A huge thank you to our P&C team for the Prep Working Bee last Sunday. Many of you may not be aware that I have studied and worked in the early years for the last 11 years, therefore I am extremely passionate about supporting the foundational years of learning.

In line with current research, I believe children must launch into learning in a positive way and meet with success early. If children are supported with a “flying start” they are likely to remain active confident learners throughout their entire schooling.

For the past three years I worked as a principal in Far North Queensland, where I had the privilege of launching some very successful literacy and numeracy programs. So great was the success of our programs, especially the reading program, Lakeland reached some of the highest literacy results in the cape and certainly in our cluster.

Over the next few months I am very excited to work alongside our dedicated early years teachers to launch a program that is tailored for each individual learner and supports parent involvement.

We are very excited about our new preps coming!

Warm regards

Matthew Silvester
NEWSLETTERS ARE A KEY COMMUNICATION TOOL

Not one form of communication fits all, so the school is keen to be adaptive to family needs. A hard copy of the newsletter is sent to the oldest student of each family. Unfortunately at this time we are unable to email the newsletter out to families. We are working to rectify this.

Did you know!
A shark can detect one part of blood in 100 million parts of water.
An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.
Bats always turn left when exiting a cave.

CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS

Prep News

Another two weeks has flown by and what has been happening at our end of the world? Firstly, a huge garden clean-up, courtesy of some fantastic P&C families. Just like a caterpillar emerging from its cocoon, here we are on the corner for the world to see. An extra special thank you goes to Blake, Jespar and Liam, for all the energy they put into raking the Prep yard helping it to look so clean and tidy. There is more to come, so stay tuned for the next episode of gardening adventures.

In the classroom we have continued working on our understanding of rhyme and even had a few attempts at writing some of our own rhymes in small groups. Some of our fine work is here to share.

*A unicorn walked to the park, he stayed all day until it was dark.
*A big brown horse was eating hay, he ate all night and he ate all day.
*There was a shark whose name was Mark.
*A big green croc was sitting near a rock, he was trying to eat some other croc’s meat.
*A big brown dog played with a frog.

Identifying, using and sharing rhyme is an important element to developing strong readers and writers. Please take opportunities to make and share rhymes with your child, even nonsense words are acceptable to help them understand the concept. So remember, any time is good for a rhyme, don’t be slow and give it a go.

In Maths we are still looking at counting, patterns and ordinal numbers. We have also started looking at the concept of numbers balancing. We have discussed what does it mean to balance something? We have also started looking at balancing items on balance scales. Next we will move onto how can we balance groups of items to even them out, thus making the groups equal?

It is with much excitement I can announce we have finished introducing all of our Jolly Phonics sounds. Now the real work begins with lots of practice and using all the sounds in many and various activities each and every day. Please encourage your child to use their understanding of sounds any time an opportunity presents itself; eg words on TV, in stories, books and magazines, signs in the environment and generally everywhere you go.

1/2

We continue to focus on questioning in our English Unit while also comparing stories to informative texts. The students are learning to become familiar with Powerpoint during our weekly hour sessions in the Computer Lab. They are to use this program to present their end of term assessment. If you also have this program at home, please allow your child the opportunity to “explore” it further.

In mathematics, we continue to enhance our knowledge of place value and partitioning. The Year 1 students are practising their subtraction fast facts, while the Year 2 students will begin to learn “trading” in addition.
The last two weeks have seen year 2/3 continue their journey into narratives, where they are learning about describing characters and scenes to paint a picture in their mind with words. Yesterday saw them begin to look at dialogue and how it makes a story more interesting. They looked at what is required for successful dialogue in a story. They have continued on with reading groups and are working well in these times. Spelling continues to be a focus each day. It really helps in learning their weekly spelling if they follow the suggested “Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check” process each night. Spelling needs to be completed each night and not just once for the week – please help your child with their spelling homework and check they are writing words correctly each time they practice. Reading aloud nightly to a parent or older sibling also helps improve reading ability. Homework is due on Fridays.

This week in Maths we have begun to look at trading in subtraction operations. This proved challenging for some, but with continued concentration and effort, we all will succeed. We have also looked at fractions being equal parts of something and naming fractions. Number has continued to be a focus. In Rapid Recall Routines we are focusing on Rainbow number facts and the times tables we have learnt; as well as space, measurement and time concepts.

In History, we are looking at how toys have changed over time – so if you have any olden day toys or games that your child could bring to share, we would appreciate it. Last week, many found out what a record player and a gramophone looked like – amazing to think that very few had seen an actual record!

We are also learning to use the PowerPoint program in our computer sessions and all are enjoying exploring what this program can do. We hope to publish a narrative using PowerPoint.

The class has been moving along with their recount writing skills and developing their knowledge of early Australia. It has been pleasing to see the effort that many of the year 4/5 class have been putting into learning their spelling - keep up the effort!! Just a reminder though that homework is due on Friday each week, so a gentle reminder for some would be great. Students who have questions that can't be answered at home are able to participate in a 20 minute year 4/5 homework help group that has been set up for a Thursday morning with Mrs Galloway. Year 4/5 have also been putting in time and effort to research a country. Great to see that some students have spent time in their lunch breaks seeking information in the library and on the computers for this task. If anyone has any small jars home they would be very welcome as we work our way through this term's science unit. Please check with your student that they have enough pencils, rubbers, glue, books, and felt pens. Many of these items are getting low.

Year 6/7

Year 7's are becoming experts in adding and subtracting all varieties of common fractions, while the 6's have been dividing by multiples of 10.

All students are orally presenting their character plan for the final assessment: a comic strip with a moral dilemma.

We having been studying the settlement of Nundah (Zion Hill) by German missionaries.
**HAPPY CAMPERS**

The time is fast approaching.
I have sent out a medical form and what to bring. Please ensure that the Medicare number is included on the form.

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**MUSIC NEWS**

**Instrumental Music News**

Please help your child to remember to bring their instrument and music on the day they have instrumental music (Monday or Tuesday). It is very difficult to improve at playing an instrument, if you do not bring one to play on!

Over the last two weeks the Monto Instrumental Community Ensemble have started learning the new piece “African Festival” arranged by Quincy Hilliard, Chuck Elledge and Bruce Pearson. We are continuing to work on “Meet the Flintstones” and “Star Wars”. I am particularly impressed by the ensemble’s use of dynamics (volume variations) in “Star Wars”.

Information about joining the instrumental music program in 2014 (year 4 and up) went home a fortnight ago. I will begin giving students a ‘trial’ on the instruments they are interested in towards the end of this term. If you have any questions about your child learning an instrument, please give me (Miss Hawkins) a call at the school or visit me before or after school - you can usually find me in the music room.

**Choir News**

I have decided to join the senior and junior choirs into a single massed choir. We will be rehearsing on Tuesday at lunch time (please note the change of days for 3-7 students). Students are welcome to eat their lunch outside the music room on Tuesdays to ensure they remember to come to rehearsal!

**Classroom Music**

The Prep class have been learning how to improvise (make up on the spot) four-beat rhythmic patterns using ta and ti-ti. We have been using the rhyme “I Had a Little Pig” to help with this.

The 1/2 class have been learning to play “Starlight” on the recorder. This song uses the notes C and A.

The 2/3 class have been learning to play “Hot Cross Buns” on the recorder. This song uses the notes G, A and B.

The 4/5 and 6/7 class have been learning to play “Down by the Station” on the recorder. This song uses the notes G, A and B. Some students are also learning to transpose this song to use the notes FGA and CDE. These classes are also learning to compose their own song for the recorder.

**Year 7 Graduation Performance**

The year 7 students will begin rehearsals for their graduation performance next Tuesday, 13th August in the school music room. As these rehearsals are after school, parental permission is required to participate. Please complete and return the form that was sent home yesterday.
PJ Day to fundraise for the 5/6/7 camp to Brisbane in the 1st week of September.

Even the teachers dressed up on Pyjama Day (only when they heard slaves were on offer!!!)

These were the lucky winners of the day. Mrs Hockey donated her slaves to Miss Hawkins. She has already put them to hard labour counting computers. Jackson the skeleton, Tia the cow and Tara with her fluffy Uggies, impressed the judges from the High School.

Our judges from the High School had a hard task judging the winners as all of the pyjamas were great!!

Big Day Out at the Shire Hall for all years 4 to 7 in the district.

Lauren teaching us about how different Surf Life Saving flags have different warnings.

Courtney, Savannah and Kalena had a fun time cooking lamb cutlets and a berry mousse.

Mrs Zumbansen taught us some table manners to surprise our parents with.

Lana and Kristal had a fun time cooking a chicken dish, Apple Crumble and Banana and Honey Smoothies.
Some fundraising events that we are involved in are:
Saturday 31st August – Manning the gates at the races. If you are able to volunteer an hour or two, please contact the office to put your name down.

Saturday 7th September – Family Afternoon – Our major fundraiser for the year. An afternoon of entertainment, fun and great food. Make sure you keep this date free. More info to come.

This year we are looking at forming a primary school team for the Mt Perry Dump Truck Pull. This is on the 7th September. Let Matt know if you are interested in supporting this as a parent and assist with transport.

Next meeting –
Thursday 15th August 7:30pm at the staffroom of Monto SS. Hope to see you there!

Donna
P&C President

Date Claimers:
Mt Perry Dump Truck Pull: 7th of September - details to be advised.
Monto Races: 31st of August - gate duties
Afternoon Tea fundraiser @ Monto High School for Monto Primary School: 7th of September.

ARTS COUNCIL
Attached to this newsletter is the payment envelope for our next Arts Council performance, *The Crazy Scientist Strikes Back*. It will be held on Friday, 30th August at the St Therese Hall. The cost is $6 per student or $15 per family and must be returned to school in the envelope provided by Monday 26th August. No payments will be accepted on the day of the performance. Envelopes must be signed by the student’s Parent or Caregiver allowing them to attend.

*In a science lab far far away, the temperature is about to rise as Richard Scholes shines in this bright new production about chemical, earth and space, and physical sciences!*

EDALIVE SOFTWARE OFFER

**Complete Learning Initiative - Huge savings on EdAlive software bundles**
EdAlive has announced the new Complete Learning Initiative (CLI) to give families the opportunity to use the same software at home that we have licences for use at school.

- 46 titles up to 95% off
- Incredible value bundles from $19.95
- Complete, consolidate or update your collection
- Fun learning for your child
- Free 3 month ZooWhiz Premium subscription for each child

**Please return your orders to the school by Next Friday 16 August 2013**
The leaflets have been handed out with this newsletter.
SPORTS NEWS

A huge congratulations to the Monto District Athletics team for their effort at the North Burnett Carnival yesterday. Many of our athletes were successful in getting a placing in their events, it was great to see the students challenging themselves and breaking their own PB’s in the events. Ethan Grubb (Mulgildie), Lailah Mitchell (St Therese) and Jessie Moscrop (Mulgildie) were awarded age Champions.

It was a great day overall and I would like to thank the parents that attended and especially thank those parents who gave up their spare car seats to assist our children to attend. The students’ behaviour was exceptional and they represented our district with respect and honour. It was a pleasure to be a part of the day.

Cheers
Miss Kingsman

PARADE AWARDS

Prep: Jackson Pailthorpe and Jay-Anna Morris—Demonstrating extra care and helpfulness to their classmates. Hugo Robertson—Sports Award from PE

Year 1: Liam Myles—For his extra effort in reading practice.

Year 2: Abigail Hampson—Taking extra care with the presentation of her work. John Pearson—Sports Award from PE

Year 3: Charlie Martin—Trying hard at improving handwriting. Sophie McLaughlan—For putting 100% effort into all activities.

Year 4: Chelsea Knight—100% effort into reading and writing everyday. Jespar Delaney O’Reilly—A great effort with staying on task and reducing chatter.

Year 5: Aimee Brown—100% effort into reading and writing everyday.

Year 6: Niwaa Patrick—Excellence and great effort in spelling.
MONTO ANNUAL RACE DAY
AUGUST 31ST, 2013
Gates open at 11:00am
5 Local Races
Book your Corporate Table for 8 at Monto Cattle and Country
(Be quick—Limited numbers)
Bus Service—PO starting at 11am/Duck Inn 11:10am
Licensed Bar — BBQ — Luncheon—“Fashions on the Field”
Great Family Afternoon—Support Country Racing
The Party goes on with a FREE BUS to the
FOOTBALL GROUNDS AFTER RACES—Support the Monto Roo’s in the
MAJOR SEMI FINALS—Live Band after Match at Sports Grounds!
“Local Community Groups Supporting Each Other”

POSTITON VACANT
A child minder is required for one morning a week, 6:15am—8:30am, for a local family. Duties include: before school organization, i.e. breakfast and safely walking them to school.
Please phone: 0431713715

DINNER UNDER THE STARS
2 COURSE DINNER
BAR RAFFLES
AUCTIONS ENTERTAINMENT
LINE DANCING

MONTO SHOWGROUNDS
FRIDAY OCTOBER 4TH—6PM

$20 ADULTS
$10 CHILDREN UNDER 12
GET YOUR TICKETS @ MONTO CATTLE & COUNTRY

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY
HELP RAISE FUNDS FOR UNDERPRIVILEGED KIDS

RIDGEHAVEN CHARITY BOWLS DAY
SATURDAY 17TH AUGUST
MONTO BOWLS CLUB—AIRPORT ROAD
1PM
A TEAM CONSISTS OF 4 PLAYERS WITH NO MORE THAN 2 BOWLERS OR NOMINATE YOURSELF AND WE WILL FIND YOU A TEAM
$7 GENTS  $6 LADIES
“NAME YOUR TEAM”
“DRESS IN A THEME”
NOMINATIONS DUE BY 12:30 ON THE DAY
PHONE MONTO BOWLS CLUB 41661331 OR PRIOR TO THE DAY PHONE RIDGEHAVEN 41661082
OR BOB KERR 41663642
A PLATE TO SHARE FOR AFTERNOON TEA WOULD BE MUCH APPRECIATED