School Improvement

This week, we have been very fortunate to have Kay Kirkman, Assistant Regional Director, visit our school to experience the great work our students and teachers are doing here at Monto State School. Kay visited many of the classes and chatted to students about what they are learning at school and looked at the books the children were working in. Kay also asked students if they knew what they could do to become better readers and writers.

In order for our students to continually improve, teachers collect and analyse data to guide the teaching that needs to occur in the classroom. Next week, the students in Year 3 and 5 will complete the 2014 NAPLAN test as a practice for the 2015 test in May and provide some current data for our students. Having a practice run is important for a number of reasons:

- It allows the Year 3 students to see what a NAPLAN test looks like.
- It allows them to practice the testing style e.g. making sure only 1 bubble is coloured for each question.
- It becomes part of the normal everyday school tasks so children do not learn to fear the test.
- It helps the children learn to organise their time effectively to ensure they get a chance to answer every question.

The data gained from this practice test will be used by our teachers to pinpoint what our students are currently doing well and gives us an in-
School Leaders

Next Monday afternoon, after Parade, the Year 6 children who are interested in running for a school leadership position will present the speeches to the Year 3 to 6 students. Voting for these positions will then be completed by the students and staff. It is anticipated that the successful candidates will be announced to parents at the P and C meeting next Thursday afternoon. All parents and members of the community are welcome to come along to listen to the speeches.

Day 8

Our day 8 enrolments is 91. The number of students in each year level is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The 8th day of school each year is very significant in the education world. The number of students enrolled at a school on the 8th day determines our staffing for the year. This figure determines the number of teachers our school is entitled to and the number of teacher aide hours allocated to the school. I am very pleased to announce that we will be able to retain our current classes.

No Hat, No Play

When I am out in the playground at lunchtimes, I am continually impressed by the excellent behaviour I see every day. Our students play safely and ensure that the Prep children are safe and happy.

Last week, on Parade the children were reminded about the “No Hat, No Play” rule. This will be strictly enforced from next week. If children do not have a hat to wear at lunchtime they will need to sit down on the seats or go to the library. Please remind your child to keep their hat in their school bag everyday.

Absences

As a Teaching Principal, I try to keep the number of times I am out of the school to a minimum to avoid disruption to my class. However, there are some occasions when the 2 roles of teacher and Principal overlap and absences cannot be avoided.

Last Tuesday, I attended a Principals’ meeting with Kay Kirkman regarding the CQ regional priority on writing. Ms Smith taught my class for that day.

Next Wednesday, I will be at a budget meeting and the following week on Thursday and Friday, I will be in Brisbane for the State Principal’s Conference.

I look forward to meeting many more parents at the P and C meeting On Thursday afternoon,

Sara Whittington
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.

BOOKS AND EQUIPMENT

Each and every day is essential at school and important leaning occurs from day 1 of the year. All teachers have commenced the yearly curriculum and in order for students to achieve and succeed, it is vital that all items on the booklist are supplied at the beginning of the year. Please ensure you purchase the correct text books and exercise books for your child. Students are required to have these items every day at school to ensure valuable learning takes place.

Arts Council

PERFORMANCE DETAILS
Performance Name:  Last Tree in the City
Performance Date:  Monday 23 February 2015
Performance Time/s:  1:50pm
Performance Venue:  Monto SS

Admission Cost:  $8
(Please return attached envelope with payment by Thursday 19th February)

Last Tree in the City is the story of a boy who lives in the city. Edward’s city is a place of concrete and cars, a world without colour, so every day he visits the last tree in the city and forgets the dull world around him. Then one day the tree is gone. Edward thinks of a clever way to revive his fallen tree, inspiring the entire city to follow his lead and understand that life is better with trees.
MONTO BOWLS CLUB
EMERGENCY SERVICES FUN DAY (BOWLS OPTIONAL)
7TH MARCH SPONSORED BY ROSS HARTY
PHYSIOTHERAPIST & NUTRITIONIST
SEAFOOD & MEAT TRAY RAFFLES and NOVELTIES
B.B.Q. TEA AFTER THE GAME
CALL 41661331 BY 1230hrs TO GO IN THE DRAW, OR NOMINATE YOUR TEAM OF THREE.
FUN STARTS AT 1300hrs
PROCEEDS TO MONTO HOSPITAL AUXILIARY
COURTESY BUS AVAILABLE

TENNIS COACHING
Starts Thursday 5th February 2015
At the Monto Tennis Courts
Free come and try
From 3:30pm onwards.
All grades from beginner to advanced welcome.
Qualified coaches
For more information please contact:
Rob and Trish Bygrave: 0741675146

SOCIAL NIGHT TENNIS
Starts: Thursday 5th February at 7pm
All players and standards welcome.

Central Burnett Brumbies are having a
Sign On Day and Come & Try Clinics
Saturday 28th February 2015.
Starting at 2.30pm and finishing with a sausage sizzle.
At the Gayndah Sports Ground.
There will be buses organised from Monto and Biggenden with pick ups Mundubbera Eidsvold and Coulston Lakes.
Come and join in and see how much fun it is for both girls and boys.
Come and be part of our team.
For further information
Gayndah Junior: Rob Linsket 0429611096
Mundubbera : Amanda Luani 0403704577
Welcome back to 2015! 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 20th February 2015, or contact me on 41663319 or 0438890964. I will contact you to let you know of the roster once all responses are received.

The tuckshop committee held their AGM on Wednesday the 4th February 2015. I would like to thank Bec Zieth for retaining her position of Secretary, and Amy Spletter for accepting the position of Treasurer again this year. Unfortunately however we are still looking for someone to fill the position of president.

The tuckshop committee is a sub committee of the P&C which meets once a month on a Wednesday following tuckshop (usually about 2.30pm). The committee discusses how tuckshop is going and if there is any changes needed etc. The minutes of this meeting are then reported to the P&C at their monthly meetings. If you feel you may be interested in taking on the role of President please contact me to discuss this.

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: _____________________________________________________________