Special Dates

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<td>P&amp;C General &amp; AGM</td>
<td>18 Feb</td>
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<td>End of Term</td>
<td>24 Mar</td>
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<td>Good Friday</td>
<td>25 Mar</td>
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<td>Easter Monday</td>
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School Captains for 2016

- School - Daniel Kling & Emily Zumbansen
- Eyre - Teely Wolff & Molly Salisbury
- Oxley - Liam Green & Cody Pailthorpe

Prep children enjoying the under cover fort.

Playtime at Monto State School.

Enjoying some colouring in under the building at lunch time.
Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to Monto SS 2016. It is wonderful to see all the old faces return, bright and happy and ready to learn. We have been excited to welcome some new families and their children to our school too. We look forward to engaging with you all and sharing and celebrating your children’s successes.

This year we are looking forward to continuing the high standards of education provided for students at Monto SS using the collective and extensive experience of the staff. Our school has the capability to produce high standards in academic achievement, musical and sporting participation, behaviour and effort.

Every child - Everyday - Learning

Every staff member at Monto SS wants to see your children grow. We start the year by finding out where your children’s strengths and weaknesses are, and we plan our teaching with the explicit aim to move them forward. Ever onwards!

Growing children and encouraging them to do their best is a team effort. Research shows that positive communication between the school and home has a positive effect on your child’s learning. When your child sees that your attitudes and actions towards school show support, then they will believe that school is a good place to be. If you would like to know how you can help get the best from your child at school, we invite you to regularly meet with your child’s class teacher and plan for success. If you would like to support our school and demonstrate to your children that school is important, consider options such as helping with reading, attending information sessions, attending and contributing to P and C activities, volunteering in classrooms, the tuckshop and P and C fundraisers and attending Monday morning parade where we celebrate student achievement.

I usually keep you up to date with an irregular email “School Notes”. It tells you up to the minute information about school including important messages and permission slips about school activities. Please check that we have your current email address so that you will receive these important messages.

I am looking forward to working with you in 2016 for the benefit of your children.

Lisa Roach
Acting Principal

HAPPY SAFE LEARNING
Parade Awards this week went to four students who Mrs Scott believes have demonstrated an extra amount of readiness to listen and learn in her classroom.

Monto State Schools first parade introduced the school leaders for 2016 and welcomed new students to our great school. The new prep arrivals, many of who have older siblings attending the school, were introduced to the assembly by Prep/1 teacher Mrs Scott. Parade is held every Monday in the under cover tuckshop area, parents and caregivers a very welcome and encouraged to attend.

Emily Zymbazen & Daniel Kling — 2016 School Captains

Emily Zumbanzen & Daniel Kling — 2016 School Captains

Molly Salisbury, Teely Wolff, Lim Green & Cody Pailthorpe — 2016 Sports House Captains

Mrs Scott and the Prep students for 2016

Parade News & Photos

Parade News & Photos

Playground Fun

Playground Fun
My name is Tamara Purkis and I am the new classroom/instrumental music teacher. Firstly, I would like to thank you all for the very warm welcome I have received over the last few weeks. I am very humbled to be teaching your wonderful children and to be working in your community.

I am originally from Innisfail in North Queensland. After finishing high school, I was lucky enough to be accepted into the Queensland Conservatorium of Music where I studied a Bachelor of Music majoring in performance and pedagogy. After this, I completed my Graduate Diploma of Education at Griffith University. After nearly six years of study, I could not have dreamed of a more amazing place to work. My whole life I have been passionate about teaching music to children. I know that my life has been shaped by some amazing and inspirational teachers. It was lovely of Monto to put on all this rain for me, I feel right at home.

Instrumental Music News
This week we have started instrumental lessons for the year. Lessons will be held every Tuesday on a rotational schedule. Next week students will receive a “Welcome to instrumental music” letter which will cover any information and costs related to playing a musical instrument. School instruments will be distributed to students at this time. Instrumental music timetables can be found in each classroom and some have been distributed to students. Any parent who needs more information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Band rehearsals
Please note that some band rehearsal times have changed. Please see below:

**Junior Band (Year 4, 5 & 6)**
Tuesday lunch times - 1:00-1:50

**Senior Band (MICE)**
Tuesday - 3:30-4:30

**Senior extension band**
Tuesday - 4:30-5:00

Hello students and parents,

I am really looking forward to being your guidance officer this year. Guidance officers do a range of things but most importantly they provide support for students, families and even school staff. This may take the form of counselling, referrals to outside agencies, classroom observations/intervention planning, psychometric assessments, parenting programs etc.

Teachers often refer students to the guidance officer but parents are more than welcome to make an appointment to discuss any concerns they have about their child. All you need to do is to complete a referral form and I will contact you to make an appointment.

Best wishes for a great year.

Hello. My name is Janelle Burnham and I am lucky enough to be a part of the staff at Monto State School for 2016. I live on a cattle property, South West of Monto, with my husband and 2 children and have been teaching in the community for a number of years.

For this year I will be teaching, one day a week, in the Year 5/6 classroom, alongside Mrs Lisa Roach. Our focus this term is on History and Science. Every Friday I will also be teaching, whole school, Physical Education. I have enjoyed my first 2 weeks, being outside and getting active with the students whilst trying to learn and remember every ones name.

I am looking forward to a positive and successful school year and I hope to catch up with all families throughout the course of 2016.

Shauna Cameron

Janelle Burnham
Starting School—How best to support your child

Starting school, changing schools or even going back to school after the holidays, involves a big change for your child. It is normal for children to have strong feelings as they start to think about these changes; excitement, sadness, anger, worry, anticipation, fear or anxiety. Understanding and helping your child to handle the feelings will help to reduce their stress and can provide them with positive coping strategies.

Common behaviours
Children, particularly young children often have difficulty explaining in words how they feel. Instead they may show their feelings through their behaviour. Some behaviours may be easier to spot like tantrums and crying, while others may be more difficult to notice like being quieter than usual. Behaviours may emerge or increase in frequency:

- clinging behaviour (e.g. not wanting to separate from you)
- restlessness (e.g. difficulty settling at activities, easily distracted, fidgeting)
- withdrawing (e.g. not participating in familiar activities, less engaged, less willing to persist)
- being anxious (e.g. shyness, fidgeting, stomach aches, needing excessive reassurance around the routines or plans for the day)
- refusing to comply (e.g. not wanting to follow rules and routines)
- avoidance strategies (e.g. increased negotiations around participation)
- planning and organisation difficulties (e.g. trouble getting started, remembering or finishing tasks)
- increase in crying and tantrums (e.g. more often or in more situations)
- changes in eating habits (e.g. loss of appetite, becomes fussy with food, overeating)
- sleep difficulties (e.g. trouble falling or staying asleep, nightmares)
- regression to younger behaviours (e.g. bedwetting, thumb sucking, baby talk)
- aggressive behaviours (e.g. hitting, kicking, shouting).

What these behaviours may communicate
As it can be difficult for children to explain how they are feeling, it is often up to the adults around them to help work out what feelings and emotions may be underlying a child’s behaviour.

Talking about your child’s feelings
In order to adjust to change, your child will probably need some extra nurturing and understanding to help them feel secure and confident. Being open and receptive to how your child is feeling as well as providing comfort and attention when needed will help to support them through these changes.

Spend time with your child
Putting aside some special time with your child will give you an opportunity to talk with them. This can be challenging for parents who are busy with other children or have work commitments, but conversations with your child can take place at any time. It may be within your child’s everyday routines such as having dinner together or driving in the car. It may also be helpful to find times when your child feels most comfortable, such as when they are playing in the park or engaging in their favourite activity (e.g. on the swings or kicking a ball). Finding time during a shared activity will help your child to feel relaxed and comfortable to open up during a conversation with you. Some useful ways to prompt these conversations include:

- sharing a story about when you have started something new (e.g. a job) and some of the feelings you had. This may help your child to feel more comfortable to express how they are feeling
- using open ended questions that elicit more than yes or no answers (e.g. “What did you like about school during your visit today?”)
- using prompts and encouragement or gestures like smiles and nodding to show your child you are interested in what they are saying. Sometimes children just aren’t in the mood for talking and that’s okay. Be guided by your child in whether they want to talk, what they want to talk about and for how long. Just being there with your child, sharing an enjoyable activity or having a cuddle can help them feel supported and more at ease at times of change.

Read more at http://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/

Shauna Cameron

Monto State School

Ever Onward
Welcome to Term 1! This term will see most of us settling into a new room, a new teacher and a new routine. So far (with the help of my Year 3’s) we have survived the first 5 days! We are all (teacher included) still finding our feet...

In English this term we will be looking at Narratives. The Year 1’s and 2’s will be enhancing their knowledge of the narrative genre while focusing on characters emotions. There will be lots of opportunities to explore adjectives and adverbs - using them to make our narratives more interesting. The Year 3’s are focusing on “The Twits” by Roald Dahl and are expected to add another chapter to the novel by the end of term.

In Maths we are all revising number concepts, including counting patterns, place value and operations.

Homework was handed out this week and is expected back in on Friday. Homework consists of home reading, spelling, English and maths skills.

If any students or parents have any concerns regarding homework (or anything else), please let me know. My email is: msinc39@eq.edu.au or come on in for a chat.

Megan Sinclair

Year 3 & 4

Year 3 / 4 have had a great start to the year and are all working hard at improving their learning. We need to brush on our listening behaviours, but hopefully this will improve.

This term we are studying the Roald Dahl novel, “Fantastic Mr Fox” with the aim of writing a new chapter of the book as we concentrate on and revisit narrative writing in English. At the moment we are looking at how descriptive words are used in noun groups to put better pictures in our brains when we read. Reading groups have started on a Wednesday at 12:15 – so if you would like to come in and help, you are more than welcome. If you have some spare time to have children read to you at 9:20 for half an hour, you are also welcome to come and see me.

In Maths we have been revising number, as well as how to do addition and subtraction operations. We have also started to improve the speed with which we can recall number facts through daily practice.

Science this term will be a Life and Living focus, whilst in History we will be looking at early Australian history and what certain days mean for us (for example Australia Day/Anzac Day). We will also look at some celebrations from around the world.

Homework was sent home this week (week 2) with an explanation of what is expected glued into the front of students’ homework books – reading, spelling and basic Maths and English skills. Please come to see me if there are any concerns. Homework is due back Fridays.

Karen Hockey
A new addition to the uniform shop. Bucket hats only $15 and come in sizes M/L or S/M.

The next P & C meeting will be on the 18th February at the school’s Library, starting at 5.30pm. All parents are encouraged to attend.
Volunteers are essential to the running of the tuckshop, if you have any capacity to volunteer a few hours on a Wednesday, please feel free to contact Amy Spletter on 0422 563 048.

There has been a few price changes on the menu, please check the prices of items ordered for tuckshop next Wednesday.

**Mini Pizza’s** are now freshly made to order on tuckshop days. New price of $3!
MONTO JUNIOR SOCCER
SIGN ON DAY

THURSDAY
11TH FEBRUARY 2016
4pm
at the

COMBINED SPORTS OVAL