Wednesday, 9 March 2016

**Dates to remember**

14th March – 5:30 in RIC Parents of year 5&6 Talk About It free information session  
15th -16th March – Talk About It sessions for Year 5&6  
18th March – Regional netball with Miss Michelle  
18th, 20th, 21st March - Regional NRL with Mr Ryan  
21st March - Parent – teacher interviews  
23rd March – Assembly - monthly pennants presented  
24th March – Attendance Rewards Day

**Principal News**

Dear Parents,

Our school, along with most other Primary Schools in our cluster, have adopted a new student reporting agreement that will take effect from Semester 1, 2016. This agreement which will see changes to both written reports and interviews was presented to the P&C in draft form in 2015 and in final form at the first P&C meeting for 2016. The report cards will now have the Curriculum Areas of English and Maths divided into their relevant sub strands. For English, the sub strands are Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening. For Maths, the strands are Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry and Statistics and Probability. Gradings will be assigned to each strand. All other Learning Areas (History, Science, The Arts, HPE etc) will still receive an overall grade. As part of the changes, there will only be two written comments- one for behavior and one for overall – there will be no comments for specific Learning Areas. Interviews will now be a 3 way interview to include the student, parents and teacher.

Our teachers will be spending this Saturday at a ‘Seven Steps to Writing Success’ Professional Development activity being held in Cairns. This writing program is a highly regarded program that helps teachers with teaching children how to write. Not handwriting but sentence construction, grammar, punctuation, vocabulary, generating writing ideas, brainstorming, planning and writing stamina. Our school, through the use of our Master Teacher, Zarah Budgen has been focusing on the teaching of writing and this Professional Development activity will support this work.

Our grade 5s and 6s went to Port Douglas last Friday for a day of selection trials for Rugby League, Soccer, Netball and AFL. Congratulations to Nike Pierce (Soccer), Rebecca Rennie, Zak Paulke, Zac Kessler, Beau Paulke, Wyatt Lourigan (Rugby League), Kalyah Ryan and Caitlin O’Neil (Netball) and Zac Kessler, Dargan Warren, Edward Migliorini and Charlie Praszczalek (AFL) for being selected to represent the Douglas Cluster of schools at the upcoming Peninsula Trials. We wish these students congratulations and we know that they will do themselves, their family and our school very proud.

The countdown is on to the Easter Vacation. As I have mentioned earlier, Term 1 finishes on Thursday 24th March and will resume on Monday 11th April. Term 2 is an eleven week term with NAPLAN testing for Year 3 and Year 5 students being held in week 5 on Tuesday 10th May (Language Conventions/Writing), Wednesday 11th May (Reading) and Thursday 12th May (Numeracy).

I hope you are enjoying the much appreciated ‘rain’. Not sure whether I would call it a ‘wet’ season but the rain is certainly needed, wanted and appreciated.

At the end of week six, our highest attending class is still Year 3 with an outstanding attendance rate of 95%. Well done Year 3! Our current attendance rates are:

1. Year 3A: 95%  
2. Year 6A: 93.98%  
3. Prep1: 92.88%  
4. Year 4/5A: 92.27%  
5. Prep: 91.7%  
6. SEP: 91.64%  
7. Year 2/3A: 91.63%  
8. Year 5A: 91.61%  
9. Year 1/2A: 89.46%  

Keep up the great work kids! Everyday counts.
Prep Lachlan – working hard in our Digital Technology lessons and achieving his awards in Reading Eggs.
Prep1 Isabella – Always producing high quality and very neat work.
Jezebel – Excellent counting to 100.
1/2A Jamaal – Outstanding behaviour this week. Keep it up!!
Ziggy – Insightful and entertaining responses during class discussions.
2/3A Enrique – Always being a good role model and for trying his best to complete his work.
3A Samuel – Following classroom rules and expectations.
4/5A Tiarna – For working independently on given tasks and being a valued member of the class.
5A Jack – Always working diligently and being a respectful student.
Ethan – Always trying his best in literacy and numeracy.
6A Edward – His strong efforts across all areas this week.
Gemma – Displaying improved organisation this week.
SEP Hayley – Being an active learner and being persistent at completing all her activities.

Once again, we held a very successful Book Fair. We sold $2559 worth of books and novelties which allowed us to select $817 worth of wonderful books from commission and rewards to place on our library shelves.

Thank you all the parents/caregivers and other family members, students and staff who supported us by purchasing something from the Book Fair. It has been wonderful to see so many people support us on our Tuesday Family night and at open times during the week.

Thank you also to all of the people who assisted in so many other ways to make this such a successful event. We could not have done it without you.

Thank you again everyone for your support of this, and every, Book Fair. A terrific effort once again!
Kay Pike
Book Fair Co-ordinator
4/5A in 2016

Science
This term, in Science we are studying ‘Here today, gone tomorrow’. We have been digging for dinosaurs, looking at different types of soils and rocks. The students have shown a keen interest in the study of soils and rocks.

Maths
Hands on materials were used in our lesson to solve maths problems. The students enjoyed the process of predicting, counting and solving problems using concrete materials in their lesson.