From the Principal

Principal’s Report

After an uncertain start to the school year regarding classes, we are pleased to have our five classes up and running and settling into classroom routines. Teachers have established rules, explained expectations and put behaviour management plans into place. Parents will have an opportunity on Monday afternoon next week to discuss their child/children’s progress with classroom teachers when we hold our first parent interviews for the year. Forms were sent out last week and preferred times have been allocated wherever possible. Other arrangements can be made if you are unable to attend at this time.

It is important that your child/children maintain healthy eating and sleeping habits and remember to get their homework and reading completed each week. Organising homework, developing a schedule and avoiding procrastination are lifelong skills that will assist our students throughout their lives.

There will be no swimming next week as Years 4-7 will be on camp at Alexandra Headlands from Wednesday to Friday. Students are looking forward to taking part in a range of interesting activities as well as the opportunity to work and play together in team situations.

During the past few weeks, we have had a number of disruptions to our school days due to rain and flooding. It is important that whenever possible, students keep absences to a minimum. This ensures consistent delivery of curriculum and helps maintain steady progress.

Our P&C AGM will go ahead this Wednesday 6 March at 3.30 pm. in the staffroom. Please support our committee as all positions are open for the 2013.

School Uniform

There is an expectation that all students attending Mount Kilcoy State School will wear their school uniform to promote “School Identity”, “School Pride” and “Student Safety”. Our P & C Association endorses the wearing of a school uniform. Parent Support in this matter is greatly appreciated.

June Tones

Acting Principal
Prep News

Well it is six weeks since the Preps began school and they have done so well. They are becoming more independent and confident each day. Please ensure all items are labelled, especially clothing and lunch boxes. The Preps are enjoying reading and singing repetitive texts. On Fridays, the Preps each have a turn to describe experiences related to our shared book. This week, we have been reading ‘Imagine’ by Alison Lester and sharing experiences of our own pretend play in the Yarning Circle. Our classroom has been decorated like a jungle with vines and animals. During maths, we have been discussing routines and practising recognising arrangements of numbers to 6. We are beginning to learn our usernames and passwords to log onto the school computers. This is a big step towards becoming an independent reader, highlighting the need for Preps to become familiar with the keyboard and alphabet. Thank you to all parents for supporting their children with their reading and homework tasks. Your children reap the rewards.

1/2 News

Welcome to the Year 1 / 2 class report for Term One, which certainly has been quite a busy time! This year with the implementation of C2C, we have been focusing primarily on English, Maths, and Science with the inclusion of History in Term Two. Our English unit this term focuses on examining the features of characters in stories and the way characters develop and change as a plot unfolds (does the story of the ‘Ugly Duckling’ come to mind…?). In Maths, we are currently sequencing days of the week and months of the year, exploring the features and function of calendars, as well as number sequencing, skip counting and solving simple addition and subtraction problems. In Science we are investigating how light and sound are produced and how both can be observed using our senses.

Monday morning is an important time as spelling words from the previous week are tested. Ensuring nightly homework is completed will reinforce your child’s learning of his/her weekly spelling words. Reading each night (or morning) with your child is also highly beneficial. There are several students in the class who read with adults in the Library on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. If you would like your child to be included, please let me know so I can make arrangements. Additionally, if students need to complete homework, the library is open before school to enable them to finish it.

Swimming is certainly being enjoyed by all. However, just a reminder that students are to arrive at school in full school uniform and are given ample time to change into their togs prior to departing school.

Handy Hints for Improving Learning - Help your child to build the essential skills for success. Three of the skills needed for success at school (and in most areas of life) are concentration, memory and sequencing or getting things in the right order. The games that parents play with their children such as Snap, Uno, Concentration, Battleships, Monopoly, Chess, Jigsaw puzzles etc all play an incredibly important role in developing these skills of success. Computer versions of these games are not as effective in helping children develop these skills. To really help your child to succeed at school, every so often switch off the TV, unplug the computer and pull out a game. From “Help Your Child Succeed at School” by Andrew Fuller [www.andrewfuller.com.au].

2/3 News

What a busy start to the year! Despite the rainy weather, we have managed to get through all of the essential components in a timely fashion. We have started reading ‘Pippi Longstocking’ as a class. It’s a text with rich language and Pippi’s adventures are hilarious. We love it!

Our Science unit involves investigating the properties of various materials. We are well underway. We enjoyed testing the strength of various materials by checking how many marbles each material could support.

In Maths, we are revising many of our counting patterns, time, seasons and place value. We have finally got Mathletics up and running again – something the children look forward to on a regular basis.

In Art, we have looked at primary, secondary and complementary colours. We will by incorporating some of our Art activities in with our Pippi story. It’s great to see the children putting thought into their artwork.

Don’t forget swimming will continue until the end of term each Thursday. We also borrow from the library on Thursdays with the exception of camp week in week 7. Please ensure your child has a library bag to protect our library books.

Thanks to all parents and caregivers who have supported the children in establishing good homework routines…….till next time.

4/5 News

Students have settled in well to the classroom routines and are beginning to understand the various expectations for homework, book presentation, Accelerated Reader, behaviour etc. Homework tasks vary according to curriculum content, but nightly reading, spelling and tables practice are important.

As part of our work in English, we have read the novel ‘The Twits’ by Roald Dahl and are discussing the plot, setting and characters. During this unit, we’ll review the features of a narrative. One of the assessment items for this unit is to write an additional chapter for this novel, which we’ll begin on Wednesday. Our spelling and grammar are based on the Australian Curriculum requirements and the novel study complements this. In the weeks leading up to NAPLAN in May, we’ll be revising persuasive writing techniques as well.

Integrated into the maths program is practice of concepts on Mathletics and Fast Maths. 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
4/5 News (cont)

To maximise the use of Accelerated Reader each term, a minimum reading points target is set for each year level, which this term is 6 points for Year 4 and 8 points for Year 5. This gives students a guide as to the reading requirements, as 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.

Thank you to those parents who arranged a time for parent interviews next Monday. I will notify those parents who missed out and arrange an alternative time in the coming weeks.

6/7 News

Well, those first few weeks have really gone by in a flash! Add in a few flood days for good measure and we have had a very convoluted start to the school year in the 6/7 classroom!

Our students have commenced the year in a very positive fashion, learning new routines and adapting to new organisational structures within the classroom. Our focus for the year remains the implementation of the English, Maths, Science and History learning areas, using the Australian Curriculum and C2C unit plans. This term students have been studying short stories in English, properties of materials in Science, as well as learning the roles of historians and archaeologists in History lessons. It has been extremely entertaining material indeed!

Also of particular importance for the Year 4-7 group is our school camp which departs next week on Wednesday 13 March. Students will leave Mount Kilcoy at 8.30am for three days of beach fun and adventure at Alexandra Headlands. It is sure to be a great few days, with a number of awesome activities planned— including raft building and high ropes activities— don’t forget to use the provided checklist to pack your bags and morning tea for the first day!

Lastly, for this edition, I would like to thank those parents who have been monitoring diaries and homework over the first five weeks. I know homework is somewhat of a bugbear at times, but it is vitally important (especially reading) in consolidating learning as a lifelong skill. Thanks also to all those who have responded for parent-teacher interviews next Monday. I look forward to catching up with you then! In the meantime, or if you are unable to make it to an interview and wish to know how your child is progressing, please feel free to contact me at school on 54981777 or email me at atrig3@eq.edu.au

Thanks

Andrew Triggs

District Swimming Carnival

Congratulations to Amanda for qualifying for the District Swimming Carnival on 21 February. Amanda was the only competitor to compete for Mountain Small Schools. There were 11 schools competing with over 200 competitors in total. Amanda did extremely well with the following results:-
Butterfly - 9th
Backstroke - 11th
Breaststroke - 6th
Freestyle - 9th
As well as these great results, Amanda beat her personal best times. Well done Amanda!

Breakfast Club

With the help of some of our fabulous parents, Breakfast Club has started again today. The children seem to really enjoy Breakfast Club, so thanks to Aland’s Fruit and Veg and IGA, we are able to continue.

Valley Champions

The Valley Champions Swimming Carnival will be held on 22 March which involves selected students from Years 4-7. Further details will be sent home when they become available.

District Netball

Glasshouse District School Sports is having a try out day on Tuesday 12 March for all girls years 4-7 for Netball. Any girls interested in trying out, please call into the school office to get the enrolment forms.

New School Website

Our new website is now up and running. Please take the time to check the website for updates about the school and recent newsletters. This will prove to be very helpful for you to check the situation at the school when we have flooded creeks. Our website address is www.mtkilcoys.eq.edu.au.

Thank you Parents

Thank you to parents and caregivers for your support and co-operation during the recent floods. It is always a big job to organise children’s transport in these situations. If you are having trouble contacting us by phone, please go to our website and check the updates regarding school closures. You may also log on to the Education Qld website.
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 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

- AGM is to be held in the staff room today. (Due to flooding, it was postponed last Wednesday.) Please come along and be part of the Mt Kilcoy P&C Committee.

- The P&C will be holding a BBQ at the Swimming Carnival at the end of this term. If you can offer any assistance with the cooking and serving of the BBQ, please see Jodie Pratten at school or contact her at jprat58@eq.edu.au.

Quote of the Day

Achievement is largely the product of steadily raising one’s levels of aspiration and expectation.