Firstly, I wish to congratulate the hard effort year 5 and year 3 students put in towards the NAPLAN last week. It can be a very intense 3 days and then a long wait for the results to arrive in Term 4.

The next few weeks are also going to be very important for most students as assessment is completed ready in time for reporting to occur. Our report cards will be going home in Week 10 so all assessment will need to be completed by the end of Week 8. Please ensure your child attends school whenever possible so that they are achieving the best they possibly can.

I also wish to thank those parents who have taken time out of their busy lives to attend parent teacher interviews. It is important that parents be aware of how their child is progressing at school and of what can be done at home to help them improve.

I also wish the best of luck to those students who participated in the eisteddfod today. It is a daunting challenge to stand up on a stage in front of judges and perform. It takes a lot of confidence and I congratulate all performers for participating.

**Athletics Carnivals**
Our school athletics carnival is going to be held on Thursday, 25 June. This is the last Thursday of this term. The Monto District Athletics Carnival will be held here at Monto State School on Thursday, 30 July. This carnival is attended by other schools in the district and selection is made to attend the North Burnett Athletics carnival to represent Monto District.

**P and C Day**
Friday, 29 May is National P and C Day. This day is to recognise the huge amount of work our volunteers who run the P and C do to contribute to the effective running of schools. Without these people giving up their time, our students would not have access to the quality resources and learning experiences they do have every day and of course the tuckshop. **The tuckshop is solely P and C responsibility and without volunteers taking on these jobs our tuckshop would not be able to exist.** On Friday, please take the time to say thank you to our P and C volunteers.
**Roof Replacement**
During the June/July holidays, we are getting the roof replaced on A Block and C Block. This work has been scheduled to be completed before the start of Term 3 so that no disruption to classes will occur.

**Principal for Semester 2**
Matt Silvester has extended his leave until the new school year. The Principal position for Semester 2 is currently being advertised. This position will be for the start of Term 3 to the end of the school year. The position cannot be advertised as a permanent position as it is still Matt Silvester’s substantive position.

**Under Eights Day**
Under Eights Day is being held tomorrow at St Therese School. The children need to have returned their permission note before they can attend. We will not be able to ring parents in the morning to gain permission for their child to attend. If your child is not attending they are still expected to come to school and will work in another classroom for the morning.

Sara Whittington

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**MUSIC NEWS**

**Instrumental Music News**

**Biloela Eisteddfod**
By time you are reading this the Monto Instrumental Community Ensemble (MICE) Senior will have performed at the 50th Biloela Eisteddfod. A number of students will have also performed solos and duets. Regardless of the points and results, the Biloela Eisteddfod is a celebration of the hard work and practice the students put into learning their music parts. It is also an excellent opportunity receive constructive feedback from an external person and hear a variety of music from different schools, ensembles and individuals.

**Saturday Football Canteen Fundraiser**
The Instrumental Music Program has had a last minute fundraising opportunity to run the canteen at the football this Saturday 23 May. If you can help out in anyway (barbequing, handling money, just generally being helpful) please contact the school.

**Choir**
It is excellent to see so many students participating in choir this term. If your child is in choir they need a folder to store their song lyrics.

**Classroom Music**
All classes will be completing a written exam during music next week. Over the following weeks each student will complete a few short performance tasks involving singing and some instruments.
CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS

Prep/1

The last two weeks have seen both the Year Ones and Preps very busy looking at how authors and illustrators describe how characters change in some stories. We have been especially focusing on the adjectives (describing words) authors use to make their characters more interesting, and how illustrators often change the colours in pictures as the characters change. Later in the term we will be writing and drawing our own character descriptions.

In maths we have been looking at naming, sorting and locating of 2 & 3 D shapes, naming and sorting money both coins and notes, and the Year Ones have been extra on task building up their fast facts recall. Ms Dunwoodie has been keeping everyone busy in Science looking at materials and their properties, as well as families and children’s changing roles in History.

Please keep up the great work with the reading and sight word practice at home. We are already seeing some great progress after only a few weeks.

Year 5/6

Well, it has certainly been an eventful two weeks since our last newsletter. The students in Grade 5 participated in the annual National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) last week and members of the senior band participated in the Biloela Eisteddfod today.

In History this term the students will be required to submit a compilation (a booklet of activities) of work on 12 June 2015. The class started work on the compilation last week. They will be progressing through the compilation in class. However could you please ensure that your child is completing their homework each week, as it will assist them when preparing their compilation.

In English this term the students will be required to submit a digital multimodal narrative, which consists of two parts. Part A - requires the students to interpret the poem *Fur and Feathers* by Banjo Patterson and plan a transformation of the poem into a narrative. Part B – requires the students to create a multimodal narrative using digital software that transforms the poem *Fur and Feathers* into a narrative and includes accompanying images and audio. We will be completing Part A during class time, however students will need to complete Part B at home. The assessment task sheet was handed out last week. The digital multimodal narrative is due on 12 June 2015.

Last week, our first hockey training session commenced for any interested players in Grades 5 and 6. We will be practising during lunchtime every Wednesday. If you have any spare hockey sticks or shin pads, they would be greatly appreciated.

The 5/6 class have a number of assessment items due in the next few weeks.

They are listed below:

Science/technology task
English- Feathers and Fur task
History- Multi modal task
Japanese

If you are not aware of these tasks, please ask your child about them. All tasks will need to be worked on at home as part of the homework. If they are not completed, reporting grades will be severely affected. These tasks were also mentioned during the parent/teacher interviews.

Due to the above tasks being included as part of the homework, no Maths sheets will be included in the homework for the next 3 weeks (week 6, 7, 8).
UNDER 8’S - TOMORROW – ST THERESE
All families and younger siblings are more than welcome to join in with the fun at St Therese for the morning from 9.30 – 12.30. Please return the blue permission note, sent home on Monday, to enable your Prep/Yr One/Yr Two child to attend. Another note will be sent home today for those we have not yet received a reply from. If you are requiring a sausage and popper for lunch please send the money tomorrow in a clearly named envelope/bag/packet. Teachers are to collect the money and organise the ordering and collection of meals on the day.

WINTER CLOTHING
Please ensure that you have named all clothing (especially jumpers and track pants) that may get taken off as the day warms up. Also if you notice any clothing missing please send in a note or visit yourself as we may have some extras in the classrooms.

INVITATION OF OFFERS
Monto State School is currently seeking offers for its John Deere Ride-on Mower.

Paperwork is available from the school office and must be used if you wish to make an offer.

The mower can be inspected between 9am—11am 26th & 28th May.

Offers close 3pm Wednesday 3rd June.

For further information contact the school office on 41669111.

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.
E X P R E S S I O N  O F  I N T E R E S T

Monto State School is currently seeking Expressions of Interest for Relief Cleaners.
Please contact the school office on 41669111 if you are interested.

An unidentified amount of money was recently left in the school office when it was unattended. If you believe you or your child were the person who left it there please contact the school office to identify.

We would like to remind families that when sending money to school please always put the money and any paperwork in an envelope or sealable plastic bag with the students name, class and what the money is for on the outside of the envelope. It is extremely difficult to identify funds if this is not done. Students tend to just leave the money on the counter if the office is unattended. This creates unnecessary confusion for both staff and families who think they may have paid for an excursion or invoice.
Kindness

Kindness is not an everyday word these days. We use words like `respect’ readily but even this does not contain most of the attributes that `kindness’ does. Religions highlight the importance of kindness and love as virtues we must strive to achieve, and if these virtues were universally practised, we could guarantee a world free of crime and violence, and everyone looking after each other. It seems hard to imagine.

So what is kindness? Kindness has been defined as:

- the quality of being warmhearted, considerate, and sympathetic.
- a tendency to be kind and forgiving
- a kind act that may be marked by charitable behaviour, a mild disposition, pleasantness, tenderness, a concern for others. Many cultures and religions recognise this value.

Research has shown that acts of kindness do not only benefit receivers of the kind act, but also the giver. This is the result of the release of neurotransmitters, which are responsible for feelings of contentment and relaxation, when such acts are committed.

**How to teach kindness to our children**

- **Be a good role model** - Children observe our behaviour, and are likely to copy the ways we treat others (and ourselves)
- **Use the word ‘kindness’** to describe acts of compassion, care, empathy, forgiveness
- **Provide simple, clear explanations** about how other people feel when they are sad or hurt. *Give examples* of how kindness can be used in these situations to uplift a person’s mood.
- **From an early age praise** early acts of kindness - When your toddler gives up his favourite toy to a younger sibling who's crying, make sure he knows you acknowledge his action
- **Encourage your child to help others** – at home and in the community. For older children encourage participation in social justice programs. Not only will this act of kindness feel good but also will give an understanding of what others may be going through.

*SAY YOU'RE SORRY* – Admitting that you are wrong, or did not act appropriately can be very hard, but often the act of humility is a show of kindness in itself.

If we all practised doing a few acts of kindness every day the results would be twofold – not only would others be uplifted, but also we would receive the health benefits that come with doing good deeds.

Experiment for one week by positively acknowledging and celebrating the smallest act of kindness and see what a difference it makes to family life. (And then continue for one more week etc….)

Shauna Cameron

Guidance Officer