to be pre ordered. Students are more than welcome to bring their own lunch, just make sure that it has icy bricks in it to keep it cool. If you would like to place an order for your child, please fill out the tuckshop bag and return to school with money. If requiring change, this will be returned to you on the day.

Emergency Response Plan
Last week we practised our lock downs and fire drill procedures so all students are aware of what to do should such an emergency situation arise. This did bring up discussion about many ‘what if’ scenarios, which may have made some students, feel a little bit anxious. As you can imagine, some scenarios that students were thinking of were quite extreme. Unfortunately, bomb scares have been very prominent of late, and although it is highly unlikely our school will receive such a threat, we need all students and staff to be aware of safety procedures. In the unlikely event of a lock down, please know that 000 will be called immediately and the staff will do absolutely everything we can to keep your child safe. The students are commended for carrying out the procedures quickly and sensibly. We will be having another practice next week when our specialist teachers are present.

Attendance
Every Day at School Counts: Our average attendance rate in 2015 was outstanding with a 95% attendance rate. Our target in 2016 is to achieve this level of attendance and not drop below 95%. Attendance every day is essential to success because each day’s learning builds on what has been learnt before.

One day off school each fortnight = 1 year off school over 12 years of schooling.

What can parents do?
- Promote the importance of school
- Get to know your children’s teachers
- Attend school events
- Read the school newsletter
- Be organised at home
- Supervise homework
- Ask your child about their day
- Volunteer to assist at school

It’s OK to be away due to illness. It’s NOT OK to be away for extra holidays, shopping, birthdays, sleeping in, finishing an assignment, or just because the child does not feel like going to school. We understand when children are genuinely sick and do recommend taking a day off to assist the child in recovering quickly and preventing the spread of germs. Together we can achieve our attendance target. If you are having difficulty getting your child to school please contact us as taking a day off here and there may not seem like such a big deal, but it could possibly lead to difficult habits and challenges in the future.

Every day COUNTS! 
School success starts with attendance
Respectful Relationships:
This week the Minister will officially launched the Respectful relationships education program as one part of a government commitment to ending domestic and family violence. Everyone deserves to feel safe at home, at work and at school. As parents and educators we all have a role to play in eliminating domestic and family violence and making our schools and communities safer for everyone. State Schools will be introducing the Respectful relationships education program, where students will be given opportunities for social and emotional learning in self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationships, ethics, values, social norms, stereotypes, human rights, risk and responsible decision making. These programs will be implemented through our school values and through the Health curriculum. Together we can teach students the importance of respectful relationships and that domestic and family violence is never acceptable. Not now, not ever.

School Canteens
Changes to School Canteens are imminent with the release of the revised Smart Choices Healthy Food and Drink Supply Strategy for Queensland Schools. From Term 2 2016, the following foods will be classified RED and limited to supply on no more than two occasions per term:
- Drinks – all drinks other than water, milk, and at least 99% fruit juices
- Chips – all chips and similar snacks
- Sweet baked products – all sweet baked products with sweet fillings, icings, cream and added confectionery
Adjustments will be made to our canteen menu to reflect these new requirements which are designed to assist students to make healthy dietary choices. With the emphasis on fresh food, the Canteen needs more volunteers to assist in preparing and serving food for our hungry hoarders. Any time you can spare is greatly appreciated. The changes will be discussed in greater detail tonight at the P&C meeting.

Phonic Focus
The sounds that be have been consolidating this week are ‘d’ as in duck and ‘dd’ as in paddle.

Prep Letter Focus
This week our Prep students will be learning the letters ‘kK’ as in king and ‘pP’ as in popcorn. Helping students recognise these letters at home will provide support for their education.

Maths Concepts
Over the past few weeks we have been learning:
**Prep:** shapes, patterns, numbers 0-5, recognising numbers in different ways and forms, days of week, counting forwards and backwards, measurement concepts of thick, thin, wide, narrow, long, etc.
**Yr 1, 2:** part, part wholes, place value up to hundreds, representing numbers with MABs, subtraction with regrouping, counting backwards/subtracting 1,2 or 3 mentally, measurement with mm, cm, m, finding the missing number part in an algorithm(16 - ? = 12)
**Yr 3, 4:** part, part wholes, place value to ten thousands, expanded number facts, halving big numbers, subtraction and addition with trading and regrouping, measurement, representing fractions in equivalent decimal form, making an equivalent fraction, placing big numbers on a number line.
**Yr 5, 6:** short and long division, multiples and factors, 2 digit x 2 digit multiplication, fractions: equivalent, decimals, improper, proper, adding/subtracting fractions with different denominators, chance, graphs and data.

Times Tables
For some children maths can be challenging. If your child knows their times tables, maths becomes incredibly easier. Presently we have our ‘Blasting Through Our Tables Challenge’ for all students in grade 1-6. Students are required to learn their tables and say these out loud as quickly and accurately as possible. Students are timed as an incentive to keep practicing their tables out loud so that they can beat their previous time. Students who are quick with their recall were quite surprised at how difficult it can be to say the tables out loud. Please encourage your child to keep working on these at home. We are hoping to have our rockets which record our achievements filled or nearly full by the end of this term. Keep up the good work kids!
**Talent Quest**
Do you have a fantastic talent that you would like to showcase? Would you like to be in the running for some amazing prize money? If the answer is yes, then you need to be at the Gin Gin Theatrical Society Inc. Talent Quest Auditions being held on **Saturday 19th March at 2pm, Tuesday 22nd and Thursday 24th March at 6.00pm** at our hall (old SES building) on the corner of Dear and May Streets. Entry via showground side gate. Entry forms available at reception at your school, the Bundaberg Regional Council office (Gin Gin) or on our Facebook website page. The Talent Quest will be held on Saturday 2nd April at the Gin Gin RSL Hall 6pm and there will be some amazing talent, so don’t hold back … sign up now to audition your talent. We can’t wait to see you on stage! For more information call Wendi on 0404 360 174.

**Footy Trip**
Brett Powell has an upcoming bus charter to The Broncos vs Cowboys Good Friday game **March 25th 2016** Heading down for the game and straight back after the game. Approximate times for leave would be **12:00pm** and return after game arriving between **1:00am-2:00am** approximately. We will be taking public transport to the game and return from either Chermside (bus) or Shorncliffe (train). The cost per person is $95. Any queries and for bookings please phone Brett on 0401 069 862.

**Scholastic Book Club**
Attached is the latest issue of Scholastic Book Club. If you wish to make an order, please send the order form and money into the school office. Orders and money are due in two weeks on **Thursday 10th March 2016**.

**Student Council Update**
**Icy Poles**: Student Council is selling Zooper Dooper Icy Poles at lunch from Monday – Thursday for $0.50c each.

**Easter Raffle**: We are currently seeking donations to make an Easter hamper for first prize. Please do not send in perishable items. Items such as Easter books, plush bunnies, mugs, stickers, decorations, eggs cups, chocolate moulds etc. Keep seeing those tickets! All tickets sold or unsold must be returned by **Tuesday 22nd March 2016**. Raffle drawn on **Wednesday 23rd March 2016**.

**Easter Bonnet Parade**: The Easter Bonnet Parade is on again this year. Students are asked to make a gold coin donation if they participate in this event. Prizes will be awarded. This event will take place on the **last day of Term 1, Thursday 24th March 2016**. We will provide different ideas on each week’s newsletter. With plenty of notice we anticipate most students will take part in this event.

**P&C Update**
**Meeting**: **TONIGHT**! A warm invitation is extended to all parents to join our P&C. Our first meeting is **tonight commencing at 6:00pm** in the library.

We would love to see lots of new faces. It’s a great way to become involved in our school and support your child’s education. Everyone welcome! Hope to see you there.

**Tuckshop Volunteers**: We are currently seeking volunteers to help run our tuckshop for the remainder of Term 1 and Term 2. If you are available to help please write your name beside the appropriate date on the attached form and return to school ASAP. Any help would be greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance.