Dear Parents and the School Community,

I wish to inform you that I have made a number of positive and sustainable changes to the school’s timetable and as a teaching principal; I will be taking on a very different teaching role across the school in 2014.

In the past the Principal has been attached mostly to one class and was limited to meet with teachers in a coaching and mentoring capacity. However this year, with solid enrolments and added financial support from the department, I now have the opportunity to employ a sixth senior teacher, Mrs Saayman, to assist with running the 4/5 classroom.

As the Instructional Leader, I will drive a number of new research proven school wide programs and spearhead projects such as the School Wide Positive Behavior Support (SWPBS) program. Furthermore, I have timetabled opportunities to coach and support staff, in their classrooms and work directly with students and parents.

I am passionate about the role of state education in Australian society and I want to ensure that every Monto child, regardless of circumstances or background have the opportunity to develop academically and socially. This year I will continue striving to inspire and manage the school in a positive way, in line with current views on how to best educate each and every one of our children.

Parent appointments can easily be arranged through the office. My staff and I are available to talk openly about your child’s development and support strategies.

As the Principal of this great country school, I am 100% committed to every child reaching success!

Kind regards

Matthew Silvester
NEWSLETTERS ARE A KEY COMMUNICATION TOOL

QSchools App
All school newsletters are available on our website at montoss.eq.edu.au

If you have an android, apple or windows 8 smart device (phone or tablet), consider downloading the free QSchools app. Once you add Monto State School as a ‘favourite’ school on the app, it will integrate with our website and allow you to view news, events and newsletters that are posted to our website.

QSchools Version 2.0 for iOS and Android are available for free download from the iTunes store and Google Play. QSchools Version 1.2 for Windows 8 phone and tablet is available from the Windows Store. An update to the Windows app is coming soon.

Facts

Babies are born without knee caps. They don't appear until the child reaches 2-6 years of age.
Baby robins eat 14 feet of earthworms every day.
Bats always turn left when exiting a cave.

CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS

Prep/Yr1
The last two weeks have seen us settle further into routine and it is very pleasing to see how the children are doing their best to apply themselves to their learning. In Science this term we are looking at the Biological Science strand with a focus on living things. Ideas explored include identifying different features of animals and how they help them to survive and where an animal lives is known as its habitat. In History throughout this first semester we are ‘Remembering the Past’ and exploring how sources such as photos, videos and mementos help us remember. We will also be discussing how we describe the sequence of time creating a time line of events in each child’s life. In Geography we are making observations of different places using maps and models to describe features, both natural and constructed, as well as exploring directions and locations of familiar places.
Speaking program has begun and thanks to all families for helping children collect their thoughts and pictures to help with their presentation. Please refer to the weekly roster to help children with preparing the correct items for each week. I will send another copy home today so keep an eye out for the roster.
Finally, a great big thank-you to all those Year One and Prep families who have made themselves available to help in the classroom. If you wish to come and visit for an hour, a session or the day, please feel most welcome to join us.

YR 1/2
This term in Science, we are looking “Up, Down and all Around” – taking in and observing natural and man-made features in our environment. We will be looking at these features and recording any changes to them over this term.
In History, we are looking at “Present and Past Family Life”. Thank you to those families who have filled in and returned their Family Trees. These will be quite significant throughout our unit.
Swimming has started without too much fuss, however we are quite desperate for some parent helpers to help in the pool! More helpers will ensure that each child receives the vital support and learn the appropriate techniques required for swimming. Please see me, if you are available on Thursdays between 11:30 and 12:30.
**YR 2/3**

We have been busy testing this week, with the introduction of the PAT-Reading and PAT-Maths tests. All of us are very pleased that task has been completed for Term 1. Homework has started - all students receive homework on a Monday and it is due back on Friday. Students know that if they forget it or don't do it, they will complete it during morning sport on Friday. Spelling tests also occur on a Friday. Please remember that the spelling sheet has two sides to it - to enable sentences to be written neatly on the back. Reading should also be completed each night and marked off on the reading sheet. If you would like to glue students homework sheets into an old notebook, you are more than welcome. Otherwise all old homework sheets can be removed each week after marking. Thank you to the parents who returned their "Parent Help" form - I will get back to you, once timetables are finalised. In Maths, we have been revising time and fractions (Year 3's are loving quarter to and quarter past times!!!!). In English, we have started looking at what makes persuasive writing effective. We will look at the purpose and features of persuasive writing, before we move onto writing tasks ourselves. History sees us looking at various occasions that are celebrated in Australia and the world. In Science we are investigating a life and living unit called "Fur, Feathers and Leaves" - this week we explored the playground and found living and non-living things.

**YR 4/5**

Year 4/5 have been busily examining our soil samples and looking at the characteristics of the soils that have been brought in for Science. We have been looking at place value over the last week during our maths lessons. During English we have been focussing on developing a background knowledge of Macquarie Island and the language features used by authors. Our aim is to write a historical journal entry and a persuasive letter around this topic.

All students have been re-levelled again for our comprehension boxes and spelling during the last couple of weeks; however we are still working on checking their sight word knowledge.

Homework commenced last week and it was good to see that most children remembered their homework on Wednesday. Please spend the time to help your child with their spelling and tables. While it just may be another job after a long day, ensuring that their spelling and times tables are automated can go a long way to ensuring a child's success in maths and language!

On a more personal note, I will be chatting with the year 4/5 students at some stage during the next week about my allergies and why I carry an epipen at school. This is not done to frighten the children, rather just to make them aware. It can be rather confronting to see anybody having a severe allergic reaction and having to administer an epipen. While this has never occurred at school, I would rather they knew, than to "spring" it on them.

**YR 6/7**

Monday Year 6 LOTE, PARADE, Instrumental Music, Spelling and homework
Tuesday Year 7 LOTE< Music lesson
Wednesday Year 6 & 7 LOTE, RE
Thursday PE
A special parade for the speeches from Years 6 & 7, for School and House Captains next Tuesday 18/2, from 9am
Audience Years 4-7
Family members are very welcome to attend.
Friday Sports uniform
MUSIC NEWS

Instrumental News
I have had a number of parents enquire about the possibility of moving Senior Band rehearsals (currently Tuesday 5.30pm – 7pm) to an earlier time slot (Tuesday 3.30pm – 5.00pm). I have sent home a survey asking which rehearsal time suits each band member better. If the time changes to commence rehearsals at 3.30pm, students would remain at school, have a quick afternoon tea (if desired) and help set up the band. Please understand that it will probably not be possible to please everyone, but the time slot which most students are able to attend will be the rehearsal time from Tuesday 25 February. I will let all students know the outcome by the Monday 24 February. Please return your survey to Miss Hawkins by Friday 21 February or email your preferred option (my email is on the note).

Junior Band has had their first rehearsal! Like choir, band members are encouraged to eat outside the music room on Monday lunch times so they are not late to rehearsals. During our first rehearsals, students learnt about what the different conducting gestures mean (eg. counting, stop playing). At the moment the junior band is experimenting with different rhythms. Once the children learn a few more notes, we will start learning short songs.

Choir
The choir continues to rehearse on a Tuesday lunch time. Students in the choir should eat their lunch outside of the music room so they are not late to rehearsal. We have been working on the song “Rainbow Nation” by Pete Churchill. There are videos on YouTube by the composer teaching you the song. Here are the websites:
Part 1: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RAgRY-yo9T4
Part 2: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N0DI86wj00c
Part 3: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WGYP3jLbbGU

Classroom Music
All students have been working on a review of known rhythms and solfa during the past three weeks. The Preps to Year 3 students have been learning to move their tongue like they are saying the ‘doo’ to play ta and ti-ti on the recorder. The year 4 – 7 students have learnt the new note high D on the recorder and they use this note in “Call Me Maybe”, which they are learning on the recorder. There are extension versions of this song (in different keys) to challenge more advanced students. The 4 – 7 students have also been playing the ukulele.

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!
STUDENT NEWS

Student Awards

Last week these are the children that have been commended for their hard work. They were Richard Beswick, Grace Ogle, Finley Reading and Will Myles. Congratulations on their achievements.

Last week, our school had some Bronco players over and they were Jack Reed and Mitchell Dodds. They taught us about bullying and how we can defeat our worries.

These people were commended for their hard work: Mia Enkelmann, Lilly McLaughlan, Aiden Elliot, Jackson Pailthorpe, Jarred Hill, Hamish Staines and Ty O’Neill. Congratulations to these achievers.

Sports News

Swimming on Thursdays, so make sure to bring your togs, towels and goggles if needed. Congratulations to the cricketers who got selected for the North Burnett Team: Hamish Staines, Daniel Phillips, Britney Staines and
**Tuckshop Happenings**

Thank you to the parents who sent their forms back offering to help in the tuckshop this year, unfortunately to get our roster system up and running we need some more volunteers. Volunteering at the tuckshop involves coming in on a Wednesday between the hours of approximately 9 and 2 to help prepare lunches for the children. There is generally 2 or 3 people rostered on so you will not be alone. The more people we can get on our roster, the better the system will work. Please contact me to put your name down (even if it is for one day a term, every little bit helps), either with the form from last newsletter or by phone 0438890964 or 41663319.

**Tuckshop Committee AGM:** To keep the tuckshop running smoothly there is a group of people who form the tuckshop committee, the committee meets once a month to discuss the running of the tuckshop and form a report to take to the monthly P&C meeting. The AGM for the Tuckshop committee will be held at the tuckshop **next Wednesday 19 February at 3.00pm.** All are welcome to attend, it would be lovely to see some new faces.

Yours in tuckshop
Kelli-Sue Dent

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**MONTO SOCCER CLUB**

Monto Soccer Club will be having it’s AGM and sign on day.

This Saturday 15th February 2014.

At the Combined Sports Grounds—9am

All executive positions are up for re-election.

New players and parents are welcomed.

Enquiries—Amanda Fletcher 41667139

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**FREE WEAVING WORKSHOPS**

**SUNDAY 9TH MARCH**

North Burnett Landcare

Corner of Kelvin & Edison Streets, Monto

9.30am—11.30am & 12.30pm—2.30pm

RSVP to Ainsley Gatley 0488197400

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**BILOELA JUNIOR PANTHERS RUGBY LEAGUE**

**SIGN ON—TUESDAY 18TH FEBRUARY AT 4:30PM**

ALL AGES WELCOME

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**Monto Bowls Club invites Monto State School students to join the School Cup Challenge**

Training starts 3:30pm 21st February at the Bowls Club

Contact Kevin Fox for details

Ph: 41661733 Email: montobowlsclub@gmail.com

Friendly atmosphere with excellent training

Pairs Competition—New players welcome

Equipment provided—School uniform for comps only
HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR CONTACT DETAILS? To ensure that we can contact you in the event of illness or injury we ask that you fill in the form below and return to school so that we can update all school records.

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