From the Principal

We have had a great start to 2016, with numbers continuing to increase this year. We currently have an enrolment count of 132 students. These numbers have allowed us to form an extra class, bringing us to 6 classes in the school. This has reduced our class sizes, particularly in the lower years. We have also had facilities programs underway across the holiday break. We now have a new disabled toilet with a covered walkway, new disabled parking area and ramp system, an upgraded Wi-Fi system, and plans are in place to upgrade our water supply. It’s great to see our school continue to grow both in size and facilities.

5/6 Leadership Camp

I am looking forward to attending the year 5/6 Leadership Camp this week. This is a great opportunity to spend time with our current and next year’s school leaders. The camp gives staff the opportunity to build supportive relationships with students in challenging environments and works on them to develop their leadership skills. I am sure we will all take away some valuable lessons from this experience.

Parent/Teacher Interviews

During this term, teachers have had the opportunity to assess and identify students’ strengths and weaknesses, establish classroom rules, explained classroom expectations and put behaviour management plans into place. Parents will have an opportunity on Monday 14 March to discuss their child/children’s progress with classroom teachers at the upcoming Parent/Teacher Interviews. I encourage you to take this opportunity to speak with your child’s teacher about any concerns or points of interest. Confirmation of times will be sent home soon. Preferred times will be allocated wherever possible. Other arrangements can be made if you are unable to attend at this time.

Every Day Counts

Our overall student attendance rate is currently 93.5%. This is quite low for this time of year. We are working hard with students and parents to encourage high attendance rates as we are aware that research suggests high attendance has a direct effect on student achievement. I would like to congratulate the Prep and Year 5 cohorts, as their attendance rate is above 95%. We would love to see our other cohorts reach this high standard throughout the year.

Pick Up and Drop Off/Late and Early Arrivals

I would like to thank parents and caregivers for not using the Bus Zone in front of the school to drop off or pick up students. We continue to encourage parents to utilise the hall carpark or the carpark next to the school oval for drop off and pick up times. Our school’s late and early arrival process requires a parent to sign in any child that arrives after 9am or departs before 3:10pm at the office. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Selina Barry
Principal
**Prep News**

Dear Parents,

Firstly, I would like to thank you for your support in settling the students into everyday routines and it is great to see them smiling with confidence now.

Secondly, it is great to see the students becoming more confident in knowing their sounds and practising them every day. Many of the students are becoming increasingly curious to know what words start with and having fun working it out themselves.

Thirdly, the students are really enjoying their swimming lessons even though it does tire them out and makes them very hungry. We have had a few issues with lost items. Please label all clothing, goggles, towels etc. so we can return items.

Just a reminder for students to bring a photo of their family or a copy of one to share with the class this week and next week.

Thanks again for your support with students hair on Crazy Hair Day (lots of fun—you are all so creative) and for the donated baked goods. A big success!!

Kind regards

Miss B (M. Burkett)

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**Year 1 News**

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your very warm welcome. I feel incredibly fortunate to be here at Mount Kilcoy State School and look forward to sharing many enjoyable learning experiences with you. At present we are working toward our Mathematics, English and Science assessments. The children are particularly interested in our Science unit where they are looking at habitats and living things. If I haven’t caught up with you all yet, I apologise and hope to rectify this at our upcoming parent/teacher interviews or in the classroom. Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time with any queries you may have.

Kind regards

Kelly Keough

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**Year 2 News**

Year 2 have had a fantastic start to the term and the students are settling in well to their new classroom routines and producing some fantastic work!

Our English focus this term is exploring narratives and their structure. We are focusing on narratives with animals as main characters and for this unit, students will write a new imaginative narrative for a familiar animal character.

Maths has seen us exploring addition and subtraction and representing these on a part/part/whole model.

Our Science unit this term is about exploring materials, their properties and uses. For this unit we will be making a car out of suitable recycled materials. It would be fantastic if you can start sending suitable materials into school.

In History, we have been looking at the changes in technology from the past to present and how these changes have helped us in our daily lives.

Have a fantastic week!

Sarah Todd

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**Year 3 News**

How quickly is this term flying by! In English so far this term, the Year 3 students have reviewed and continued to build their skills in persuasive writing. We are enjoying reading ‘The Return to the Hundred Acre Wood’. We are exploring narrative writing and Winnie the Pooh and his adventures are a great stimulus for imaginative writing.

In Maths, we are exploring measurement, chance and data and place value. We are completing our number fact races most days, to build our recall of basic number facts. We are doing a great job building our skills in this area.

In History we’ve been looking at Celebrations and Commemorations, when, who and why we celebrate these occasions. We’ve learnt about various Australian celebrations and also looked beyond to the Chinese New Year, Bastille Day and America’s Independence Day.

Our homework will continue to consist of reading, number facts and spelling. How can you help? Just by listening to your child read and testing a few spelling and number facts each day, helps them to reinforce their homework activities.

Till next time!

Stacey and Kris

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**4/5 News**

Our Science unit is about animal and plant adaptations which allow them to survive in a range of habitats. In History, we’ll learn about the colonisation of Australia. Integrated into the maths program is practice of concepts on Mathletics. I have set tasks using this online resource to consolidate content from the Australian Curriculum for each year level. There are also NAPLAN style tests for Year 5 students to complete.

To maximise the use of Accelerated Reader each term, a minimum reading points target is set for each year level, which this term is 8 points for Year 4 and 10 points for Year 5. This is part of the daily reading homework. Many students reach their target and gain points far beyond the goal, which is commendable. An individual STAR reading quiz at the beginning of each term determines the book levels for each particular student. Books score points according to difficulty. Many books score a minimum of 0.5 points, so term targets are easily achievable if students read consistently.

I monitor results of quizzes and adjust book levels when necessary and discuss results with individual students.
Parent interviews notes have been sent home this week as interviews will be on Monday 14 March. This is a good opportunity to speak to parents about their child’s progress. If you are unable to make an appointment on this afternoon, we can arrange an alternative time in the next few weeks.

Year 5 students are looking forward to Leadership Camp this week at Sunday Creek and will have some tales to tell on Friday when they return.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs June Tones

5/6 News
Welcome to the first Year 5/6 mid-term update for 2016. Things have started well in our classroom this year, with all 28 students working like busy worker-bees over the first 5 weeks. I’m sure now that we have become accustomed to the classroom routines and expectations, that we will be in for a great year ahead.

On the curriculum side of things, students have been thoroughly engaged in a variety of learning experiences in the learning areas of English, Maths, Science, History, Technology, HPE and LOTE. Geography and the Arts will soon come on-board in Term 2 and Term 3. In English, students have been studying the structure and language elements of short stories and are in the midst of completing their first assessment on the comprehension of one such story. In Maths, both Year 5 and Year 6 have been focussed on improving number skills and on the area of Data, which has encompassed the creation of graphs, interpretation of tables and the reasoning behind various graphing patterns. Students have now just completed their first unit maths test of the year-based solely around the area of Data. I’m keen to mark these (once I get back from camp!) and see how we have all performed!

As you are reading this, we will have already embarked upon our Year 5/6 Leadership Camp for 2016 at Sunday Creek EEC. This should be a fun 3-day experience for our students, with the goals being to improve our leadership, cooperation and active listening skills for the year ahead. Hopefully the leeches won’t have eaten too many of us by the time we return.

Lastly for this edition, I would like to thank parents/carers for your efforts in monitoring your student’s homework and reading progress. Homework efforts so far have been pleasing but some of our students are well behind with their Accelerated Reader points. Current targets for students are varied, but by this stage of the term, most students should be at around the 9 point mark. Please remember that reading is the most valuable aspect of our homework tasks and it is essential that students are involved in homework reading for at least 15 minutes each night. Please feel free to contact me at school on 54981777 or via email at attrig3@eq.edu.au if you have any concerns.

Andrew Triggs
Year 5/6 Teacher

Valley Champions Swimming Carnival
On Wednesday 16 March, the annual Valley Champions Swimming Carnival will be held at Kilcoy Aquatic Centre. This carnival is held between Kilcoy, Mount Kilcoy and Woodford schools and involves selected students from years 3-6. Notes will be sent home soon.

Parent/Teacher Interviews
On Monday 14 March, we will be holding Parent/Teacher interviews in the school library. Notes regarding these interviews will be sent home soon. Please fill in your preferred times and return them back to the school office as soon as possible. Remember, first in best dressed!

Schools’ Clean Up Day
On Monday 7 March, our school will be participating in a school clean up, as part of the national campaign ‘Clean Up Australia Day’. This will be held in the afternoon after second break. All students and staff will be participating in this activity.

District Swimming Carnival
Congratulations goes to Flynn, Gus and Luke on their fantastic efforts at District Swimming on Friday 19 February at Beerwah Pool. All 3 boys set new personal best times and had a great day competing against several schools in the Sunshine Coast region.

Choir
Mrs Close will be starting Choir practice on a Thursday morning in the library from 8:30 to 9:00 for interested students in years 2-6. A choir information note can be collected from Mrs Fry in the office. The Choir will be performing the National Anthem for the Opening Ceremony at the Kilcoy Show.

Swimming
Parents are reminded there will be no school swimming lessons next Tuesday 8 March. Swimming lessons will resume on Tuesday 15 March.

Swimming Carnival
On Tuesday 22 March, we will be holding our annual Swimming Carnival at the Kilcoy Aquatic Centre. Students will travel to and from the pool on their regular buses, or parents will need to drop off and pick them up. The school will be funding a lifeguard to be on duty from 10am to 1pm to allow younger siblings to swim in the baby pool. Please be aware that this is for siblings only, and school students are not permitted to swim in the baby pool. All students must remain with their house groups at the carnival. We appreciate parent support with this matter.
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.

Uniform Shop

Open Tuesdays 2-3.30pm and Fridays 9-10am and 2-3.30pm.

P&C News

The next P&C meeting will be held on Tuesday 15 March at 3.30pm in the staffroom. All welcome.

March Kilcoy Connects

Create your own “living pot”

When: Friday, 11 March
      10am – 12pm

Where: Kay Avery Place
       13 Kennedy Street, Kilcoy

Kyaw Cade will demonstrate how to make Kokedama or Japanese moss balls.
Participants can try their hand at creating their own moss ball for $30 (materials supplied) or enjoy a cuppa and meet new friends.

Open to people of all ages.

For bookings contact the Council on (07) 5498 4515.

April Kilcoy Connects

Join us for a cuppa and chat

When: Friday, 8 April 10am – 12pm

Where: Kay Avery Place,
       13 Kennedy Street, Kilcoy

- Find out what is on offer.
- Enjoy light refreshments.
- Meet our volunteers.
- Have a browse.

For more information phone Council on (07) 5498 4500.
Hosted by Kilcoy Community Connection Point.