I wish everyone well and hope all families fared safely in the weather last weekend. It is now halfway through the term and school is in full swing. A number of students still do not have their text books which is hampering their learning in important new concepts. If you are having difficulty purchasing the texts, please contact the Principal so alternative arrangements can be discussed. The texts make up a large percentage of the content used in teaching your children and it is essential that your child has them.

School Leaders.

It is with great pleasure that I am able to announce the school leaders for 2015.

School Captains are Anna Phillips and Blake Barnett.
Eyre House Captains are Mac Aisthorpe and Chelsea Knight.
Oxley House Captains are Britney Staines and Emilee Myles.

These were announced to the children at Parade last Monday. Badges will be ordered and once these arrive a badge ceremony will take place. The school captains and house captains will have specific tasks to undertake in their role and will work with myself on these roles.

P and C Meeting

Thank you to the small band of parents who attended the P and C meeting last Thursday. It was rewarding to see the parents supporting the school and lots of positive discussions were held about moving the school forward. The school budget and Annual Operational Plan was presented to the P and C. I look forward to working closely with the P and C throughout the rest of Term 1. The next meeting will be held on the 19th March and fundraising ideas for the year will be discussed.

State Principals’ Conference

This Thursday and Friday is the State Principal’s conference in Brisbane which I will be attending. This conference is held every 2 years. It sets the future direction of the Department of Education and Training for the following year.
**CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS**

**Year 2/3**
Well we are hoping this week is “dull” in comparison to last week and that no more natural disasters are heading our way. The students have shared many exciting retells of recent events.

In English we continue to explore narratives. We have created a class narrative using the Powerpoint program and are very keen to start writing our own.

In Maths we have been looking at time concepts including calendars, months of the year and the seasons. We continue to build upon our speed and accuracy when recalling our addition fast facts.

**MUSIC NEWS**

**Instrumental Music News**
Last Tuesday 17 February, the Monto Instrumental Community Ensemble (MICE) Senior performed at the Monto State High School Investiture Ceremony. Congratulations to all students who participated in this performance.

The Monto Instrumental Community Ensemble (MICE) Junior, which rehearses Tuesday lunch times have begun learning ‘Mary Had a Little Lamb’.

**Classroom Music News**
The P/1 Class have been focusing on different ways to keep in time with the music, such as tapping different parts of their body (head, shoulders, knees, etc) and using instruments (clap sticks, hand drum, egg shakers, etc). The students have also begun exploring the sound on the recorder.

The 2/3 class have been focusing on the solfa soh and me. They have explored different ways to play these two notes, such as singing, solfa hand signs, boomwhackers and using two strings on the ukulele.

The 3/4 class have been focusing on the solfa doh, re and me. They have explored playing these notes using their voice, solfa hand signs, boomwhackers and recorders. Over the next coming weeks students will be learning to play part of the song ‘John Kanaka’ on their recorders.

The 5/6 class have been focusing on the pentatonic scale by singing and solfa hand signs and the recorder notes G, A, B and high D on the recorder. We have also touched on the note high E. Over the next coming weeks students will be learning to play the first verse of Daylight by Maroon 5.

**Choir News**
The choir continues to rehearse each Wednesday lunch time. If your child is a member of the choir, they require a folder to keep all their lyric sheets together (sleaved folder, clipboard, envelope folder etc.). I cannot allow the lyric sheets to leave the music classroom unless they are in a folder (otherwise they are too easy to get lost).

**Exemption from Compulsory Schooling**
It is a legal requirement that your child attends school every day unless he/she is ill. If your child is absent from school for more than 10 days, either planned or unplanned, then you need to apply for exemption from compulsory schooling. You will need to collect an application form from me and send it back as soon as possible. I then have to approve your application in writing. It is a very simple process and ensures you are meeting your legal obligation as a parent to provide education for your child.

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 POSTPONED

Due to the current road conditions the Artslink performers were unable to get to town today for the scheduled show. The show will be rescheduled for a date later in the term. If you have paid already the payment will be held for the future performance. If you have not paid but want your children to attend you will have an opportunity to pay prior to the rescheduled show.
DATE CLAIMER

2015 MONTO & DISTRICT SHOW

Sunday 26th & Monday 27th April

For more information, please call the Show Office on 41661295

CHRISTINE’S CARD MAKING AND PAPERCRAFT WORKSHOPS STARTING 5TH MARCH MONTO NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT CHRISTINE ON 0428548203

MONTO SOCCER CLUB

The soccer season is now here with Monto Soccer Club at the combined sports ground on Wednesdays. Practice starts this Wednesday at 4pm continuing until 5pm. We have been really excited by the high level of interest in playing soccer this year by our school age students and would like to extend the opportunity for anyone who may have an interest in seeing more of what it involves to stop by on Wednesday to find out more. Alternatively, you can email me at tgreen@realcommunityservices.com.au for more information.

We look forward to seeing you there.
Voluntary financial contributions are used by schools to provide an enhanced educational service and to enhance resources available for student learning, recreation and comfort.

The Voluntary Contribution Scheme benefits all students at Monto State School. The school requests that parents and caregivers contribute $25.00 per child each year. Last year your voluntary contributions enabled the school to support and improve various projects within the school, such as:

- Library Books
- Art Supplies
- Photocopying of Class Resources

PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

YES I wish to participate in Monto State School’s Voluntary Contribution Scheme.
NO I do not wish to participate in the Voluntary Contribution Scheme.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Student/s</th>
<th>Year level</th>
<th>Voluntary Fee</th>
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PAYMENT ARRANGEMENT

Please return this form with the voluntary contribution to the school’s office.

Parent voluntary contributions are essential for Monto State School to continue to deliver a first class educational environment for your children. On behalf of all the students at Monto State School thank you for your support.