Term 2 Calendar: Weeks 2-5 2014

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From the Principal

**Welcome to Our New Staff**
I would like to officially welcome Mr Pasquale Vescio to Mount Kilcoy State School. Mr V will be filling the H.P.E contract whilst Mrs Smith is on maternity leave. We would also like to welcome Mr Michael Baldwin. Mr Baldwin will be filling the L.O.T.E. contract as Mr Watanabe will be away until week 9. We hope you enjoy your time at Mount Kilcoy.

**NAPLAN**
This term, students in years 3, 5 and 7 will participate in National testing in Numeracy and Literacy. This semester, students have received additional support in individualised areas to help them achieve to their full potential. Students will also participate in practice tests this fortnight to ensure they are familiar with testing conditions. They may also receive practice questions for homework. The tests will be conducted on Tuesday 13, Wednesday 14 and Friday 15 May. Please encourage your child to do their best. Extra sleep and a nutritious breakfast will be beneficial for your child during this week. If you have any questions regarding National Testing, please don’t hesitate to contact your child’s teacher.

**Attendance**
Attendance at school every day gives your child the best opportunity to do well. Research indicates that there is a strong link between attendance rates and student academic results. Mount Kilcoy finished term 1 with an average student attendance rate of approximately 95%. Let’s keep working together to ensure that we stay above 95% in term 2. Attendance updates will be given at each weekly parade. Great work Mount Kilcoy!

**Special Thank You**
I would like to acknowledge the hard work of our P&C committee. Over the holidays, they have paid for a new concrete path to be installed to ensure that students and the school community are safe when arriving and leaving the school. All walking traffic can now be directed along the path, away from the staff car park. This is made possible by the hard work of the committee and the support given to the committee by the wider school community. It is most appreciated!

Selina Barry
**Prep/1 News**

In the Prep/One room we are busy starting our new units. The Preps have started the ‘r’ sound and will also be working on the ‘m’ sound this week. The Year 1 children are learning all about adjectives (describing words) as they practise describing a character from a story. They drew and labelled some great illustrations of ‘The Very Blue Thingamajig’.

The kids have started their lap challenge during lunch breaks to help get them ready for Cross Country in week 3 and are doing a fantastic job. I can’t wait to see them all race.

Paige Somerville

**1/2 News**

When another term begins, as teachers, we naturally reflect on the past term and what has been achieved and what we must continue to build upon and improve in over the next 10 weeks. It is always rewarding to see how far students have come in what feels like such a short period of time. Year one/two has certainly made progress in the area of writing, and we have some samples to share. Students were so excited by the army’s visit last week that we were never mortal teachers, just can’t compete with such exciting activities and army type ‘things’. Riding in the truck proved to be the highlight of the year (so far) for our class (and possibly some staff?), as did the handling of certain military objects. I can only hope that our upcoming History trip inspires my young pupils to put pencil to paper once more to write about their ‘Best School Day Ever’ again!

As part of our homework program we are putting a lot of emphasis on recognition of high-frequency words. High-frequency words are the most common words used in English written text. These words are often referred to as ‘sight words’ and frequently need to be taught using visual knowledge, because they are phonetically irregular. Sight words need to be instantly recognised, enabling the reader to access the word quickly and automatically. Effective word recognition skills are fundamental to proficient and fluent reading. Efficient processing at the word level frees the reader to engage in higher order comprehension skills, such as making inferences about text, making connections, and asking questions. This enables students to gain a better understanding of what they have read, enabling them to become independent readers.

Reading should always be an enjoyable experience for children, and we encourage students to read both fiction and non-fiction texts, so they remain engaged and learn to choose texts based on their own interests. The following extract helps explain text choices that are often used as part of our Early Years reading program.

**3/4 News**

In our class we are off to a flying start! In English our unit is looking at persuasive devices used in advertising. The children are loving it so far, especially seeing old commercials.

In Maths the year 4’s are focussing on number and place value. The year 3s are looking at 3-dimensional shapes and will also be exploring fractions.

Science is an exploration of forces. So far they’ve enjoyed the task of getting a small ball into a cup using a paper plate and a tube, all without using their hands. The children came up with a number of ways to do this.

This term we have also commenced Geography. In this we will be looking at the local area and Australia. We are looking forward to doing some mapping.

Homework will continue to focus on number facts, spelling and reading. We are looking forward to a very busy term and hopefully exploring a few more artistic opportunities also.

Stacey Lambert

**4/5 News**

This term includes events such as the school and interschool spelling bees, cross country, school photos and NAPLAN testing for Year 5s.

Our English unit involves examining persuasive techniques used in advertising and evaluating the effectiveness of these. Activities will also include revising different types of persuasive texts and narratives in preparation for the Year 5 writing component of the NAPLAN Test. The Maths curriculum for each year level is determined by the Australian Curriculum, as is the Science, which is called ‘Fast Forces’.

This term, we are beginning to implement the Geography component of the Australian curriculum. Students will study maps, scales and compass directions. They will also gather and interpret data from different environments in Africa and South America.

The History topic involves researching the lives of people in Australia’s colonial past and how the colony developed over a period of time.

Homework tasks will depend on curriculum content, but spelling, reading and tables practice should be daily. Thank you for monitoring and signing reading each night. Accelerated Reader points targets for Term 2 have been set at a minimum of 10 for Year 4 and 15 for Year 5. This means that over a 10 week period, students in Year 4 have only to earn 1 point per week and Year 5 to earn 1.5 points per week, which is an achievable goal.

Term 2 will prove to be a busy one indeed with numerous tasks and projects to be completed before the end of term report cards are issued.

June Tones
6/7 News

Welcome back to Term 2. I hope everyone had a relaxing and refreshing holiday and is ready for another busy term.

Here in the 6/7 Classroom we are frantically completing assessment from our Term 1 units. The most significant of these items is our persuasive speech as a part of English. Students have chosen either a social or sporting context in which to present their speech. There have been some fantastic efforts made in preparation, with students practising a variety of writing and speaking tasks in order to improve their persuasive skills. Hopefully we will have some great final products!

This term, we will also have are also a number of extracurricular events coming our way. The first of these is the school Spelling Bee. Students have now received their spelling folder with their Year level words. Inside these folders is also a Fundraising sheet which students can use to record sponsors and donations. Anyone who raises over $10 will receive a prize- and best of all, the highest fundraising class in the school will win their own ‘class party’. Students should be learning these words as a part of homework tasks– in preparation for the test on May 16. The top three spellers will then compete in the Final to be held on May 23 in the school library. We will also be using these results to choose our competitors in the Valley Schools’ Interschool Spelling Bee, which will be held on the last day of term 2 and will involve all the schools in our cluster.

Well that’s a quick update on what’s happening in our 6/7 room this term. Can I just quickly remind parents/carers of work expectations for students. It is imperative that students read for at least 15 minutes each school night. Reading goals for the term have been set– with each student requiring around 20 points for the term, Students should also be completing assessment tasks and other assignments as a part of homework. Failure to complete these tasks will greatly affect students’ grades. If you have any questions regarding these requirements, please feel free to contact me at school at any time.

Thanks
Andrew Triggs (atrig3@eq.edu.au)

Easter Raffle Winners

At the end of Term 1, the P&C held an Easter Raffle to raise funds. The winners of the raffles were as follows:- Fiona Perry, Zack Bruce, Brandi, K Wholly, Lily Hermann, Jaye Hampton, Lea Walker and Cathie Lapthorn. Congratulations to these winners and thank you to everyone for your support.

Cross Country

Our annual Cross Country will be held on Tuesday 6 May around our school grounds, commencing at 1.20pm. Children are to ensure they have a drink bottle and a hat for this day.

Parents/Caregivers are invited to come along and cheer their children on. The P&C will be providing an ice block for each child on the completion of their race.

Naplan

On the 13,14 and 15 May will be the NAPLAN testing for students in years 3/5/7. Please ensure that your child/children have a good night’s sleep and a healthy breakfast. Good luck Mount Kilcoy students.

Kilcoy Show

Don’t forget next Friday 9 and Saturday 10 May, is the Kilcoy Show. Students from Mt Kilcoy will have a display in the pavilion as usual. Please be sure to go and have a look at their work if you are there.

School Spelling Bee

On the 16 May, all students will be participating in a school spelling test for the school Spellathon. Selected students from these tests will then go on to compete in the Spelling Bee on Friday 23 May. All folders have been given to the students, so they have all words and information required for this fundraiser. Sponsor forms are included in these folders.

PE Lessons

Parents/Caregivers, please be aware that on Tuesdays, your child/children participate in PE lessons and are often on the oval running around and doing sport. Please ensure your children have hats and water bottles on these days. It’s important for your child to be hydrated during these lessons.
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 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

Mother’s Day Stall
The P&C will be holding a Mother’s Day Stall on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 7, 8 and 9 May. There will be items ranging from $1—$5 in price. It would be great to receive family support in helping the P&C to raise funds.

Uniform Shop
To purchase school uniforms, please contact Vicki Higgins (our new uniform convenor). As our uniforms are purchased and paid for by our P&C, all purchases need to go through our uniform convenor. Vicki can be contacted on 0488 081 243.

P&C Meeting
The next P&C meeting will be held in the school staffroom on Wednesday 14 May at 3.30pm. All welcome.

A Message from the Chaplain
Can you believe how fast this year is flying by? Scripture Union (SU) is busy getting various camps ready for the June/July school holidays; of particular interest is the Winter ‘Mapleton Adventure Camp’ for boys and girls in grades 5-7 with lots of action packed activities planned for the kids. This camp will be from 30/06/14-04/07/14. Also, there will be a 4 day ‘day camp’ for students in grades 3-7 from Monday 30/6/14 to Thursday 3/7/14 from 9am-2.30pm in Caboolture. There is a cost for these camps and if interested you need to register, so get in quick as numbers are limited and fill quickly! Brochures are available from the school office or see your School Chaplain for more information.

Thought for the Day
Take time to count your blessings every day.

Terrie Beakey