From the Principal

Welcome back to school everyone! I hope you had a wonderful Christmas and New Year and we look forward to working closely with you throughout the year.

Our two areas of focus this year are attendance and reading. The teachers spent the student free days engaged in a variety of different professional development activities ranging from completing their first aid/ CPR training to visiting Bowen State School to engage in learning based around students with disabilities. All the teachers are committed to your child’s learning and look forward to working together with you as part of a team to achieve the best possible educational outcomes for your child.

We welcome new staff to our school this year. We welcome Mrs Leanne Hubbert who is teaching the Year 1 / 2 class. Leanne transferred to our school from Urangan Point and has settled in nicely to our school. We also welcome Mrs Sonya Pott who will be one of the teacher aides in Mrs Hubbert’s class and Mrs Jackie Cristolli who will be the teacher aide in Mrs Florence’s class.

What a wonderful team we have here at Merinda State School.

Term Overview

I have included a term overview for Term 1 this year. I have included activities that we know will be happening this term. Please keep this planner handy (perhaps on the fridge) and use as you wish. When dates appear in the school newsletter please add them to your Term Overview.

Welcome back BBQ and Information Night

We will be having our welcome back BBQ and Information Night on the Friday of week 3, starting at 5:30pm. The P&C will be providing a dinner BBQ for this event. A note will be coming home shortly outlining the procedure for ordering for the night. We hope to see you there.

Swimming

Swimming will again be occurring this term, starting week 3. All children from Prep to Year 7 will be involved with swimming lessons with our Physical Education Teacher, Mrs Farley. If you would like to assist as a parent helper during the Swimming lessons, that would be of great assistance.

Please contact Miss Collins (Kara) at the school to express your interest in helping.

Tuckshop

School tuckshop will not commence until week 3 of the term to allow time for setting up and menu alterations. Please ensure your child has a lunchbox of healthy sustaining food to last them throughout the day.

Dance Fever

Last year, Mrs Kristy Pethers (Dance / Music Teacher) and Mrs Mary Anne Cowan (P&C President), visited Bowen State School for a presentation of the Dance Fever program. It was decided that the school and P&C would support this program in 2014. More information will come out soon about this program.

Chaplain Report

I trust everyone has had a great start to 2014. Back to school, cyclone and all. It has been great getting to know the new students to our school and catching up with those returning from a refreshing break. This year I will be sharing some practical “Feel Good” strategies that we can all benefit from.

Feeling good starts with a decision. It is a decision you might have to make repeatedly, maybe hourly at first. You must decide that you WILL FEEL GOOD, regardless of what is going on in your life. You must decide that it is important to feel good and that you will not tolerate anything less than feeling good. You have one life and the choice between feeling good or feeling negative. Why would you choose to feel negative if you could feel good instead? Choose to take responsibility for how you feel! Choose to feel good regardless of where you are, who you are with and what your circumstances are. You can always choose to feel good in any situation. Be strong willed about feeling good! Viktor Frankl was a Jewish psychiatrist who lived through the Second World War. He endured years of tremendous hardship and horror in the Nazi death camps. During this time, he developed an incredible insight into humanity. One of his remarkable revelations was that, as a human being, you always have a choice. There are times when you are not able to choose your circumstances, but you can ALWAYS choose how you feel in and about those circumstances.

Every situation you are in offers a choice – you can always choose your thoughts, your attitudes and your feelings. Just like Viktor Frankl chose to find meaning in the midst of unspeakable horror, you also can choose to find meaning in your life, ensuring you feel good. (The Naked Truth About You, your path to an extraodinary life; Elize Hattin)

Have an awesome week ahead! If you have a need or just want to talk to someone, come chat to chappy!

Prep

First week Celebrations!

Wow! What a busy and exciting week – cyclone and all! We definitely will not forget your first week of Prep in 2014. I am very proud of how well our class has settled into the new routine. The mornings have been pleasant with lots of play experiences with friends, mums and dads. I am sure this will continue as we move into homework transition over the coming week. During week 2 I will continue our assessments and review each child individually so we can map out exactly where their learning needs are and goals for this term - More about goal setting in the not too distant future. Today our BEE (Bring Everyday Everywhere) case will go home. Inside this case you will find lots of notes, information and a BEE book for homework practise. Please feel welcome to come chat to me about anything you are unsure of or need further clarification. Parents are welcome to stay during homework centre to assist with activities this week. Week 3 we will commence whole school groups for reading and spelling. Please check the timetable in the room or on our class blog @ mrsptethers.edublogs.org for group times and photos.

Boys and girls – Keep practising using your duck hands and speaking in speech sounds d/u/ck, p/a/n, s/i/p, s/i/t, p/a/n/t/s.

Congratulations to each of you as I believe everyone has either passed or is very close to their first 20 dojo points. Wowee! Super learners and super listeners in Prep!

Mrs P

Yr 1-2

Yr 1-2 Wise Little Owls

Well we have had an amazing week with getting to know each other and looking after our new students in class. The class has completed an “All About Me” backpack which holds some unique things about us inside! We will look at these at the end of the year to see how much we have grown and how our work has improved over the year. In maths this week, we have been learning about months of the year, days of the week and growing patterns. During literacy, we have been learning about emotions in picture books and words that express feelings. Stay safe and see you all next week!

Felicity Pethers

Eathan Jones

Prep, Yr 3-4

Congratulations on a fantastic first week back! It was great to see everyone eager to learn and help make our new class members feel welcome. I am really looking forward to an exciting year ahead, filled with lots of learning, memories and friendships. There are lots of new and fantastic programs happening this year that I am very much looking forward to integrating into my classroom teaching. Keen netballers or kids in Years 3-7 who would like to get active at lunchtime are encouraged to sign up for netball training and games. There will be a sign-up sheet for both boys and girls from the Years 3-4 and 5-7 class to put their name on if they’re interested. I look forward to teaching you the rules of netball and helping you develop a range of skills whilst having lots of fun!

Hayley Webb

and Jorjie Connell

Toby Jameson

Yr 5-7

Welcome back for another year in the 5/6/7 classroom. This year the children in Year 5/6/7 have two teachers. They have Mrs Cannell on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. They then have Mrs Tully on Thursday and Friday. Don’t forget to check out our classroom blog, it is fantastic!

Children have homework starting this week.

Our class is focussing on Narratives first this term in English. So far children have learnt about plot development in the short stories the Hare and the Tortoise as well as, the Ant and the Grasshopper. This week children will be looking at the narrative Red Dog and the chapter Red Dog, Red Cat in particular.

We look forward to a wonderful week of learning

Mrs Tully and Mrs Cannell

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