Dear Parents,

Staff are now assessing students and writing reports, which will be ready to go out at the end of the term. It has been wonderful to share in the achievements of students and note the progress that has been made so far this year. Thank you to staff who are working long hours after school to ensure professional and informative reports for you and your children. Parent interviews about student reports and progress will be conducted early next term.

Yours in Education
Karen Rayner
Relieving Principal

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**Quote of the Week:** A community is like a ship, everyone ought to be prepared to take the helm.

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**The Importance of reading to your Toddler**

Growing up in a home with lots of books and being read to as a toddler have a bigger impact on the performance of a child starting school than their temperament or socio-economic background, new research shows. To determine the best predictors of a child’s ability to be organised, pay attention and stay on task in class, Queensland University of Technology and Charles Sturt University researchers tracked nearly 3500 children from birth to age six. Overall girls did better than boys when they started school, as did children from higher socio-economic backgrounds, according to the data from the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children. But the researchers found the quality of a child’s learning environment when they were toddlers was the most significant indicator of their ability to manage themselves at school. “It was strongly predictive of academic, social and emotional outcomes later on,” said Sue Walker, an early childhood expert at QUT’s Faculty of Education.

Children who grew up in homes with lots of books and who enjoyed being read to for longer periods were most likely to perform well when they reached school. The research found a child’s learning environment at home was a better predictor of functioning than their temperament, ethnicity or the quality of their relationship with their parents. “When they come to school they’re prepared to learn effectively,” said Associate Professor Walker, who will present her findings at an international behavioural development conference in Shanghai next month. "They can pay attention in class, stay focused on tasks, and keep belongings organised."

Experts believe these executive functioning skills are more crucial for a child’s school readiness than their ability to read, write or count. Professor Walker said that if a parent placed a high value on literacy, as shown by the number of books they had, they would read to their child regardless of their socio-economic status. Being read to often increases a child’s vocabulary and enjoyment, and requires them to pay attention and remain engaged.

Professor Walker said any kind of engagement with a child when they were young would benefit their development, including involving them in music and playing games that focused on memory skills.

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**Walking to and from school safely**

All students are reminded that they need to walk to school in a safe and respectful manner. It is extremely important that when crossing the road students obey the rule of **looking to the left, looking to the right and then looking left again before crossing the road. Students should then walk straight across the road.**

It would be much appreciated if parents would revise walking to school safely with their children.
**Assembly**
This Friday 6\(^{th}\) June, is a whole school assembly. All parents, family members and friends are warmly invited to attend. The assembly commences at 9.45am in the school hall. The assembly item this week is by 1B. Hall display is by SA, and foyer display by 1/2M.

**School Photographs**
There are still a couple of families who need to collect their family photograph from the school front office.

**Canteen News**
Meal deal winner. Bryan Riddell SA
Thank you to volunteers this week. Vanessa, Crystal, Mel and Colleen.

**Canteen Roster**
Thursday 05.06.14 Bec, Colleen and Vanessa, Crystal.
Friday 06.06.14 Bec, Colleen, Vanessa, Mel.
Monday 09.06.14 CLOSED. Public Holiday.
Tuesday 10.06.14 CLOSED
Wednesday 11.06.14 CLOSED
Thursday 12.06.14 Bec, Vanessa and Crystal
Friday 13.06.14 Bec, Mel, Vanessa, xxxx
Monday 16.06.14 Bec, xxxx
Tuesday 17.06.14 CLOSED
Wednesday 18.06.14 CLOSED
Thursday 19.06.14 Bec, Colleen, Crystal, and Vanessa
Friday 20.06.14 Bec, Colleen, Mel and Vanessa, xxxx, xxxx.

xxxx indicates we need help. Please drop in and see Bec.

Friday 20.06.14 is the Athletic carnival we need volunteers to help out please.

Canteen Trading Hours is Monday, Thursday and Friday 9am to 2pm.

**Lorin Sharp- Motivational speaker**
Thanks to the sponsorship provided by the RSL club, all students will have the privilege of listening to Lorin Nicholson this Thursday. Lorin’s incredible guitar playing, coupled with his amazing life achievements growing up blind, will not only captivate and entertain our school, but will inspire each student to have a positive attitude towards those around them and to never give up on achieving their dreams.

**NEW Shop**

**NEW OPENING HOURS**
The uniform shop will now be open from 9am to 10am on MONDAYS and TUESDAYS.

Reminder - Polo shirts, hats, jumpers and micro-fibre jackets are available to purchase from the school canteen during their operating hours.

If you are unable to come during uniform shop hours, order forms are available in the school office for your convenience. A form can be sent home with your child with which you can fill out your order requirements and then returned to the office. The order will then be completed and we can inform you when it is ready to be picked up.

**Volunteers** – If you are able to help for an hour on Mondays or Tuesdays please see Shellie in the uniform shop.

Payment can be made by cash, eftpos, or cheque. Lay-by/payment plan also available. Thank you for your support.

**World Environment Day**
June 5th is World Environment Day. On this day people from all over the world can do something positive to help our planet. What could you do?
Little things can make a big difference:

- make and maintain a small farm or garden. Grow fruits, vegetables. Learn about various seeds, plants and manure. Create a part of your garden where you grow edible plants and another where you can grow flowers. For those who do not have huge spaces, start with a seedling or potato in a bag or a small sprout garden in your windowsill.

- Take public transportation on World Environment Day and vow to take it more often than you do. Or take a walk. You could also cycle- it's fun and a great way to exercise.
• **Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Renew, Recycle:** If you're not already into this habit, it's a good day of the year to start. The concept is already taught to students at school. The problem is that elders have forgotten about it. Take time on World Environment Day to learn about this concept. There are many things that you can do on a personal level, if you just keep these 5R's in your mind.

Let's all work to make our World a better place.

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**Tissues for classrooms**

As we are approaching the winter months when colds and flu will be around we ask if parents could please provide a box of tissues for their child/ren classrooms.

Thank you.

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**WHAT STUDENTS SAY- Zaahir Year 6**

What is your favourite thing about school?

My favourite thing about school is art and sport because I love running and I'm very 'arty'.

What would you do with $100?

I would spend $100 on my friends and myself because they are very special to me and have done a lot for me.

If you could go anywhere in the world, where would it be?

I would love to go to Paris because I've always wanted to visit the Eiffel Tower.

What would you do if you were Prime Minister for a day?

I would ban smoking because of the terrible things it does to our health.

If you were given one special wish what would that be?

To do whatever I want, because I don't like being told what to do!

What do you want to be when you grow up?

When I grow up I want to be an artist because I am creative and like to paint and draw.
DATES FOR THE DIARY – 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Every Wednesday</th>
<th>Playgroup every Wednesday, 0-4 years in Heritage Hall from 9:30-11:30. All are welcome and there is no cost!</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 June</td>
<td>Lorin Nicholson Motivational Speaker</td>
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<td>9 June</td>
<td>Queen’s Birthday Long Weekend</td>
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<td>17 June</td>
<td>Multicultural Perspectives Public Speaking Camp</td>
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<td>18 June</td>
<td>Science Discovery Day</td>
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<td>19 June</td>
<td>Eisteddfod Choir and Band</td>
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<td>20 June</td>
<td>Athletics Carnival</td>
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<td>26 June</td>
<td>Reports go home</td>
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<td>14 July</td>
<td>Staff Development Day</td>
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<td>15 July</td>
<td>Students Return to School</td>
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Helpers Needed!!

Mrs Winning is requiring parents/carers to volunteer some of their time to help out at the Athletics Carnival which will be held on Friday 20th June. If you are able to assist please fill out the slip below and return to Mrs Winning.

Parent’s Name _____________________________ Child’s Name _________________________

I am available to help at the carnival and/or the canteen:

I am available to help    all day       in the morning       in the afternoon

(please circle)
Term two has been very productive for KS.

This term KS has been given the opportunity to participate in Song room. Song room is run by Miss Brooke who comes in every Wednesday afternoon. The students have really enjoyed playing games that support social skills and ensures they have to work as a team. Students engage in singing, dancing and drama. “I thought song room is nice because I got to make music” - Caden.

In Literacy we have put a strong focus on writing whole sentences and reading to the best of our ability. While in numeracy we have been reinforcing basic number sense and encouraging some to complete basic addition.

Students have also been discussing Bullying for PDHPE with Miss Streater. This is to give students an understanding of what a bully is and how to deal with someone that is being a bully. This has been most beneficial to students as we role play scenarios and what we can do to stop a bully.

In HSIE student have been looking at the unit ‘This is me’ with Mrs Bridge. They are exploring past experiences and memories, and important people in their lives.

In Science students are looking at ‘Hot and Cold’ with Mrs Mason. They have been experimenting with water, plants and clothing to find the right heat. “I like science because Mrs Mason brings in fun experiments” - Peta

While the term is fast growing to the near end we are still looking for more Parent helpers to assist with literacy groups in the morning. If interested please feel free to contact Miss Streater.
Eisteddfod News

KE and KW participated in the Eisteddfod on Monday at Muswellbrook Public School. It was an extremely exciting morning, catching a bus and visiting a different school. The Kindergarten students were very well behaved waiting for their turn to perform and watching the other performances.

Four students participated in the individual Nursery Rhyme section, with amazing results. Matthew Robson received a Highly Commended award with Humpty Dumpty, Jonathan Faunt received a Very Highly Commended award with Little Jack Horner, Harlan Hesuler received tied Third Place for his animated I’m a Little Teapot, and Hamza Meeran received tied Second place with Hickory Dickory Dock. What a fantastic experience for the boys!

Both classes performed in the group Nursery Rhyme section. KE performed There Was a Little Turtle, and KW performed Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star. KE and KW both receive a Highly Commended award for their performances.

Thank you to the parents and family members who helped students learn Nursery Rhymes, made costumes and attended the Eisteddfod on Monday to support Muswellbrook South.

All Kindergarten classes will be attending the Eisteddfod on Thursday 19th June to perform group songs, along with the school choir and band. Kindergarten will be holding a Cake Sale on Thursday 12th June at first break to raise money for the buses to and from the Eisteddfod venues.