Principal Messages

It has been a busy start to the school year, with all programs well underway.

Attendance –

As the term progresses it is imperative that we remember, ‘Every day counts’: 

Students who miss school, miss important learning.

1 day absent per week = 1 Term every year missed
1 day absent per week from Prep to Year 7 = 2 years of schooling missed.

I would like to acknowledge all parents for contacting the school in regards to student absences, to date we have no unexplained absences.

School Improvement Agenda

During 2017, Condamine State School will be focusing on improving writing—more specifically, vocabulary knowledge. Watch this space for more information and strategies that will be implemented to achieve success.

Soccer Carnival

The annual soccer carnival scheduled for Friday the 10th of March due to the clashing with the Principal Conference. Nominations are now open, if you child would like to participate please advise at your earliest convenience. Also, if you are able to assist with getting fields ready prior to the event, or help in any way on the day, it would be greatly appreciated.

District & Regional Sport Trials

The District and Regional Sport Trials calendar can now be found in the quick links section of our school website. If you would like information regarding any of these trials, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Tuckshop

A reminder that tuckshop is held every Thursday (unless advised otherwise). Students are asked to put orders in 2 bags; one for 1st break and another for 2nd break.

Menu’s were sent home during week 2 however if you have misplaced your copy, please feel free to ask for another to be sent home. Alternatively you can access a copy on the school website.
**P & C Meeting**

I would like to thank all families and committee members who attended our first meeting for 2017. It was great to see so many dedicated people attending to ensure the best outcomes for each and every student.

The P & C have agreed to support the school in purchasing 17 new laptops for the P-2 classroom. These laptops will replace the current 14 and provide an additional 3 to ensure that every student has access to their own device for educational purposes.

Thank-you to the families who took time out of their busy weekend to pull down the damaged shade cover. We are currently seeking information on who can repair it and hopefully it will be back up in no time.

The P & C will be advertising the date of their AGM in the near future. Remember, all membership forms must be resubmitted for 2017.

**Miles and District Swimming Carnival**

Congratulations to those students who represented our school at the Miles and District Swimming Carnival on Friday, I heard that behaviour was exceptional and everyone tried their hardest. Well Done!

Travis Bell will be representing our district when he competes at Charleville on 24th February to try out for the South West Swimming Team. Good Luck!

**Position Vacant**

Condamine state school are offering a casual grounds care position for up to 4 hours per week, depending on seasonal conditions. The primary purpose of this role is to ensure that school grounds are maintained in a neat, tidy, safe and hygienic manner. The role encompasses grounds beautification and general school maintenance tasks. Please contact the office for a detailed role description.

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**Week 2**—Alastair, Ava, Curtis & Mac

**Week 3**—Neveah & Millie

**Writer of the Week**—Bethany & Travis
Students in the P-2 class have had a great start to the year. In English we have read a selection of fairy tales and folk tales, and formed opinions on characters, settings, and texts. Students have also begun identifying stereotypes created through words and illustrations.

In Maths, students have covered sequencing, duration of days, weeks and months, sorting, counting in 1s, 2s, 5s, and 10s, and representing numbers. We are moving on to comparing numbers and representing numbers using MABs over the next few days.

Art has involved viewing and considering artworks, and creating artworks using shape, collage and colour.

In History, students enjoyed talking about the past, sharing memories and illustrating a specific memory. Year 1s and 2s were asked to use question words to tell a story about their chosen event.

In Science, students have been learning about living things. They participated in a nature walk around our school and were amazed by the number of critters and creatures they discovered. In our unit this week we will be creating a grass head and discussing the needs of a living organism.

**CHALLENGE:** Ask your child what a living thing needs :-)

Kind Regards,
Mrs Walker and Mrs Barkle

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Students have been learning a range of new vocabulary associated with their current units of study. We have been looking at terms such as salience, aesthetic, cohesive and rhetorical questions to name a few. By learning this vocabulary it will not only assist students with their understanding, but continue to develop their repertoire of words to use when speaking and writing.

Our English unit has seen us studying the finer aspects of advertising, especially the language and techniques they use to persuade the audience. In the coming weeks, students will complete the first part of their assessment of writing a comparison about 2 advertisements. Following this, they will begin to apply the knowledge they have gathered to design and develop their very own advertisement about our school.

We have been practising our multiplication facts in a slightly different manner, using the Maths Rocks app. This app uses common everyday songs to sing the facts to, making it a little bit more interesting and fun. If your child begins to sing their multiplication facts to a random song, this is why. Other than learning multiplication facts, students have been looking at representing, ordering and comparing numbers, along with investigating multiples and factors in order to distinguish prime and composite numbers.

Technology has faced us with its first challenge—understanding how information travels from the input to the output using a binary code. Students were faced with the task of discovering the image hidden in the binary code. Whilst the computer can complete this in a millionth of a second, students soon realised that it was harder than it seemed.

Until Next Time.
Miss O’Neill and Mrs Bobermien
Science 3-6

In Science this term the years 3-6 are studying a Biology unit. The years 3 and 4 have started collecting interesting items for our Class Science Museum. They are then filling out cards to classify the items as living or non-living. Students are welcome to bring interesting finds in from home.

The years 5 and 6 have been learning about adaptations and will make a presentation on an animal which has adaptations which enable it to survive in its environment. The presentation can include a Power Point, poster, essay, diagram or diorama.

It is great as a teacher to have such an enthusiastic group of scientists to teach!

Alison Topp

Geography 3-6

Students in Years 3 and 4 have been investigating protecting and using places and the environment more sustainably.

Year 5 and 6 students are exploring the connections between people, places and the environment. They will be comparing Australia to other G20 countries in Asia.
Hello from Chappy!
It’s wonderful to see so many new families come into our area. I thought I’d let you know that your school has a chaplain.
My name is Lesley van der VLugt (also known as “Chappy”) and I work at Miles Primary on Mondays and Tuesdays, Miles High on Wednesdays and Thursdays, and Dulacca, Condamine and Drillham on Fridays. My role is to support staff, students and their families.

Socially and Emotionally
Empowering students through group programs like Rock and Water, Drumbeat, Vital, Fun Friends, Peer Skills and craft. Chatting one-on-one.

Educationally
Helping in classrooms and with extra-curricular activities like camps and excursions.

Spiritually
Praying at school ceremonies.

Community Development
Speaking at churches, visiting P & C Meetings, attending school welcoming barbeques and ceremonies.

Fundraising
Whilst the government provides most of the funding for the program, a substantial amount is supplemented through local fundraising activities and donations.

If I can assist your family then please ring your school or email me on lesleyvan@gmail.com

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**Mini Makers**

**Wednesday 8 February 2017**

Fun With Printing

Experiment with a range of hand printing techniques.

Based on the worldwide MakerSpace phenomenon, MiniMakers is an informal program for school age children, that encourages them to explore, engage and create. **Sessions are held on the second Wednesday of the month from 3.30pm to 5pm.** All materials are provided. Cost: $5 per child.

**LIMITED PLACES AVAILABLE, BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL**

Contact Dogwood Crossing, Miles
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Email: dogwood.crossing@wdrc.qld.gov.au