Welcome Back to 2015!!

Welcome back to term 1 2015. We have hit the ground running and have made a great start to the year. Our new Preps are settling in very well. They have been working very hard on learning our school rules – Be Safe, Learn, Respect and Cooperate, learning new sounds and reading exciting books with Miss Walker.

Our returning students are also settling in well. With our upper school students relishing in their role as senior students. They have been settling back into the routine of Spelling Mastery, Cars and Stars, reading great books like The Twits and learning about short stories.

We look forward to a fun and exciting term 1. It’s chock full of things going on, so keep an eye out for website updates, messages, newsletters and notes.

Before School Reading

Last year Condamine began a before school reading program which encouraged students to pick up a book if they arrived early at school. It is great to see students who arrive a bit early to school go and choose a levelled reader and sit down and enjoying a quiet read.

Important note - students should be arriving to school after 8:30am (unless previously arranged with their teacher to come early). Bus students normally arrive at 8:45am which allows the students to have a quick game before starting their day in the classroom.

Absences – Yearly Goal – better than 95%

Attendance is very important at Condamine SS. It is proven if a child is missing school regularly it directly impacts on their progress. That is why this year we are setting the bar high and are aiming for an attendance rate of 95%. We all need to work together to achieve this. 2014 saw us at 91% for the year. We are looking to beat this in 2015!

Attached to this newsletter is some information regarding attendance at school.

New staff members

With a new year brings new faces to our school. I would like to welcome Mrs Penny Grams and Mrs Peta Sanderson to our staff. Mrs Grams joins us from the Meandarra area and will be helping Mr Duffy teach the year 4-6 class on Thursdays. On Fridays Mrs Long and Mrs Grams will work together on our Extension and Learning Support programs. Welcome back to Mrs Sanderson. Mrs Sanderson worked at Condamine School a few years ago. She will be working as a Teacher Aide in Mr Duffy’s classroom on Wednesdays and Thursday. If you see them around make sure you say hi!
A little introduction from Mrs Grams…..

“I will be teaching 2 days per week at Condamine SS this year. On a Thursday I will take Mr Duffy's class and on a Friday I will be taking small groups of children for learning support and extension activities. I have previously been the Principal at Hannaford State School before taking leave to have children. I live on a farm South of Condamine with my two girls, Grace and Rosie and husband Sean whom some of you may know from his time at the Cods. My first teaching days at Condamine have been a pleasure with a great group of children and truly fantastic staff and working atmosphere. I look forward to meeting many of you at the P&C meeting next week.”

Changes to the office

Very important information as we have had a change with our administration at Condamine. As of day 1, 2015 we will not have a full time admin person at Condamine State School. Mrs Kocho is on leave. Our finances are being look after by Mrs Kate MacDonald at Meandarra State School. We are also lucky to welcome on board Mrs Kate Cover who will work as our school admin. Mrs Cover will be on site on Wednesdays and Thursdays. If you are trying to get a hold of the school please leave a message and someone on staff will take down the information. This is especially important with changes to bus arrangements and school pick-ups.

Soccer Training – Drillham

Mr. Tony Hindman has offered to conduct soccer training at Drillham again, in readiness for the M&D soccer carnival (27.3.15)

When: Thursday afternoons starting 12th February

Time: 3:45pm

Where: Drillham State School

Who: Drillham, Dulacca and Condamine primary students born 2005 (10yrs), 2004 (11yrs), 2003 (12yrs)
**P and C meeting – 12.2.15 – Meet and Greet**

Thursday 12th of February will see our P and C have its first meeting for 2015. Mandy Morgan is organising nibblies (Thank you Mandy) Hope to see you there.

**NRL – Grant Bignell**

On Tuesday the 24th of March Mr Grant Bignell and the NRL development team will be visiting the school. Students will be treated to a presentation from a former NRL player. The aim of the session is to promote health, fitness, fun and the joys of sport. We are looking forward to their visit.

**Principals Conference – 26th & 27th February**

On Thursday 26th and Friday 27th of February Mr Duffy will travel to Brisbane to take part in the bi-annual Principals Conference. Principals from all over the state get together to discuss important educational issues. Looking forward to the experience and hoping to bring back some great ideas to share with staff and students.

**School Photos**

School photos will be early this year. MSP photography has had an overwhelming request for them to visit earlier in the year. Our date has been set for Wednesday 4th of March. Ordering information will be available in the next week.

Thank you
Mr Duffy
It has been a fantastic start to the year here in the P-3 Classroom. We have started our English Units, which are based on fairy tales, persuasion, and retelling a range of stories from different perspectives.

In maths we have been focusing on time (Yr3), counting sequences (Yr1/2), and comparing and sorting objects (Prep).

We have also started a Science unit which requires identifying materials and their properties.

In Geography we have been identifying features of places and drawing pictorial maps.

PAT testing has begun again with students working very hard to complete all PAT tests and see their updated Learning Targets. We are also looking forward to beginning C2C assessment in the next few weeks!

CHALLENGE: Ask your child what the properties of plastic are?

Kind regards,
Miss Walker and Mrs Barkle

Wow!! What a whirlwind start to the year. Students have already sat their start of year benchmarking tests. Individual Learning Targets are all organised ready for student’s interviews and sending home to parents. Our Spelling Mastery, Cars and Stars and C2C units are also well underway.

Year 3/4’s are working on a novel study about the classic Roald Dahl book “The Twits” We can’t wait to see what mischief Mr and Mrs Twit get up to. In the maths classroom students are working on time and calendars. Students were able to design their very own personal calendar on the computer where they can put important dates in.

The year 5/6’s are enjoying a variety of short stories. They are seeing how much detail you can pack into a story without spending hours writing/reading them.

In maths they have been working with PRIME and COMPOSITE numbers.

As a test see if you can trick your child by giving them a number and seeing if they can work out if it is PRIME or COMPOSITE.

MR DUFFY

This term I will be taking Mr Duffy’s class plus the year 3’s for science. They will be learning the following units:

**Year 3-4’s**
Physics Phenomena
In this unit students learn about forces (push, pull and friction) through a series of structured games, and how heat can be produced and transferred. The students will assist in the creation of a fictional sporting event to solve problems such as how to heat water for cups of tea and create a game using forces.

**Year 5-6’s**
States of Matter
In this unit students learn about the different states of matter (solids, liquids and gases) and how they can be changed by heating or cooling. We will be learning through a series of experiments which provides a great hands-on mode of learning for the students. The students will learn the concepts of melting, solidification, dissolving, evaporation, condensation and decomposition.

Thank You

Mrs Grams
### SWPBS (School Wide Positive Behaviour Scheme)

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<th>WEEK</th>
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<td>2/3</td>
<td><strong>School Rules</strong>&lt;br&gt;BE SAFE, RESPECT, CO OPERATE, LEARN</td>
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<td>4/5</td>
<td><strong>CO OPERATE</strong>&lt;br&gt;Use my High Five</td>
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<td>6/7</td>
<td><strong>CO OPERATE</strong>&lt;br&gt;Help out fellow students</td>
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<td>8/9</td>
<td><strong>CO OPERATE</strong>&lt;br&gt;Share when using equipment</td>
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![Condamine State School High Five!](image)
**SCHOOL NURSE VISIT**

Helen Wylie the School Clinical Nurse will be visiting the school on the 3rd March from 9:00am
The preps are tested for vision & hearing and the Year 6 for vision & hearing if requested.
If you have any concerns with your child/children please contact the school so we can arrange an appointment for your child.

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**CONGRATULATIONS!!**

To

Harry, Alastair, Skye, Callum, Tamara, Travis, Owen and Goff for being selected for the Miles and District Swimming Carnival. To be held at Miles Swimming Pool on Friday 13th of February.

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<tr>
<td>12th Feb</td>
<td>General P and C Meeting - Condamine SS</td>
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<td>13th Feb</td>
<td>Miles and District Swimming - Miles</td>
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<td>24th Feb</td>
<td>NRL Visit - Grant Bignell</td>
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<td>26/27th Feb</td>
<td>State Principals Conference - Brisbane - Jamie Away</td>
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<td>4th Mar</td>
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<td>19th Mar</td>
<td>Band 5 Principals Meeting - Jamie Away</td>
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<td>27th Mar</td>
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