From the Principal

Welcome back for a very busy Term 4 with many events planned to finish off a fantastic school year.

Year 6/7 Transition and Prep Orientation
At the end of Term 4, we will say goodbye to both our Year 6 and Year 7 cohorts. As a cluster (Mt Kilcoy, Kilcoy and Kilcoy High), we are currently running extra transition opportunities for students in these cohorts. We regularly have teachers from Kilcoy High attending our school each week to participate in the 6/7 classroom and develop relationships with our students and we also have transition days organised towards the end of this year to assist students to become familiar with the high school setting and programs.

The Prep Orientation mornings have also been scheduled for 16 and 23 October. Next year’s prep students will get a chance to visit the prep classroom for the morning session to join in activities. Parents will attend an information session and morning tea.

Regional Sport
This week, Blake Anderson is representing the Sunshine Coast Region at the State Athletics Championships. His events include long jump, 100m, 200m and 800m. We wish him all the best in his events and look forward to speaking with him about his experience when he returns to school on Thursday.

Lost Property Boxes
The lost property boxes are currently overflowing with lost jumpers, track pants and hats. If your child has lost anything this year, please refer them to the lost property box outside the office. Please ensure that all clothing is clearly named as this helps us locate the owner.

School Hats
Many students have been attending school without their school hat. Please be aware that we have a ‘no hat, no play’ policy. Students who do not bring a school hat will not be able to play at lunch times. Please encourage your children to bring their school hat every day and ensure that it is clearly marked.

Student Free Day
Just a reminder that next Monday, 20 October, is a Student Free Day. Students do not attend school on this day. This is the only Student Free Day within the school calendar year. It gives staff an opportunity to complete mandatory training, moderate students assessment and complete curriculum planning.

Selina Barry  
Principal
Welcome back! I can’t believe that we are completing our final term for the year. Lots of things are happening in the Prep/One room this term.

Before I talk about this term though, I want to give a big thank you to all of the parents for their support for our Teddy Bear’s Picnic last term. The children had a blast. One of the Prep students told me quite seriously that it was the BEST day of her life. Thank you for all of the lovely food. We ate it all day and still had heaps left over. The fabulous Mrs Weber baked an amazing Bear cake for my birthday and we shared that together. Thanks Mrs Weber!

For the next two weeks, we welcome next year’s Prep students to join us for Prep Orientation sessions. These will occur on 16 and 23 October from 9:30-11.00. I look forward to meeting the children and we have lots of fun activities planned!

In English, we are learning how to write procedural texts. The children’s favourite procedural writing task so far was when we practised writing a procedure for ‘How to give your pig a bath’. This was inspired by a story called ‘Giggle, Giggle, Quack’ written by D. Cronin. Ask the children about the story. They thought it was great!

The Prep children have been flying through their phonics lessons and are now looking at more complex sounds and spelling patterns. This week they are revising the ‘th’ sound (three) and are learning the ‘ng’ sound (strong).

The Grade Ones are learning how to make their words into plurals by adding ‘es’ (lunch- lunches). Their words are getting harder so it is important they do their spelling homework each week.

I have been really impressed with the children’s progress in reading. We have been focussed on reading strategies and I am pleased to say that the children are utilising these much more when they are reading. Please keep up the reading at home. It is very important and should be an enjoyable activity that can be done as a family.

Kind Regards,
Paige Somerville

Welcome to Term Four! We have hit the ground running! In English this term we are reading ‘Kumiko and the Dragon’. It’s a great story and so far, the class is enjoying it.

We will be writing narratives this term, with the stories being written in the first person. We are going to be the stars in our writing. As we really love this book, hopefully we will be able to read the second in the series also.

In Maths, the year 3s will be continuing with fractions and we will be working on problem solving strategies when completing sums. We will also be working on positioning ie under, over, beside. The year 4s are continuing with their fractions and decimals and we will be working with decimals up to hundreds, as well as completing some graphing and statistics activities.

In Science we are going to be investigating the Earth, Moon and the Sun including shadows and phases of the moon. This is a fun unit and so far we are enjoying it. We are going back to Geography this term and we are looking at sustainability in our school and home environments. Until next time!

Stacey Lambert

First of all, I’d like to thank Mr Dann for teaching Year 4/5 while I was on Long Service Leave. Students did an excellent job of completing their English assessment, which was retelling a story using various techniques and devices. Their performance at the Fancy Dress Ball was also commendable. Well done for your efforts Year 4/5.

Last term, I sent home Parent Interview forms for those parents who would like to take the opportunity for an interview. If you would like an interview and could not make it last term, please ring the school or contact me at jtone4@eq.edu.au, and I would be happy to arrange an interview.

New Accelerated Reader targets for the term have been set at 14 points for Year 4 and 18 points for Year 5, so weekly monitoring is necessary to ensure readers are on track to meet these targets. Also, learning times tables each week for homework is important, as this knowledge forms the basis of many areas of mathematics.

This term, we’ll be finishing our History unit on colonial Australia by researching the significance of the Eureka Stockade. In Geography, research will help us learn about how people use resources from the environment and sustainable environmental practices. The Science unit involves studying living things, including plant growth and conservation of various threatened species.

June Tones
Welcome Back to Term 4! I hope everyone had a fantastic break and is ready and raring to go for the frantic dash to the end of the year.

Here in the 6/7 classroom we have a number of projects underway, including Lego robotics, paddle-pop tower design and formal dance practice. Alongside these activities, we have jumped back into our new English unit which involves the comparison of literary and informative texts. This will be assessed by the production of a persuasive essay, suggesting which of the two text types is more effective in influencing an audience. Up to this point, we have looked at the topic of bears in captivity and have read the literary text, “The Deliverance of Dancing Bears” and an informative text (brochure) on the Black Asiatic Bear, otherwise known as the Moon Bear. I’m sure this will be a fun unit for everyone!

In maths, we have started the term by completing a diagnostic test on this term’s concepts. This will give us a better idea of how our students progress during the term and will highlight areas where improvements are needed. In terms of activities, we will be heavily involved with fractions, mean, median and mode, as well as refining our understanding of directed numbers. It’s sure to be a challenge for us all!

Finally for this edition, I would draw everyone’s attention to the extracurricular activities coming up during this term. The list is never-ending! Of particular note for the 6/7s are: The FLL Lego competition, 6/7 Graduation, 6/7 transition days to the high school and the 6/7 excursion to QUT in Brisbane. It is an action-packed term to say the least!

Andrew Triggs

**Prep Enrolments for 2015**
Mt Kilcoy State School is now taking enrolments for Prep in 2015. Enrolment packages can be collected from the school office.

**Student Free Day**
On Monday 20 October, there will be a state wide Student Free Day. School will be closed to the students on this day.

**QSchools Application for Smart Phones**
Don’t forget to download the new QSchools smart phone application to receive current information on school events and news.

**Valley Champions**
This Friday will be our Valley Champions Carnival between the schools in our surrounding area. Woodford, Kilcoy, Mt Mee and Mt Kilcoy Schools will be competing against each other in Netball and Football. Notes were sent home last week, so please ensure that your child/ren have returned their note to the school office. We must have these to give us an idea of numbers for the bus.

**Prep Orientation**
On the next two Thursdays, 16 and 23 October, we will be holding our Prep Orientation mornings. Anyone interested in attending prep at Mt Kilcoy in 2015, is welcome to come along and let their child enjoy a morning in the Prep room, experiencing what the prep year is like.

**Swimming**
Our summer swimming program begins in week 4 on Tuesday 28 October. Please ensure your child has a sun safe shirt to wear over their togs. If your child is in prep, please ensure they come to school dressed in their swimming togs, as the bus leaves at 9am. Students in years 6/7 will need to be collected from the Kilcoy Aquatic Centre by 2.50pm, or they will return to the school on the school bus at a cost to parents (if not a regular bus child).

**Volunteers’ Morning Tea**
Our annual volunteers’ Morning Tea will be held on Wednesday 5 November at 10.30am in the library. If you have volunteered at Mount Kilcoy State School or made any voluntary contributions, please come along and accept our appreciation for your help.
Administration

- Please ensure that when you visit the school grounds, you sign in at the office first. This is to ensure that we are complying with Education Queensland Policy and our Critical Incident Policy.

- As you are aware, schooling every day is most important. Please contact Kylie in the office to record your child’s absence. If you are sending a note, please ask your child to take it to the office.

- Please remember when collecting children, they are not to cross the road unless accompanied by an adult. Students are to remain within school grounds until collected. Please do not walk behind the cars in the staff car park. Use the concrete path and personal gate on the lower side of the car park.

- Students are not to arrive at school before 8.15am, as no supervision is available before then.

P&C News

Yesterday’s P&C meeting was postponed until Tuesday 21 October at 3.30pm in the school staffroom. Please come along and support decisions that need to be made by the P&C. All welcome.

Uniform Shop

To purchase school uniforms, please contact Vicki Higgins (our uniform convenor). As our uniforms are purchased and paid for by our P&C, all purchases need to go through our uniform convenor.

A Message from the Chaplain

Wow!!! Can you believe that we are now in Term 4?

I hope everyone had a happy and restful holiday as this term looks like a very busy one.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to anyone interested in attending the Mayor’s Community Prayer Breakfast on Tuesday 28 October at the Kilcoy Memorial Hall at 7.00am.

The guest speaker is Peter James, CEO of Scripture Union Qld (he looks after the School Chaplaincy Program). If you are interested in coming along, you can purchase your $20 ticket at school or if you want more information, please don’t hesitate to come and see me at school on Tuesdays or Fridays.

Thought for today

Remember that great love and great achievements involve great risk.

Your Chaplain

Terrie Beakey.