Dear Parents and the School Community,

Reading is a life skill all children must have!

Reading is a social and critical life skill. We read written, visual and multimodal texts for enjoyment, to find information and to learn. Through reading, we build relationships and communicate with others across time and space.

I am pleased to announce that last week Carol and I launched a new Prep and Year 1 reading homework program for her class.

Many of our parents, attended a homework reading workshop as part of the launch. Our aim was to equip families with strategies, methods and an easy to follow structured program that they can use to support and encourage their child effectively at home.

The program will continually be monitored and reviewed, so that no child is held back and that each child is given the opportunity to progress at their own rate.

How can parents encourage kids to read at home when they’re struggling with reading in school?

It all depends on how it’s done. Try to make it relaxing and low-key for a short part of the day. Model for your child what a fluent reader sounds like by reading aloud some funny or interesting parts of a book that you’re reading. Draw your child in with a riddle book for kids, a passage from a sports/car/horse etc. magazine, or a newspaper story. Show your own enjoyment with it. Make it really short and really light. For kids who have lost the motivation to read, the way back is through material that’s intensely interesting to them.

What should parents not do when they’re reading with their kids?

Reading should not be excruciating to listen too. Your child should not be doing more stumbling than reading and the family should not be going through torture. Many parents think that the struggle is normal – that it should be hard. BUT, THAT MY FRIENDS is the BIGGEST untruth! Reading is supposed to feel good to the child.

If you feel your child is struggling with reading, another key strategy is to read the book to your child first, stop and talk about the illustrations and the difficult words and their meaning, read the book together and then allow your child to independently read the book back to you.

Also, one of the biggest mistakes that educators make is changing the book too often. It is important for students to re-read texts and feel successful. Encourage your child to read books and parts of stories over and over again. You often notice children watch the same movie over and over. It’s what their brains like and it’s no different to reading.

Parents, feel hopeful. If your child is struggling, there are strategies that you can use to help. I am always available to discuss support strategies with you at ANY TIME!

Kind regards
Matthew Silvester

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**Old Furniture Tender Auction**

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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
To escape the grip of a crocodile's jaws, push your thumbs into its eyeballs -- it will let you go instantly.
Tigers have striped skin, not just striped fur.
There are more chickens than people in the world.

CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS

Prep/Yr1

Here we are half way through the first term and well and truly into the routines of learning. The Year Ones began their Fitzroy reading homework on Monday and the Prep class will begin next Monday. A big thank you to all those families who were available to come and find out about their important role in supporting the implementation of one of the schools new initiatives, focusing on further improving our early years reading and writing levels. For those unable to attend, please feel free to see myself or Mr Silvester to answer any questions when you receive your homework folder. We aim to make the homework routine as smooth as possible by keeping the process the same for every week. Remember folders due back on Fridays please.

Don’t forget the Dangerous Australians are visiting on Friday. This presentation ties in nicely with our Science unit focusing on different creatures and the features that identify them, help them to survive and the habitats where they may or may not be found.

Families who may not have had their children’s vision and hearing tested recently please consider doing so. It is essential for us all to be able to see and hear correctly especially when learning in a group environment. The hospital runs a free clinic every Wednesday and Thursday so please give them a call to arrange an appointment with Jenny Williams the nurse who runs this important service.

Finally, a Very BIG Thank You, to all those families who have been able to give some of their time to come and help out in the classroom. We hope you enjoy visiting us as much as we all enjoy having you working and learning with us during the day.
It is hard to believe that we are half way through this term already.

In English, we have been practising our Handwriting – paying particular attention to letter formation and using the red and blue lines correctly. The Year 2’s are encouraged to now use “entries and exits” while writing to prepare them for running writing (joining writing) in Year 3. I am happy to notice an improvement each week with all student’s writing efforts.

We are also looking at the Persuasive genre during English lessons. We have been giving reasons “for” and “against” in given situations. A recent favourite was when the students had to choose a particular animal and explain why it may/may not be a good pet.

In Maths, the Year 2’s have been further enhancing their knowledge and skills with measurement and geometry while investigating the effects of “flips” and “slides” to objects and shapes.

The Year 1 students are becoming faster with their count on facts - we hope to start focusing on “Rainbow Facts” next week. We have also been looking at the language of direction (above, under, left, right etc.). Both classes continue to practise their counting patterns.

All teachers were lucky to spend some time with “Craig” (an Ipad Technology Assistant) this week to see how we could better utilise Ipads within the classroom. A great App I wish to share with parents is called “Out and About”. It is a free App that is suggested by Education Qld and focuses on Sightwords. It may be another alternative to learning them at home if you wish to check it out.

Over the past few weeks we have been examining the persuasive genre in English. I thought parents might like to read our joint class effort of why it is important to make your own bed! The majority of class thought it was better that they made their own beds, however there was a minority who disagreed. Anyway, here is our attempt to persuade you.

**Making Your Bed**

“Hurry up and make your bed!” Lots of people do not make their beds every day. This irritates me as I believe that people should make their own beds themselves.

People should make their own bed each day as it is their bed and they should look after it. It shows you are responsible for your own belongings if you make your bed. This shows you can look after other belongings as well.

Your room will be tidier each day, if you make your bed. People will think that you are a neat and tidy person. It is easier to find things if your bed is made.

Making your bed shows that you are a helpful person. It will help your Mum as it saves her a job each day. It would be a nice thing to do for your Mum.

It would stop you getting into trouble each day if you made your own bed. Wouldn’t it be nice not to hear being yelled, “Make your bed now!” each morning?

It’s time for a change. Make your bed each day.

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Now they will begin to write their own persuasive texts - our first topic is that they should not have to wear shoes at school.

In Maths, we have been working on fractions and skip counting (counting in 2, 5, 10 etc.). Some of us still need more practice in this area. Maths rotations have started of a Friday middle session.
Year 4/5 are working on a letter based around our work on Macquarie Island. We have been getting into our writing by turning down our air conditioning a little and popping on a beanie or a coat.

We have been spending some time examining fractions – Year 4s looking at the concept of equivalence and the 5s have been adding and subtracting fractions that have common denominators.

Please remember homework is due Wednesday!!

MUSIC NEWS

Classroom Music
The P/1 class have been exploring beat, rhythm, forte (loud), piano (soft) and using their high and low voices in a variety of ways. They have also been practising the rhythms ta, ti-ti and za with their voice, clapping and on the recorder. Students in the 1/2 and 2/3 class have been performing ‘Feet Feet’ on the recorder for the class. Students in the 4/5 and 6/7 class have been performing ‘Call Me Maybe’ on the recorder for the class. Many of the 6/7 students have learnt this song in different keys (using different notes). We will finish our class performances next week.

Choir
The choir has been continuing to rehearse Pete Churchill’s ‘Rainbow Nation’. We are working on memorising the words of this song. If your child is in the choir, please remind them to come to every rehearsal (Tuesday Big Lunch). They should eat outside the music room instead of the usual eating area) to help them remember to attend rehearsal.

Senior Choir
After a request from a number of students, we had our first ‘Senior Choir’ rehearsal today. This choir is for students in year 5-7 who wish to participate in another choir (they should still participate in the main choir). These students have a greater input into the rehearsals, being encouraged to choose the songs we will be learning (subject to approval).

Instrumental Music
The instrumental music equipment has arrived at Monto State High School and is now available for purchase! A note was given to all beginner students indicating what they would need to purchase and the cost. If you or a family member cannot get to the High School, please place the exact amount in an envelope and give to Miss Hawkins to purchase the equipment on behalf of your child.

Students should bring a drink bottle to all instrumental music and band rehearsals. It can be quite tiring puffing on an instrument and it is important to remain hydrated.
Student news

Student Awards

The hard workers for this week are Rhianna Dent and Jay-Anna Morris.

Last week these are the students that have been commended for their hard work. They were Karlos Patrick, Maxwell Hill, Tarah Staines, Luke Barnett, Baylie Hutton, Ainsley Zieth, Bridie Baldwin and Balun Delany O’Reilly.

Congratulations to our new School and House Captains. Eyre House Captains are Mitch Salisbury and Claire Goody. The School Captains are Aimee Brown and Thomas McLaughlan. For Oxley House Captains we have Daniel Phillips and Declan Howlett.

Sports News

Congratulations to Hamish and Britney Staines for going to wide bay trials, unfortunately they didn’t get through.

**Monto Annual Race Day**

29th March, 2014

Gates open at 11am till 6pm

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

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**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), by phone 0438890964 or 41663319.

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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
18th February 2014

Dear Parent/Guardian,
Throughout the year Monto State High School would like to offer a number of parent information evenings. The aim of these evenings is to provide information and education on a range of topics related to both Junior and Senior students, health, study skills, understanding the early and mid-adolescent and to provide a range of practical strategies which you as a parent can use when talking or dealing with your student. These evenings will be offered once per term and are suitable for parents and guardians.

Our first evening is going to be held **Monday 17th March from 6pm-7pm** at the high school. Please join us and meet at B6- just near the Tuckshop.

To help us ensure that we have enough resources, we would like you to please indicate which session you would like to attend and **return the form to the office by this Friday 14th March**.

Many thanks

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**Stacey Hyland**  
**HOD Junior Secondary**

**Kylie Cochran**  
**Principal**

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| **Focus is on Years 10-12**  
What do students learn at school, what educational pathways can they follow and how can parents be involved? This session will include a brief overview of the tools available for students to assist with their planning (technology focus).  
What can you do as a parent to support your child through their senior phase of learning? | Jane Carroll (Guidance Officer)  
Donna Zumbansen (Head of Department Senior Schooling) |
| **Focus is on all year levels.**  
Talking to your student about health topics- without talking.  
Online resources to help you and your student with health related topics. | Leanne Davis (School Nurse) |
| **Focus is on Years 7-9**  
Understanding your early and middle adolescent!  
This session will begin the journey to understanding you early and middle adolescent student. Today’s adolescents are arguably the most vulnerable generation of young people. A number of factors are contributing to the fact that adolescence is now starting earlier and finishing later, therefore increasing the period of vulnerability. | Stacey Hyland (Head of Department Junior Secondary) |
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.

Student Name ________________________________

Address ___________________________________

Email Address ______________________________

Phone Details
Parent/Caregiver 1 Name ______________________

Home __________________ Mobile ______________ Work ______________

Phone Details
Parent/Caregiver 2 Name ______________________

Home __________________ Mobile ______________ Work ______________

Emergency Contact Details (other than Parents/Caregivers)

1. Name __________________ Home Phone ______________
   Relationship to Child ______________________
   Work Phone __________________ Mobile ______________

2. Name __________________ Home Phone ______________
   Relationship to Child ______________________
   Work Phone __________________ Mobile ______________