From the Principal

Parent/Teacher Interviews
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. Confirmation of times will be sent home today. Preferred times have been allocated wherever possible. Other arrangements can be made if you are unable to attend at this time.

Our Student Leaders
Last week, our school community came together to celebrate our Year 6 and Year 7 Student Leaders and Student Council Representatives at the School Leaders Ceremony. Congratulations to our leaders and I am sure you will do an outstanding job in 2014.

Every Day Counts
I would like to congratulate our students and parents on a terrific start to the year. Our overall student attendance rate is 96.2%. We would love to see this continue throughout the year. The prep and year 4 cohort are setting the standard with an average of 98%. Keep up the good work! It is also 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 life-long skills that will assist our students throughout their lives.

Pick Up and Drop Off
I would like to remind parents and caregivers that the Bus Zone in front of the school cannot be used to drop off or pick up students. We encourage parents to utilise the hall carpark or the carpark next to the school oval for drop off and pick up times. Thank you for your support in this matter.

School Uniforms
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.

Selina Barry
**Prep/1 News**

The Prep/1 class have had a very busy start to term one. The Preps have been working hard learning the alphabet and phonics. So far they have done the sounds for s, a, t and i so if you are a parent of a Prep child, ask them to show you the special hand movements for each sound. They would love to show you!

The Year One’s are learning about character emotions in picture books and we have shared some fantastic stories already. Just ask them about the ‘Pout-Pout Fish’. It was a sure favourite.

In Science, the class have been learning about habitats and I’m sure the kids can tell you lots about Marine Iguana’s and Red Kangaroos.

Keep up the home reading and remember to bring your folders back each Wednesday and Friday so you can get a new book.

Keep up the great work Prep/One’s!

Paige Somerville

**1/2 News**

Wow, how quickly have the past few weeks gone! We have all been very busy not only settling into our new school year, but also settling into our new cohort of year 1 and 2 and our new classroom. We certainly think we have the best view in the school, which always reminds us how lucky we are to be at Mt Kilcoy! We are all working hard on the Australian Curriculum C2C units and have just completed our first unit, with students giving some great oral presentations in English. Although some were feeling a little shy to start with, once there was a microphone available, most nerves appeared to disappear. We certainly have some confident and entertaining speakers among us. I can only hope that karaoke never becomes part of the curriculum! Our next English unit focuses on persuasive text, an area some of our students are very well versed in. I look forward to sharing their completed units in the not too distant future.

**Reading, reading, reading…**

It’s good to see the children making good use of their reading time, sharing books, reading every night and borrowing from the library. We have some great books which are longing to be read, so please encourage your children to continue reading consistently; every night and continue borrowing from the library. The Accelerated Reader program is working well, and children are gathering up points to reach our target. Remember, the more children read the better they get, so give your child lots of opportunities to look at books and to read aloud. Inspire your child to practice every day. Above all – be patient, learning to read can be difficult for some.

**Don’t leave home without it:** Have your child bring along a book or magazine any time you have to spend time waiting or driving. Fit in reading every chance you get!

**Once is not enough!** Encourage your child to re-read their homework readers, favourite books and poems. With repeated readings, they will be able to read more quickly and accurately.

**Talk about books:** Ask questions about what your child has been reading, what books they like to read, characters in the story, what happened or what they think may happen next. Encourage them to use picture clues and to predict the text. Make reading time a sharing experience and a fun time!

Krystyna Artiemiew

**3/4 News**

The year is off to a flying start. Despite the change of class, we have moved smoothly into our work, almost as though a change didn’t occur! Thank you to the children for settling so quickly. So far this term we have been working with fractions with the year fours, and this will continue as it is a difficult area to understand. Throughout the term, we will continue to work with equivalent fractions and mixed fractions. The year threes are working with numbers, place value and value of digits within a number, expanding and manipulating numbers. We have also been working on mental strategies when adding.

In English tasks we have completed a focus on Persuasive texts and formulating reasons to justify arguments. We are moving into narrative texts for the rest of the term to ensure that the year threes are ready for NAPLAN.

In Science we will continue with our living and non-living unit. The children are currently growing beans and are monitoring their growth. In SOSE we have been looking very generally at governments and how they are elected. In order to make this a little easier for the students to grasp, we conducted an election in class to select our Student Council Representative. Each student had to write a persuasive text to convince their class mates that they would be a great representative. Then, if they wanted to nominate to run in our election they could do so. Each nominated student then presented their speech to the class and a vote was conducted. It was a lot of fun, and the speeches that the children presented were excellent.

Stacey Lambert

**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 are reading the fantasy novel ‘The Forests of Silence’ by Emily Rodda, discussing the plot, setting and characters. During this unit, we’ll review the features of a narrative, as well as comparing character traits and story themes. 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 a variety of writing techniques and genres.

Our Science unit examines the structural features and adaptations of living things to their environment. In History, we’ll learn about the colonisation of Australia.

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 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 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 on Monday 10 March. We will notify those parents who missed out and arrange an alternative time in the coming weeks.

June Tones
**6/7 News**

Well the first 5 weeks have come and gone in a flash! Here in the 6/7 classroom we have been well and truly stuck into our units, with students honing their persuasive writing skills and understanding of visual texts in English and greatly increasing their number fact knowledge in Maths.

Our Week Three Leadership Camp was also a great success, with students enjoying the 3 days at Sunday Creek EEC. Over the course of the camp, students were involved in a variety of challenge and cooperative tasks which were aimed at developing skills important to our leadership group. The bushwalking was a challenge for some, but thankfully, only a few leeches managed to dine on our blood. After the first night of camp, some students decided the second day should start prior to 5am! This enthusiasm was soon quelled however, after a solid 30min fitness session- subsequently the third day started much closer to 6.30am! The last day involved a blindfold sensory walk, gold panning and cross-cut saws, which were all great fun. Perhaps the most revealing component of the camp however, were the group challenge tasks. These tasks required students to communicate effectively with each other in order to complete some rather challenging tasks- and it’s safe to say the results were a great insight into our students’ personalities! Anyway, I’ve got no doubt that the outcomes of our camp will position us all very well for a great 2014 at Mount Kilcoy!

Upon our return from camp, we have been busily attacking our usual classroom activities. Spelling is again a priority, with students learning 20 words per week, ready for Monday testing. Our mental maths sessions have also been very entertaining, with listening skills being tested to the limit. Hopefully the games we have been playing will help all of our general classroom skills. Homework continues to consist of spelling, times-tables and 20 minutes of reading each night. Please note our Accelerated Reader goal for the term is 15 points, with many students already well and truly exceeding this number (The top points scorer so far is Tristan on 67.9 - Great Work!).

Well that’s it for the first edition. If you have any queries or concerns regarding your child’s progress, please feel free to email me at atrig3@eq.edu.au or phone the school to arrange an appointment. I look forward to catching-up with parents/carers come Parent-Teacher interviews on Monday 10 March!

Andrew Triggs

**Senior Badge Presentation**

Last Thursday, we held our Senior Badge Presentation. Well done to all seniors and school leaders for 2014. Thank you to our local MP, Deb Frecklington, for attending our ceremony and presenting the badges to the students. We look forward to a great year ahead.

**District Swimming Carnival**

Congratulations to Sophie and Ailish for qualifying for the District Swimming Carnival on 21 February. There were 11 schools competing with over 200 competitors in total. The girls did extremely well with the following results:-

- Backstroke - Sophie 8th
- Freestyle - Ailish 10th

As well as these great results, Sophie and Ailish both beat their personal best times. Well done girls!

**Breakfast Club**

With the help of some of the fabulous people, Breakfast Club has started again for this year. The children seem to really enjoy Breakfast Club, so with many thanks to Aland’s Fruit and Veg and Mrs Bechy, we are able to continue.

**Swimming Carnival**

On Tuesday 18 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 parent drop off and pick up. See attached notes for details.

**A Message from the Chaplain**

Once again, Scripture Union Queensland will be running some great camps this Easter holiday time. You can grab a brochure from the school office, look online at www.info@sucamps.org.au or see me, your school chaplain, at school on either Thursdays or Fridays to discuss which camp is most suited to your child/ren. Please note that there is a cost involved in these camps.

**Thought for the day**

Hope sees the invisible, feels the intangible and achieves the impossible.

Terri Beakey
School Chaplain

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**Glasshouse District Sports Trials**

Just a reminder, the Glasshouse District Sports Trials for Netball and Rugby League will be held this month. Students interested have already received notices regarding this. The dates for these are as follows:-

- Netball - Fridays 14 and 21 March at Glasshouse Sports Grounds
- Rugby League - Wednesday 19 March at Glasshouse State School

For further details, please contact Sr Anne at St Michael’s College on 0428 955 864 or 54590 333.
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

2014 Committee
Following the P&C AGM, the new committee for 2014 positions are as follows:-
President – Jovie Devine
Secretary – Vicki Higgins
Treasurer – Jo Ludgate
Thank you to the outgoing committee and a warm welcome to the new committee. Parents/caregivers are all welcome to the monthly P&C meetings. Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month in the school staffroom. Next meeting will be on Wednesday 12 March at 3.30pm for this month only.

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. We have many unclaimed jumpers and hats at school. At the end of this term, we will be washing these up and donating them to the uniform shop. Please have your children check these items.

Somerset Music Awards
An initiative of the Esk Community Choir to give lovers of music in the Somerset and Lockyer Regions the opportunity to perform in a relaxed and friendly environment ‘Simply for the Love of Music.’ There is no age limit: Primary and Secondary Students to Seniors. Come one, come all. Saturday 2 August, 2014 at 10.00am to be held at Somerset Civic Centre, Esk. For entry forms, please phone Kathleen Watts on 0407 659 239 or visit our website on www.eskchoir.webs.com.