Dear Families,

The staff at Monto State School would like to welcome you back! We trust you enjoyed the holidays and had a wonderful time with family and friends.

We have already got our ‘foot on the gas’ rolling into the 2014 year! We are very motivated to start a new school year, with new classes, and new programs rolling out.

During Term 1, 2014 a number of new research-based learning programs, already purchased, will be introduced across the school. Also, work is underway with launching our new whole school Individual Student Tracking and Assessment Program (I-STAP). This year we will continue to carefully monitor our students’ progress, discuss data and set clear goals.

During our pupil free day Megan Sinclair presented to the teachers the new Pat Maths and Pat Comprehension Assessment that will be used across the whole school to track numeracy development. Thank you Megan for this wonderful work and sacrificing many hours during your holiday to present a thorough presentation to the teachers. As a result testing will begin in week 3 across the school.

Parents you are the cornerstone to building a strong school community. We look forward to working with you during 2014, to help your children develop strong values and high educational outcomes.

Finally, I expect that all Monto students are safe and happy learners. If at any time you are feeling that this is not occurring for your child, please make an appointment with the classroom teacher or myself to discuss and work through your concerns.

Warm regards

Matt 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.

Facts

*A sneeze travels out your mouth at over 160km/h.*

*About 3000 years ago, most Egyptians died by the time they were 30.*

CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS

Prep/Yr1

Welcome to a new year for everyone and especially to all our new Prep families. This year Prep will be operating from the main school building with Year Ones in the class also. It has been very useful for Mrs Shultz and myself to have some experienced hands to help us out in the establishing of routines and line up procedures.

This term will be a very busy one with English, Maths, Science, History, Geography, Music, Religion and Swimming for the Year Ones as well. This week we have already had our first visit to the Music room for a lesson with Miss Hawkins, and next week sees the beginning of swimming and religion lessons for the Year Ones in our class. The Year Ones will join with Mrs Sinclair’s Yr 1/2 class for both of these lessons. If you do not wish your child to attend Religion on a Wednesday please make sure the office is aware of your family’s decision. Swimming will again be on a Thursday after morning tea.

**Text books and supplies.** If you have not already ordered or sent these into to school can you please do so as soon as possible. Also any texts purchased through the office last year cannot be given to the children until completely paid for. We do need to start using many of these items to assist your child’s learning.

**Family Helpers.** If any parents or other members of the family have any time to spare we would really appreciate any support or time you have available. Even if you can only spare a half an hour it will be put to good use. Young children really love it when their Mum, Dad or Nanny come to school for a visit. Things you may be able to help out with include, listening to reading, reading a story, working with the puzzles, helping with threading, playing with the playdough, listening to sight words, doing some counting or sorting activities or even just changing home readers. If you have any time please let me know and we can find something you will enjoy.

Beginning the new school year can be stressful for all children until they settle into a new routine. If you or your child has any concerns please come and see me to make the transition from home to school as smooth as possible. Carol Scott
Welcome Back!
Wow, the Year 1/2 class is an enthusiastic bunch already – which is good, as we have a lot of work to get through this term.

In our English Unit, the students will be reading and viewing the elements of persuasion in a range of multimodal texts. They will be required to create a spoken response to one of these texts. They will then publish their work digitally and present it to their peers. Another major focus for the Year 1s will be handwriting and using the red and blue lines correctly. The Year 2s will begin using entries and exits.

In Maths, students will begin the term focusing on number and place value. This will include sequencing numbers, continuing number patterns and basic addition/subtraction.

Please read next fortnight’s newsletter for a brief explanation of our History and Science Units.

The Students received a class newsletter yesterday, outlining some important aspects of the Year 1/2 classroom. If you did not receive one, or if you have any other questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

Welcome to the new school year – let’s hope it is a good year ahead. The class have settled very well into my classroom and it is pleasing to see all the smiling faces this week. We are beginning to get used to each other!! All have focused very well so far and we hope this continues.

I usually operate with Literacy in the morning session, maths in the middle and then other subjects in the afternoon.

If any parent/grandparent of any child in my classroom would like to volunteer to help out within the classroom, please feel welcome to come and ask. You are always welcome to come and see what we are getting up to. Regular reading is vital to all children’s success, so I would welcome anyone listening to children regularly. When the timetables are sorted, I will ask for parent help with reading groups.

Homework will start next week (groan I hear you all say). This will consist of reading, maths revision and spelling. Towards the end of term, the Year 3’s might have some Naplan practice tests to get used to as well. Please feel free to come and see me with any concerns/questions you may have.

Karen
Happy Campers

Camp this year is 13th-17th October at North Keppel Island. To find out more about this exciting worthwhile camp I have given you their website address. More information will be sent out in time. This camp is expensive but the students all report it as their most favourite (ask any of the older students who have been there).

www.nkieec.eq.edu.au

CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS CONTINUED

YR 4/5

Welcome back everyone from the holidays. Everyone sounds as if they had a great holiday.

We are already getting settled into the room and our new routines for the year. Some important things to keep in mind to help your child to be super organised include...

- Instrumental Music lessons are on Mondays
- Cultural Studies lessons with our LOTE teacher are on Mondays and Wednesdays
- Classroom music with Miss Hawkins is on Wednesday
- Swimming will be on a Thursday.

We have already begun to look at this term’s work, as we have a lot to pack into the next 10 weeks.

One of our warm ups this week has been to name parts of our skeletons... ask your child if they remember where their craniums, scapulas and femurs are.

YR 6/7

Welcome back to all and welcome to all new students. It has been some time since I have had the whole class graduating. I am honoured to teach the last Primary School Year 7 class in Monto.

Our 1st English unit is about persuasive text using speeches from Australian historical events. This will then cover both English and History in an authentic context.

We will begin our first of the new Geography units. This will be a learning curve for the class and the teacher. The method of delivery is very similar to the History and English units so we are familiar with that part of it. In Science we will be studying chemistry.

Monday Instrumental Music, Year 6 LOTE, PARADE
Tuesday Music, Year 7 LOTE
Wednesday Year 6 & 7 LOTE, Religion
Thursday PE (swimming starts next week)
Friday Sports uniform
MUSIC NEWS

Instrumental News
All instrumental lessons will be held on Mondays this year commencing next Monday 3 February. Please ensure your child brings their instrument and music books next Monday. Beginner students will be issued their instruments during their first lesson. There is a $20 levy for all instrumental music students and a $50 hire fee for students hiring instruments through the school. Students will not be allowed to take their instrument home until they have paid this hire fee.

As per the Education Queensland Instrumental Music Syllabus all instrumental music students are required to participate in a school band. Beginning students will participate in the junior band, which rehearses at school at Monday lunch time. Students with more experience should participate in the senior band which rehearses on Tuesday evenings 5.30 – 7pm. Experienced students who are unable to attend the evening rehearsals can participate in the junior band and take on a leadership / mentoring role for the beginning students in their section.

Congratulations to the students who attended a rehearsal during the school holidays and performed Advance Australia Fair at the Monto Australia Day Celebration. They did an excellent job!

Choir
Choir will rehearse during Tuesday lunch times at the music room. All students are invited to join the choir. We will have our first rehearsal next Tuesday 4 January.

Classroom Music
This year, all students will participate in classroom music for 45 minutes per week. All students will require a recorder and a music scrapbook. The 6/7 and the 1/2 class will have music on Tuesdays. The P/1, 2/3 and 4/5 class will have music on Wednesdays.

P&C AGM

20th of February 7.30pm at the staff room of the Monto State Primary School
All parents and friends welcome
All executive positions are up for re-election
Positions include: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer
New members very welcome
P&C meetings are the best way to stay up to date with your child's school and education
We would love to see you there!
First Week of PE
Tuckshop Happenings

Welcome back to 2014! This year we are looking for volunteers to help with the running of our tuckshop. The tuckshop runs one day a week on a Wednesday and is a valuable asset to our school and P&C. If you are able to help out in any way please complete the form below and return it to the school office by Friday 7th February 2014, or contact me on 41663319 or 0438890964. I will contact you to let you know of the roster once all responses are received.

Please also find attached to this newsletter, a copy of the Tuckshop Menu for Term 1. If you have any questions about the menu or the tuckshop roster please contact me on the above numbers.

Thanks
Kelli-Sue Dent
Tuckshop Convenor

Name:______________________________________________________

Contact Number:___________________________________________

Please Tick which applies to you:

_____ I am available any Wednesday

_____ I am available on certain dates

Dates: _____________________________________________
**Sandwiches & Wraps**
- Sandwiches: $3.50
- (egg, lettuce, cheese, tomato)
- Salad sandwiches or wrap: $4.50
- (inc tomato, beetroot/pineapple/carrot/cucumber/lettuce)
- (choice of chicken or ham)
- Toasted (add): $0.20

**Toasties**
- (any 3 toppings)
- Ham
- Chicken
- Cheese
- Tomato
- Pineapple
  - $1.60

**Snacks**
- Party Pie: $1.00
- Chicken Nugget: $0.50
- Sausage Roll: $2.00
- Corn cob: $1.00
- Fruit Loaf (2 slices): $1.00
- Boiled Egg: $0.50

**Drinks**
- 250ml Flavoured Milk: $2.00
- (Chocolate, Strawberry, Vanilla)
- Juice Popper: $1.50
- Bottled Water: $1.00

**Treats**
- Squelch fruit ice block: $0.60
- Frozen Yoghurt: $2.00
- Jelly Cup: $1.50
- Dixie Cup: $1.00
- Muffin: $0.80
- Pop corn: $0.50

**Hot Food**
- Chicken and Gravy Roll: $3.50
- Lasagne: $4.00
- Hot Dog with sauce: $2.50
- Chicken Burger: $3.50
- Pie: $3.50
- Pizza: $2.50

**Salad Boxes**
  - $4.00

**Mix and Match meal deal**
Choose 1 from each section:
1. Sandwich/wrap, Chicken and gravy roll, Lasagne, Chicken Burger or salad box
2. Flavoured milk, pepper, water
3. Frozen yoghurt, Jelly cup or Dixie cup

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**Term 1 2014**

Volunteers are essential to the running of the tuckshop, if you have any capacity to volunteer (no matter how limited) please feel free to contact the convener, Kelli-Sue Dent—0741663319 or 0438890964.