What an exciting week we had last week, first with the earthquake and then followed up with the threat of a cyclone. Thankfully, our region did not experience the devastation that some communities are currently dealing with. Our thoughts and prayers go out to these people for a safe and speedy recovery.

**Absentee Mobile**
0455 052 940

**Student Confidential Cards**
Student Confidential Cards were issued last week. Please correct any changes necessary and have these returned to the office by **this Friday 27th February**. Please return the cards signed by a parent even if there are no changes to be made.
Please ensure all Medicare details are included along with Private Health Insurance if your family partakes in this option.

**AFL Permission Forms**
AFL Queensland has requested that their own permission forms are completed for the oncoming skill sessions. Please find attached the required forms that are to be returned tomorrow. My apologies to everyone, for the double up and for the short notice. Please note that the information I gave last week about the merchandise pack was incorrect. A supporters pack, including ball, pencil case, magazine, ruler and official AFL game cards and is available to purchase for $25. There is still no cost to participate in the skill sessions, but the merchandise packs will cost $25. Students who attend every week we receive an incentive prize from the school for their commitment. My apologies for the wrong information last week.

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**STUDENT OF THE WEEK**

Congratulations to **Hunta Adams** who receives Student of the Week for showing interest and enthusiasm during mapping exercises in Geography!

Well Done Hunta!

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**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.

**Isabella Hawkey**: Excellent work in Maths
**Emily Jenner**: Ready for the school day before class commences
**Nazareth Mitchell**: Neat writing in History
**Regan Moloney**: Neat writing – Amazing letter D’s
**Elly Pearson**: Neat writing & excellent work in Maths

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**Tuckshop Update**

**This week Friday 27th February**
Mrs Sue Roffey (all day) & Miss Alena Kuskey (12:00pm-2:00pm)

**Next week Friday 06th March**
Mrs Tanya Anderson & Mrs Kirsty Adams
Tasty Taco Treat Special!
State Principal Conference
I will be away on Thursday and Friday at the State Principal Conference in Brisbane. In my absence Miss Hillyard will be in charge and Mr Albion be on class. Please direct any questions or concerns to Miss Hillyard.

Japanese Girls Festival
Next Tuesday, 03rd March we will be celebrating and learning about this Japanese festival and its customs. All girls are invited to come in a dress as the custom in Japan is for girls to wear their very best dress to present their self to the community. Sorry boys you must still wear your school uniform! Students will have the opportunity to complete a traditional Japanese art activity.

Japanese Cultural Day
The Consulate General of Japan in Brisbane is organising a ‘Japanese Cultural Tour’ for students of Japanese in regional Queensland schools on Thursday 19th March. This half day experience will involve a range of activities; a Taiko Drumming performance performed by Toko ton (Taiko is best described as a combination of music delivered through martial arts), and koto (The koto is a traditional Japanese stringed musical instrument). It promises to be an exciting day for all those involved. All students who study Japanese in Years 5 and 6 are invited to attend the Japanese Cultural Performance. If you would like your child to attend, please fill out the form below and return to Miss Varley by Monday 09th March. We look forward to sharing this positive and rewarding experience with your child.

Homework/Reading
Students are expected to read every night. We have noticed that there are some students who are not reading their home reader and not getting it signed.

Phonic Focus
The sound that we have been consolidating this week is ‘dD’ as in dog and ‘dd’ as is ladder. Year 1 students are also consolidating all short vowel sounds.
**Curriculum Units**

**Maths:**
The focus for this week has been:
- **Yr 1:** Count backs
- **Yr 2/3:** Extended rainbow facts
- **Yr 4/5:** x6 tables
- **Yr 6:** x12 tables

**GRIP Leadership Conference**
On **Tuesday, 17th of February** the grade 6 students attended the leadership conference held at the Brother’s Sports Club in Bundaberg. We travelled there by bus with the Gin Gin schools and we arrived there around **9:00am** as they transported us to the room we were in. As the time passed we greeted other leaders and the hosts who were funny and kind. During the day there were three sessions. The first one was about standing up and making the most of leadership opportunities, the second one was about paying it forward and looking for opportunities to lead. As the day closed we finished off with the final session of developing a leadership plan and Q&A with the GRIP leadership team. Throughout the day we played games, developed skills and worked in our booklets. As most of us thought it was a day we all enjoyed.

By Genevieve Dean & Emily Jenner

**Shoe Laces**
We have noticed that there are a few students who are experiencing difficulty tying shoelaces. Please help your child to work on this at home. It may take a few weeks but it will increase their independence and decrease their chance of tripping on their laces.

**School Operating Hours**
Please be aware that the school does not open until **8:00am**. Parents are asked not to drop their children off until this time. Students are not supervised until staff commence their duties at **8:30am**.

**News-Mail Competition**
Please continue to collect tokens for the chance to win a $5000 classroom makeover. Ask all your family members, friends and neighbours to keep their tokens for our school.
We currently have **11** tokens!

**Student Council Update**

**Easter Raffle:** McIlwraith State School Student Council is holding an Easter Raffle. We need all tickets handed in by **Thursday 26th March** and will be drawn on **Tuesday 31st March**. We would love it if everyone could donate eater items such as toys, stationary or chocolates. If donating chocolates please let us know but send in closer to the date. By Jordan Moloney.

**Easter Bonnet Parade:** Students are invited to make or purchase a hat/bonnet for the Easter Bonnet Parade held on the last day of school, **Thursday 02nd April**. There is plenty of notice to come up with some excellent ideas. A gold coin donation is required for students entering the parade. Prizes will be awarded for winning hats/bonnets.

**Prep, Year 1 & Year 2 Students enjoying the Student Leader Induction Ceremony earlier this month.**
**Ooh la la!**

**IT'S TEA TIME IN PARIS**

With the Gin Gin Show Society

2015 High Tea Fundraiser

**DESTINATION:** Showgrounds Function Centre

**DATE:** Saturday, 14th March 2015

**TIME:** 12.00 noon – 3.00 pm

**COST:** $25 (Contact Sue: 0429 914436)

**DRESS:** Formal High Tea/Race Wear

**INCLUSIONS:** High Tea Luncheon, Tea/Coffee

Join us for a relaxing afternoon of fine dining with delicious treats and engaging conversation over a pot of tea or coffee while enjoying the local stalls. Raffles and lucky door prize.

**PRIZE FOR THE BEST DRESSED!!**

*Tickets available outside Marcelle's Hair*

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**Gin Gin Football Club**

Invites you to our annual come and try sign on afternoons, being held on the

**15th, 26th February & 5th March**

At 3.30pm at the

**Gin Gin Sports Recreation grounds**

under 6’s, 7’s & 8’s will receive a free soccer ball when they sign up!

Vacancies are available in all age groups including under 13

For more information contact

Anne Maree 0438 510 741

Muppi 0437 627 707

Tamara 0423 309 824

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**Yours in Education**

_Felicity Wallace_