What a whirl-wind of excitement at MCSS!

from the Principal’s desk.

When I was told that Term 4 was ‘full on’ I had an idea in my mind as to what to expect however I was mistaken. This term has been full of swimming, excursions, on-site events, orientations, special visits and celebrations. Thank you for your patience and understanding as I settle into my role as Principal. I realise that I’ve made a few slip-ups along the way as the learning curve seems to be quite steep at times however I always endeavor to move forward. One of these endeavors is to communicate more frequently with emails. As information comes to me, I will pass it along ASAP. Can I please ask in return that if you are unsure of anything or need clarification about something that you do not hesitate to contact the school or ring my mobile.

STAFFING UPDATES & CHANGES:

Glenys Finlayson our French LOTE teacher sadly will be leaving us at the end of the year. We are very happy for her as she has been appointed as a permanent teacher at Kilcummin State School starting 2014. Glenys has been a wonderful asset to MCSS and will be greatly missed by students and staff alike. We wish her great success at Kilcummin and look forward to still being able to still see her around Clermont!

With Glenys’ departure, Clermont State and Clermont State High will be switching the LOTE language to Japanese from 2014 onwards. After much deliberation and conversations, Mistake Creek will also switch to Japanese in order to best prepare our students for their secondary education.

Now that Dave has settled into Mistake Creek, his jobs around the school have changed slightly. Dave has discovered that he really enjoys interacting with students and helping out in the classroom. Tanya has kindly offered to swap some of her TA hours with Dave’s grounds keeping hours so that he can assist with classroom activities each day.

APPRECIATION

I am continually amazed by the support and dedication that the P&C demonstrates. Can I sincerely express my gratitude and appreciation for the work that everyone did for Melbourne Cup Day and the Angel Flight Trailblazers Visit. The food was delicious, the decorations were tasteful and carefully thought out and the helpfulness of everyone was extraordinary.

Thank you again for organising and taking care of everything involved with these events. The students and community all benefit from your hard work.

Jonas Shantz
Teaching Principal
Curriculum Update

NEW TIMETABLE TIMES FOR 2014

A new timetable (see below) will come into effect at the start of 2014. According to research, primary aged students learn best in the morning, following some brief physical activity. At Mistake Creek State School, students will participate in 30 minutes of Smart Moves which will be comprised of a sport or game to get the heart rate up. This will be followed by a solid 2h learning session, only stopping for a Brain Break around 10AM. The Brain Break is a chance to use the toilet, get a drink of water and eat either a piece of fresh fruit or vegetable. The Brain Break is meant to sustain learning through a boost of nutritional energy before returning directly to work.

Middle and last sessions have been shortened to 70 minutes. Attention spans often diminish in the afternoon hence, shortening the learning time that takes place.

All minimum time allocations for each subject, as mandated by Education Queensland, have been reached or exceeded.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Daily Schedule</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30</td>
<td>Smart Moves (30 min)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00</td>
<td>Morning Session (55 min)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:55</td>
<td>Fruit Snack (10 min)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:05</td>
<td>Morning Session continued (55 min)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00</td>
<td>1st Break (45 min)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:40</td>
<td>Middle Session (70 min)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:50</td>
<td>2nd Break (30 min)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:20</td>
<td>Last Session (70 min)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:30</td>
<td>Home Time</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

THRASS IMPLEMENTATION FOR 2014

THRASS stands for Teaching Handwriting Reading and Spelling Skills. At Mistake Creek, will be returning to this tried and tested approach phonics as it is particularly beneficial in multi-age classrooms. Mrs Martyn, Hayley and Mr Shantz attended a 2 day training of THRASS and found it very informative and instantly recognised how it could be applied at MCSS as it transcends ages, programs and subjects.

Some implementation has already started with the full implementation planned for 2014. Early next year, there will also be a session for parents that will provide information about the program and how students can be supported at home.

Information about THRASS:

THRASS is a phonographic approach phonics and spelling which says that a sound (phoneme) is represented by letters (graphemes). For example the /e/ sound can be represented by ‘e’ (bed) and ‘ea’ (bread).

The THRASS chart has a consonant and a vowel chart. It separates each phoneme (sound) into sections and has a visual representation for each sound and corresponding spelling choice. For instance the /j/ sound as in jam can be depicted by the graphemes (spelling choice) j (jam), g (giant), ge (cage), dge (bridge). With training and exposure to these spelling choices, students can become more independent with spelling, reading and writing.

If you’d like more information right now, please visit the official website at www.thrass.com.au.

PRE-PREP ORIENTATION DAYS

Last week we were lucky to have our 2 future prep students join us on Tuesday & Thursday. They were very excited to be coming to school for the first time and we were all excited to have them here! The older students made them feel very welcomed by including them in games and activities, showing them around and demonstrating school routines by setting good examples. Cooper and Harriet practiced their writing skills in English and sorting and patterning in Maths among many other exciting activities. We can’t wait until you are part of school every day!
School Community News

RAFS PLAYGROUP VISIT
On Thursday 24th October, we had Mums and their littlies visit our school from the local community, for a day of Playgroup. The RAFS Girls from Emerald supplied all the fun and games for the day.

We invited school age children from distance education in the area to be a part of a normal school day with Mistake Creek students. We had a huge class compared to normal, an extra 7 students. All kids big and small had a fantastic day and the Mums had a great day catching up as well.

The RAFS Girls said it is the biggest turn out they have had here at Mistake Creek. We would like to thank all who participated and we look forward to seeing everybody again in future events.

SUNGLASSES DAY
Friday the 8th was National Sunglasses day. The kids all wore their coolest sunnies to show their awareness of keeping our eyes safe from the sun.

MELBOURNE CUP 2013
The race that stops the nation..........

Mistake Creek SS P & C hosted a day of fun and games for the community in aide of the Breast Cancer Foundation and Prostate Cancer Foundation.

There was bubbly on arrival, a little gambling, and a lot of friendly, familiar faces to celebrate the day. Lunch was absolutely amazing with a spread of scrumptious food and a dollar coin donation which was donated to the above funds. Everyone looked their best all frocked up and had an amazing day which rolled into the evening. We would like to thank everyone for coming and their donations.
REMEMBRANCE DAY

As Texas rose the flag to half-mast, all stood quietly under our flag for a minute silence to remember those who fought for us. With our heads held high we then sang the national anthem.
Lest we forget.

TRAILBLAZERS VISIT

We were very grateful to hear that the Trailblazers were coming to our school to visit the kids.

All the cars started to rock up about 8.00am, breaky was ready to roll (superbly prepared by our wonderful P & C) and the kids were very excited to see all the visitors and fancy cars that were to come.

As the morning moved on after everyone had enjoyed a beautiful breakfast the entertainment began. Everyone gathered round and our very special guest Tania Kernehan started off the show with an introduction of the Trailblazers and Angel Flight and what they are all about. The trailblazers “ Resident” band, NED & THE KELLY’S played a song for the kids called “Big Bad Bushranger”. The kids joined in with the chorus which they really enjoyed.

Once the song was finished it was our turn. Our little choir of 11 sang a Slim Dusty song called “Duncan”, as I accompanied the kids on my guitar they sang and grooved to the old country classic. The applause was enormous as the kids finished the song and took a bow. Tania Kernaghan who was our MC for the morning quoted that it was “not politically correct but very refreshing to hear a Slim Dusty song especially from such young children”. All our visitors thought that the entertainment was over, but it was only just beginning.

The kids took turns in reading their stories that they had written in class and showing off their technology that they had built. We also sang two other songs; Come Along to the Goldfields (The whoop whoop song), and the wimba way song from The Lion King. Once again the crowd was amazed at how talented our kids were.
Our brother Trio “The Benney Boys” put on a whip cracking show which was very entertaining, once again showing off huge talent in such a small school.

Once all the entertainment was over, we were presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Trailblazers to hang on our office wall.

Everyone mingled and swapped stories of their travels and eventually started packing up and heading out onto their next destination “Degulla”, for lunch.

We were very grateful and privileged to have hosted this great cause, we hope to see the Trailblazers again next year.
Update: Parent & Citizens Association

**Generator update:** Thanks to the work of Noel Goodwin, we have made a decision about the generator that will be purchased for the school. Hayley has been working with the department to arrange its purchase and delivery. If you would like to know any technical specifications of the generator, Noel is probably the best man to ask! Thanks, Noel☺

**Rain water tank:** Another huge thank you to the P&C (with special mention of Bellsy) who have purchased a 20 000 liter rainwater tank for behind the library. This should ensure that we have ample water during the dry seasons of the future. Installation of the new tank is planned for the very near future.

**Working Bee:** Due to the busy nature of Term 4 and general feedback from all the families, it was unanimously decided to postpone the Working Bee until further notice. There are no pressing jobs to be completed. The little bits of rubbish that were around the place have been removed thanks to Ross Martyn, Shane Benney and Bugsy __________.

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**MCSS Term 4 Planner 2013**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td>18th November</td>
<td>19th</td>
<td>20th</td>
<td>21st</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2014 Pre-Prep Orientation #2 (Mrs Martyn)</td>
<td>Pre-Prep Orientation #2 (Mr Shantz)</td>
<td>SWIMMING CANCELLED (normal school day)</td>
<td>Swimming Carnival with St Josephs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>25th</td>
<td>26th</td>
<td>27th</td>
<td>28th</td>
<td>29th</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2014 Pre-Prep Orientation #3</td>
<td>Pre-Prep Orientation #3</td>
<td>Swimming Music Instrumental (Clermont)</td>
<td>(Mrs Martyn)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>2nd December</td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>4th</td>
<td>5th</td>
<td>6th</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2014 Pre-Prep Orientation #4</td>
<td>Pre-Prep Orientation #4</td>
<td>Swimming Music Instrumental (Clermont)</td>
<td>Mrs Martyn Away</td>
<td>Mr Sharp - catch-up lesson for Music &amp; Instrumental</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>9th</td>
<td>Report Cards Go Home</td>
<td>10th</td>
<td>11th</td>
<td>12th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Report Cards Go Home</td>
<td>Report Cards Go Home</td>
<td>Swimming Music Instrumental (Clermont)</td>
<td>Christmas Concert (Mrs Martyn)</td>
<td>Last day of school 2013 ☺</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Term Planner is subject to change without notice; however every attempt to communicate changes will be made.

The reason we’re all here – the students!