Celebrating our successes

As discussed during the P&C meeting in week 1, the students at Mistake Creek SS have been achieving some great results that are worthy of being shared:

- **Reading has increased by an average of 7.5 levels** (PM & Probe) from Semester 2 2013 to Semester 2 2014 for all students in years Prep to Year 6.
- **91%** of students in P-6 are achieving a **C grade or higher in English** (regional benchmark is > 85% achieving a C or higher).
- **100%** of students in P-6 are achieving a **B grade or higher in Maths** (regional benchmark is >85% achieving a C or higher).
- **100%** of students in P-6 are achieving a **B grade or higher in Science** (regional benchmarks is >85% achieving a C or higher).
- **Spelling results** have increased on average **2.75 levels** per student over 1 year (according to Words Their Way diagnostic spelling analysis tool). Benchmark increases are set at 1 level per year in CQ.
- **Average stanine of 7.8 in PAT-Reading (Comprehensions) diagnostic data** for T 3 2014 Yrs 2-6, an increase from 4.8 in Term 1 2013.
- **Average stanine of 7 in PAT-Maths diagnostic data** for T 3 2014 Yrs 2-6, an increase from 4 in Term 1 2013. The most notable area for increase were in the number strand.

Enrolments for 2015

We are now taking enrolments for the 2015 school year. I would encourage anyone who is considering moving to the area, changing schools or starting Prep, to contact us ASAP.

If you would like to come and have a look at our school, please get in touch with us for an appointment. At this stage our projected numbers will stay the same 2015 with 2 students leaving us in 2014 and 2 new Prep students starting.
**Audits at MCSS!**

On Monday 27th October, Mistake Creek State School will undergo a Teaching and Learning Audit and a Discipline Audit. This is a projected numbers will

Teaching and Learning Audits are conducted in every Queensland state school to provide quality feedback on how the school is performing against key standards and to inform school planning processes. During the audit, an independent, experienced school principal visits the school to collect a range of data and information about school practices, programs and procedures.

Discipline Audits provide school leaders with an opportunity to acknowledge positive approaches to school discipline and opportunities for improvement.

It is possible to receive a phone call from the auditor asking questions about the school. The auditor’s name is Kevin Wager. Please answer all of his questions to the best of your ability. He will be speaking with members of the P&C Executive, students, and all members of the staff.

These audits are an excellent opportunity to celebrate our successes and find out what we can do to continue on our pursuit of excellence at Mistake Creek State School! Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school.

**Thank you, Clermont Library!**

The Clermont Library gave Mistake Creek State School a huge pile of books (approximately 100) of various genres including fiction, non-fiction for little and big kids. We were thrilled to receive this wonderful addition to our library. The students of MCSS will definitely enjoy reading them! Thank you again!

**Responsible Behaviour Update**

We try our best and don’t give up! That’s what Resilience means to us at Mistake Creek State School!

We have talked about how we can be resilient by not giving up when we are stuck on a tricky question during a test or when we slip and fall on the playground. The students have drawn pictures and shared stories of times in their lives when they have been resilient.

Please spend some time discussing what being resilience might look like at home!

**Our Improvement Agenda**

In the final countdown to the year end, it is important as educators, parents and students that we don’t lose focus on our goal this year: improvement in Reading, Writing and Mathematics (number

Earlier this year I provide every family with a snapshot of our Improvement Agenda and wanted to provide a quick refresher on what we are focused on at Mistake Creek. By having high and attainable benchmarks, high expectations, we have been able to reach a great deal of our goals that were established way back in January.

Even on the busiest of school days, we work hard to ensure every child: Reads,Writes, Spells and Counts EVERYDAY!
Reading Benchmarks

Benchmarks give an idea of the approximate level of reading that a child should be on for each Term. Once students complete PM Level 30, they go on to Probe Reading Levels which are matched to their age.

![PM Reading Level Benchmarks](image)

Warm regards,

Jonas Shantz
Teaching Principal

Curriculum Update

English

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years: P-2</th>
<th>Years: 3-4</th>
<th>Years: 6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Responding Persuasively to Narratives</strong></td>
<td><strong>Exploring personal experiences through events</strong></td>
<td><strong>Persuading through motivational speeches</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students read, view and listen to a variety of literary texts to explore how stereotypes are used to persuade audiences. They compare how the representations of a character are depicted differently in two publications of the same story and give reasons for a particular preference.</td>
<td>Students read and listen to written and spoken literary and informative texts to identify the way authors portray experiences of an event. They use comprehension strategies to build literal and inferred meaning and make interpretations about a literary text.</td>
<td>Students will examine how language is used to persuade in famous motivational speeches from political and cultural (arts and sports) contexts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Exploring plot and characterisation in stories</strong></td>
<td><strong>Exploring a quest novel</strong></td>
<td><strong>Exploring literary texts by the same author</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students explore a variety of picture books to explore how stories use plot and characterisation to entertain and engage an audience.</td>
<td>Students read and analyse a quest novel.</td>
<td>Students listen to and read novels by the same author to identify language choices and author strategies used to influence the reader. They will compare two novels by the same author to identify aspects of author style.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Maths

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prep</th>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Year 4</th>
<th>Year 6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Observation</strong></td>
<td><strong>Written</strong></td>
<td><strong>Short answer question</strong></td>
<td><strong>Short answer question</strong></td>
<td><strong>Written</strong></td>
<td><strong>Written</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crazy cards</td>
<td>Thinking about addition and subtraction</td>
<td>Solving addition and subtraction problems</td>
<td>Solving problems involving multiplication</td>
<td>Data Analysis</td>
<td>Is the game ‘Dice difference’ fair?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students will create sets of playing cards with each student representing a number to ten or beyond in a variety of ways. (including the numeral, name and picture)</td>
<td>To represent knowledge of addition and subtraction in different ways.</td>
<td>To solve simple addition and subtraction problems using a range of strategies.</td>
<td>To solve problems using efficient strategies for multiplication.</td>
<td>To define the different methods for data collection and representation, and evaluate their effectiveness. Construct data displays from given or collected data.</td>
<td>To apply knowledge of chance events, expected and observed frequencies to develop arguments and improve game fairness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Observation</strong></td>
<td><strong>Written</strong></td>
<td><strong>Short answer question</strong></td>
<td><strong>Deadly decimals</strong></td>
<td><strong>Short answer question</strong></td>
<td><strong>Short answer question</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will it? Won’t it? Might it?</td>
<td>To classify outcomes of simple familiar events.</td>
<td>To demonstrate and explain the connections between fractions and decimals (to hundredths).</td>
<td>Deadly decimals</td>
<td>To demonstrate and explain the connections between fractions and decimals (to hundredths).</td>
<td>To demonstrate and explain the connections between fractions and decimals (to hundredths).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Science

**Physical Sciences - Gadgets and Gizmos**

In this unit of work students explore, construct and describe gadgets and gizmos. Energy transfer and transformation will be investigated and energy issues facing society discussed.

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**Geography & History**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geography</th>
<th>History</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Years P-2</strong></td>
<td><strong>Years P-2</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caring for Special Places</td>
<td>Exploring my local community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Years 3 - 4</strong></td>
<td><strong>Years 3 - 4</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protecting Places and Managing Resources</td>
<td>Exploring the history of people in the local community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Years 6</strong></td>
<td><strong>Years 6</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living in Places</td>
<td>Investigating the diversity of people in Australia and other societies (China)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Reading strategies to try at home**

**Strategy: Tune in to interesting words**

When children learn to **tune in to interesting words**, they build word awareness and the understanding of words. This leaves them with “thinking power” in their brain to comprehend and make meaning of what is read. Have you ever heard a new word, looked it up, and then repeated it often to remember it? Students who **tune in to interesting words** expand their vocabulary by focusing on these new words and their meaning. By looking for words that are interesting and unique, children not only increase their vocabulary, but they also enhance their comprehension. A child must have multiple exposures to a word in order for it to become a part of his/her vocabulary.

**How can you help your child with this strategy at home?**

1. Ask your child to tell you about his/her word collector at school. The word collector is a form that allows your child to keep track of interesting words found in books he/she is reading. Create a word collector at home to hang on the refrigerator or to keep in a special place.
2. When your child is reading or you are reading to your child, ask your child to find three interesting words. Have your child write these words down and talk about the meaning of these words. See if anyone in your family is able to use the words in a sentence. Add these words to your family word collector.
3. Encourage your child to find interesting words when watching TV or in daily conversation. When tuning in to an interesting word, help your child understand the word and then add it to the family word collector.
4. As always, modelling is a wonderful way to spark interest in children. When you are reading a magazine, newspaper, or book, tune into an interesting word and discuss it with your child. Explain that even adult readers **tune into interesting words** to better understand text.

*Thank you for your continued support at home!*

*Ideas and strategies are taken from: The CAFE Book, written by Gail Boushey & Joan Moser*

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**Playgroup & Prep Transition**

Please find the most current information re: Playgroup/RAFS/Prep Transition Days for Term 4. Please continue to refer to the most recent newsletter for accurate information.

**1) all non-school age children + Distance Ed children + RAFS Visits**

We will still run our RAFS Playgroup every term. This will be open to all non-school aged children and distance/home schooled children.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Helpers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 27th November 8:30-12</td>
<td>All parents welcome</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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*Mistake Creek State School – eNewsletter* 

4
(2) students starting Prep in 2015 & 2016
This playgroup is open to students entering Prep in 2015 and 2016 only. As this will be more structured, we kindly ask that all other children not join in the activities. Our theme for this term will be Making Friends!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Parent Helpers</th>
<th>Parent Helpers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 30th October (week 4)</td>
<td>Loretta</td>
<td>Renee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 13th November (week 6)</td>
<td>Rhiannon</td>
<td>Bindy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 27th November (week 8)</td>
<td>RAFS</td>
<td>all parents welcome</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(3) Prep Transition for 2015
Prep transition is for students beginning school in January. No parent helpers will be required. Thursday 23rd October (wk 3), Thursday 6th November (wk 5), Thursday 20th November (wk 7), Thursday 4th December (wk 9)

School & Community

Conveyance Committee Meeting
When: Wednesday 3rd December (tentatively)
at Mistake Creek State School - Classroom
Time: 2:00-2:30

P&C Meeting
When: Wednesday 3rd December (tentatively)
at Mistake Creek State School - Classroom
Time: 2:30-3:15

Melbourne Cup
Tuesday 4th November
at Mistake Creek State School – Undercover area
Hosted by the P&C
Commencing at 10:30am
(see flyer for details)

Round Table for Isaac Council
When: Tuesday 11th November
at Mistake Creek State School – Undercover area
Time: 10:00 - 2:30
(see flyer for details)

Cricket Day
When: Saturday 13th December
At Mistake Creek State School – undercover area
*More information to follow*
Health and Wellbeing

Have you read the Mistake Creek State School’s Learning and Wellbeing plan? Copies of it are available in the school office and on our website under the ‘Support and resources’ menu at www.MistakeCreekSS.eq.edu.au

Top tips to improve your family’s health and happiness

Have fun
It sounds simple, but stop and think: when was the last time you had fun together? Let down your hair and do something silly as a family. Sit down and ask everyone for ideas, write them all down - and start working your way through the list.

Eat together
One of the most important things we can do as a family, is often one that many of us neglect. The family meal is no longer a regular event in most families but it’s a vital part of bonding. Set regular meal times, even if it’s only a couple of nights a week. Sitting down together, enjoying a meal and chatting is vital.

Exercise together
Fit families are happy and healthy families. Go out on a family bike ride, run around the park together, play tennis together - find something you love, and do it together.

Cook as a family
Whether it’s whipping up a batch of cupcakes, tossing a salad or making dinner together, cooking is a great way to instil healthy food values in your children and help them learn valuable life skills.

Praise positive behaviour
Often we are so busy correcting bad behaviour that the good stuff goes unnoticed. Take the time to notice, comment on and reward good behaviour - in children AND spouses.

Read together
Every night should be family reading night. When they’re young, read to your children at bedtime, but, as they get older - they can start to read to you. But don't just save bedtime for book time. Make reading together a pleasurable pastime.

Get outdoors
The best mood-buster is to get outdoors. Getting out helps your body get some much-needed vitamin D - and is essential for mood-maintenance. Go for a walk, a picnic in the park, a swim at the beach or just go lie on the grass in your yard gazing up at the clouds.

Say thank you
Don't take each other for granted - when someone does something nice look them in the eye, smile and say "Thank you". A simple acknowledgement that you appreciate what someone has done benefits everyone.

Love each other
It’s often said that the best thing that parents can do for their children is love each other and that’s true. Having happy role models who genuinely like and admire each other models positive behaviour for children’s future relationships. So make sure your kids see their parents be kind and affectionate to each other - regularly.

Laugh together
You’ve heard that laughter is the best medicine - and it's true! Laughter has a range of benefits for our health and wellbeing. So do what it takes to have a laugh. Family joke night, Friday Funny Films, watch a sit-com together - or classic funny cartoons such as Tom and Jerry. Just do what it takes to have a giggle, a chuckle or a real belly laugh together.

Be kind
Before saying anything to anyone think "Is it true? Is it necessary? Is it kind?" Be kind to your family, your friends, and, most importantly - yourself.

How to be kind:
• be a good listener
• be present
• be happy and joyful
• be polite
• smile

Source: Linda Drummond, for kidspot
## Term 4 Calendar

Please note that this Calendar is accurate to the best of our knowledge. All items are subject to change without notice.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>3</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Student Free Day</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Prep-Transition Day #1</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mrs Martyn teaches</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Teaching &amp; Learning Audit</td>
<td>Discipline Audit</td>
<td>PRE-PREP Playgroup</td>
<td>Mrs Martyn teaches</td>
<td>Mr Shantz Away</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mrs Martyn teaches</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mr Shantz Away</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>3 NOVEMBER</td>
<td>4 Melbourne Cup</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Off Road Drama at Kilcummin SS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>PRE-PREP Playgroup</td>
<td>Mrs Martyn teaches</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mrs Martyn teaches</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mr Shantz Away</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Prep-Transition Day #3</td>
<td>Finance, HR &amp; WHS Audit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mrs Martyn teaches</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Swimming Carnival</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ALL AGES Playgroup (RAFS)</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mrs Martyn teaches</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>1 DECEMBER</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3 Conveyance Committee and P&amp;C Meeting</td>
<td>4 Prep-Transition Day #4</td>
<td>Mrs Martyn teaches</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mrs Martyn teaches</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mrs Martyn teaches</td>
<td>(no swimming)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mail Service 627, 6652 Clermont-Alpha Rd., Clermont QLD 4721
Tel. (07) 4983 5335 Fax (07) 4983 5457 Mob. 0477 383 298
www.MistakeCreekSS.eq.edu.au
In pursuit of excellence.