Dear Parents/Carers

This week I, along with Mrs Thomas and Mrs Clarke, have had the privilege of accompanying the Yr 5/6/7s on their Brisbane camp.

Our experience started at Brisbane Port where we climbed to the top by the viewing platform and took in the most amazing view over the port. The students were amazed of how many cars are imported from overseas each day. We viewed 13,000 cars and we worked out that if an average car price was $40,000 we were looking at $520,000,000 worth of vehicles. WOW!

On Tuesday we ventured into the city and visited the Old Governor’s House and the Parliament House. Our guide explained that the government residential building was constructed to accommodate the first Governor of Queensland, Sir George Bowen, and his family. The students were fascinated by the grandeur of the building especially the chandeliers.

During the Parliament House visit, the students were given an opportunity to participate in a scripted role play debate. Topic: ‘English is More Important than Maths’. Nathan Q was the Speaker, Nathan N - Premier, Courtney - Minister, Molly - Leader of Opposition, Lana - Shadow Minister, Alexis - Clerk, Savannah - Government Whip and Zane the Opposition Leader. I’m sure the students will fill you in with the result.

So far I think the Science Museum is the winner. With exciting hands on and full body experiences incorporating robots, invisibility, mind control, holograms, and augmented reality, this is the one part of the excursion I’m sure the students will be raving about when they get home.

Tomorrow we’re off to the Planetarium and the Coca Cola factory. The students keep asking, “Can we have a taste test? Can we have a taste test?”

Well it’s 10:30pm, all I can hear is snoring and it’s not me. I had better get some ZZZs. Another day of adventure awaits us tomorrow. See you when we get back. The kids have been great, and we have had many wonderful comments from the public. Go Monto S.S.!!

Matthew Silvester
Principal
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 company in Taiwan makes dinnerware out of wheat, so you can eat your plate.
A shark can detect one part of blood in 100 million parts of water.
An average person laughs about 15 times a day.

AUDIT RESULTS

Last week teachers, teacher aides and myself participated in the Education Queensland Teaching & Learning Audit. I am very pleased to announce that the school received good results across all areas, with the staff receiving many positive commendations relating to the quality of teaching, learning and the systems in place across our school.

As a school we received significant gains and overall the experience was very positive.

I would personally like to thank all of the staff for the hard work and dedication that they show to our school and students, every day, not just during the audit.

Throughout the next six weeks I will discuss in detail the audit findings. The eight page document will be available on our school website at the end of this period. I will publish a link in the newsletter once it is available.

ARTS COUNCIL—CRAZY SCIENCE

Last Friday we had the people from Arts Council come to put on a show about Crazy Science. They showed us some cool experiments.

(Left: Mitch using a strong air current to hold the world)

One experiment was to demonstrate why whales and penguins don't freeze to death living in such a cold place. The scientist called upon Grace to assist in this experiment. Grace had to place her hand into the iced water, she said that it was very cold. Then she had to wrap her hand in the fat and do it again this time she said that she did not feel anything

(Right—Grace with her hand wrapped in fat)

There were many more exciting experiments that the scientist showed us, but the one that got the students all fired up and excited was the hurricane cannons. The canon was made out of a large bin and the Scientist filled them up with smoke and shot the students with balls of smoke.

The students really enjoyed this Arts Council and it was really worthwhile. From an educational perspective this was an excellent show. By the end of the show, many students were begging their teachers for more science.
CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS

Prep News

Well Spring has sprung and all the flowers in our flower bed are looking magnificent, courtesy of the P&C and their recent working bee.

In English we are continuing to work on all things rhyming, so please share any rhymes that you come across, at home, with your child. Hopefully by now they are beginning to find them for you. In Maths we have been looking at sharing, in particular the idea of fair sharing. So if we have 3 people and 9 cakes, everybody gets 3 each. However if the neighbour pops over what do we need to do for a fair share? Everybody can have 2 and the left over will need to be put away. That makes it fair because everybody has the same and no-one has more and no-one has less. Our science focus is still the weather. We even got to add some greyish clouds to our weather chart yesterday afternoon. So hopefully soon we will even be able to add some raindrops.

I will be sending home some phonics booklets to maintain our practice during the holidays. Keep an eye out for these in the next two weeks. Regular practice is required until all knowledge becomes automatic.

Year 1/2

The Year 1/2 troops continue to examine stories and informative texts, while putting together their “Powerpoint” presentations. We have decided to concentrate on the Gentoo Penguins for our presentations. The students have learnt about font styles, sizes and colours, moving text boxes, inserting pictures and slide transitions. We aim to type a brief summary of the Gentoo Penguins description, breeding, habitat, diet and conservation. We look forward to sharing the end products with you!

In maths, our main focus has been on money. We have looked at coins and notes, comparing their colours, pictures, sizes and value. The students have begun to count different amounts of money and have enjoyed “rubbing” coins and using the coin stamps to make up different amounts. Parents should seize any opportunity for their children to explore money further, as it can be a difficult concept for this age.

The Year 2 students have begun to look at addition with trading. All will benefit from more practice. Using money in real life situations helps students understand the concept.

Year 2/3

We have continued to work hard in the 2/3 classroom. In Maths we have been delving into division and sharing, as well as number patterns. We are familiar with the division sign and becoming familiar with the other terms which mean the same as divide (eg share). We are continuing our work on operations in addition and subtraction. In English we have finally begun to plan our own narrative, which we will publish on the computer.

Some of us are struggling to remember to bring your reading books and homework every Friday - please ask your child if he or she has their homework on a Friday morning. Could you also check if they need any supplies - like pencils, rubbers, glue etc. I’d appreciate it.

Year 4/5

The year 4/5 class are down a few this week but the rest of us are still working hard. We are looking forward to hearing all about the year fives' camping adventures next week when they return. Though we are hosting the remaining year 6/7s in our classroom this week, the year 4/5 students that are left are still busily working on their English assessment pieces.

A square number is.... check with your 4/5 student to see if they can tell you what a square number is or give you an example of one. This was one concept that we have gone over again in class as it showed up in a recent maths assessment as needing some extra attention. I would also like to congratulate the number of students who are achieving 100% on our Friday spelling post tests. Keep up the great work year 4/5!

Year 6/7

With most of the class at camp in Brisbane, with Mr Silvester and his helpers, life has been a little different here this week. The remaining students have worked with the 4/5 class whilst I have provided the rest of the class teachers with relief for them to work on school projects. I am enjoying meeting all of the students in the school. I only have Preps yet to meet on Friday and then I will have worked with every class. What a great experience.
**MUSIC NEWS**

**Instrumental Music News**

Students who are hiring a flute, clarinet, trumpet or cornet from the school this year will be required to purchase their own instrument to continue instrumental music study in 2014. Students beginning instrumental music in 2014 will be given priority for these school instruments. Students hiring more expensive instruments (eg. tenor / baritone saxophone, trombone, bassoon and French horn) will be able to continue to hire them from the school.

All students who started learning their instrument this year are required to participate in a Monday Lunch Time Band Rehearsal. Students who have been playing for longer than 12 months, but are unable to attend the Tuesday Evening Rehearsals are also required to attend this practice. Students who have a rehearsal on Monday and their lesson on Tuesday are allowed to keep their instrument in the music room overnight (but it must go home on Tuesday afternoon).

**Classroom Music**

The Prep class have each completed a four beat rhythmic composition using ta, ti-ti and za. They have performed their song for the class.

The 1/2 class are completing a sixteen beat rhythmic composition using ta, ti-ti, za, tika-tika and too. They will be performing this for the class in the upcoming weeks.

The 2/3 class are learning how to compose an eight beat song for the recorder using the notes G, A and B. They will begin their composing assessment once this activity is completed.

The 4/5 and 6/7 classes are working on their sixteen to thirty-two beat song for the recorder. All students must complete this activity using the notes G, A and B. The extension activity is to transpose their song to the notes F, G, A and then C, D and E.

**Choir**

The choir rehearses on Tuesday lunch times. It is important that all choir members remember to attend each rehearsal. We are continuing to practise ‘Rhythm of Life’ and ‘If You Dance’.

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**TUCKSHOP NEWS**

**Tuckshop Roster**

11 Sept  Karina Maketon  Amanda Fletcher
18 Sept  Leonie Quinn   Sue-Ellen Walk
Student Awards
Lilly McLaughlan (Prep) - Working extra hard at writing time
Mia Lazarus (Prep) - Working extra hard at writing time
Tristan Swallow (Prep) - A great effort with his writing
Taylor Boulton (Yr 2) — Having a go at trading sums in maths.
Will Myles (Yr1) Improved effort in his school work
Tully Delaney O’Reilly (Yr3) - Working consistently in maths
Tasha O’Sullivan (Yr3) - Working consistently in maths
Kurtis Rose (Yr4) - For being a good leader with younger students
Thomas McLaughlan (Yr5) - For putting in 100% effort with his homework
Daniel Phillips for thinking outside the square to solve problems
Zane Reti-Maketoni for his sense of humour and efforts in class

So far the news from our happy campers is all good. They are having a wonderful experience.

Last Friday was the Awesome Science Arts Council show. It was very noisy and lots of science tricks were shown to the kids, much to their amazement.
Some fundraising events that we are involved in are:
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 can assist with transport.
Next meeting –
Thursday 18th September 7:30pm at the staffroom of Monto SS. Hope to see you there!

Donna
P&C President

Date Claimers:
Afternoon Tea fundraiser @ Monto High School for Monto Primary School: 7th of September.

Monto (MCDC Inc) Playgroup is holding a Dress-up /Open day

Wednesday, 25th September from 9 am -12 pm
Monto Neighbourhood Centre
7 Huxley Street
Enquiries please call 4166 1733

Gold coin entry donation
Everyone come dressed as your favourite character
Prize for best dressed

Activities for kids include:
Sand pit, swings, arts and craft, games, face painting and Mundubbera Community Development Association’s “Reading Tent”

Bring & Buy Store (items accepted on the day before or earlier)
Sausage Sizzle and drinks for sale
Raffle
Half the proceeds raised goes to the Playgroup Children’s Foundation