Dear Parents/Guardians,

A warm welcome to Term 2 to all our students and families. Term 2 is a very long term; eleven weeks in total! However, many exciting and important events will take place this term including: sporting trials, school photos, cross country, gala sports days and of course a very important public holiday, ANZAC Day. I look forward to seeing Moffatdale State School being represented proudly in the Murgon ANZAC Day Parade on Monday 25 April. More information about this event can be found below.

**School Improvement**

At Moffatdale State School we aim for 100% attendance each day to maximize our learning experiences. Our minimum expectation is students attending 95% of the time. This roughly equates to missing 5 school days per term.

At the end of Term 1, our whole school attendance was sitting at 93.6%. In term 2, I challenge all parents, carers, teachers and students to raise that level to 95%! It will be difficult with colds and flus the biggest threat to student attendance as the cold winter weather rolls in. Rug up and remember, Every Day Counts!

**Parent Teacher Communication**

Our staff are always willing to discuss the educational experiences of the students in their classes with their parents and carers. However, as you can appreciate, mornings are often used for resource preparation, set-up and finalising lesson preparations for the day. Similarly, the afternoons are busy periods for teachers with staff meetings, professional development sessions and other capability building meetings scheduled throughout the week. With this in mind, I request that parents attempt to organize meetings with teachers in advance. By all means, continue the informal discussions with teachers during pick-up, but for more in depth discussions and conversations, the best idea is to schedule an interview time that is suitable for both parties. I thank you, in advance, for your consideration in these matters.

**Under 8’s Day**

This year, Under 8’s Day will be held at Murgon SS in ‘The Shed’. Students from the small schools will meet and participate in The Kangagang Outback in the Aussie Bush Show. Students will travel via bus, leaving Moffatdale State School at 9:30am and return by 12 noon. There will be no cost for this event as it will be covered by the school. Students must have returned their permission forms to the office or they will be unable to travel and participate in this event.

**School Photos**

Schools Photos have been booked and will take place on Thursday 21 April. Parents and carers, please ensure your child is wearing full school uniform and is neat and tidy. We want our students to look their best in these photos.

**Cross Country**

It is on again! (Weather permitting.) On Friday 22 April, we will attend our annual small schools cross country and ball games event at Cleyna SS. Students from Prep to Year 6 are invited to participate. Parents and guardians are welcome to attend and support our students as they tackle the challenge in 2016. More information about this event will be distributed on Monday 18 April.
Parents and carers, please be aware that it is your legal responsibility to inform the school if your child is absent from school. This communication can be in the form of a voice message on the school answering machine or a note sent to school the following day. Prolonged student absence from school without a valid reason is required to be reported to the police.

**ANZAC Day March**

Once again, Moffatdale State School staff and students will represent the school in the Murgon ANZAC Day parade on Monday 25th April 2016. We ask that students to assemble at 9:30am at the car park at the rear of the RSL building in Lamb Street, Murgon. Students are to be in full uniform and have their hats.

**P&C Meeting**

Our next P&C meeting is scheduled for Thursday 21 April at 8:30am. All parents and community members are welcome to attend. We look forward to seeing you there to contribute to the great things that are happening at Moffatdale State School.

Aaron Jones,
Principal

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**Welcome to Term 2!** We hope you all had a lovely Easter Break with your families and welcome you to a new and exciting Term! 😊

This Term we will focus on the following units of learning:

**In English,** the C2C Unit, ‘Exploring Characters in Stories,’ will provide students with opportunities to read, view and interpret spoken, written and multimodal literary texts to identify some features of characters in these texts and to create character descriptions. Through our continued use of the SSP program, each student will continue to work at their individual Code Level for spelling, reading and focused writing tasks each morning. This term we will focus on improving ‘working memory’ and increasing the automaticity of our writing. Year 1 students and those in Years 2-4 who work with us for English, will also focus on re-reading and editing their own work.

In **Mathematics,** we will continue to follow the Back-to-Front Maths Program in line with the other classes at Moffatdale. Our whole staff participate in regular, ongoing professional development and training from the author of this program and we are all very impressed with the practical support it provides, as well as the great improvements we have seen across the school. The depth of understanding it is helping us to foster in our students is marvellous.

In **Science,** our whole school will focus their learning around the Chemical Sciences. We will complete the Primary Connections Unit, ‘Spot the Difference.’ By observing change, through a series of simple experiments, students will explore the diversity of materials in their world and the constant changes that happen around us. They will explore change through the context of food, including spaghetti, chocolate and popcorn.

In **Geography,** we will investigate the C2C Unit, ‘What is My Place Like?’ Students will investigate the inquiry question, ‘What are places like?’ and develop their understanding of concepts of place, space and scale.

In **Homework** this Term, we will begin Duck Level Words (common words) and Home Reading for our Prep students. We thank you for your ongoing support with Homework each week.

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**At Moffatdale State School we are...**

- **RESPONSIBLE**
- **RESPECTFUL**
- **SAFE**
Welcome back to Term 2!

Term 2 is yet another busy one for the 2/3 class with a variety of different activities starting.

ENGLISH: This term we will be focusing on Persuasive Texts. We will read a number of different texts about families and then, using information that we have found within these texts, students will construct a letter to Mr Jones persuading him that we should or should not have an annual celebration of families.

MATHS: We will continue our Back to Front Maths programs and stay in the same levelled groups that we were in during Term 1. Students are very keen to continue their addition/subtraction speed tests and some students are consistently achieving 50/50 each day. Whenever full marks are achieved, they move to the next level.

SCIENCE: ‘Melting Moments’ is the name of our science unit for this term. Homework has been sent home (in a manila folder) for students to complete and return by May 3rd. It has been interesting to see what happens to certain materials when they are heated or cooled. We are chasing broken crayons so if you have any at home, please send them in to the 2/3 classroom.

GEOGRAPHY: We have started our geography unit by talking about what is a place and what features we can find in certain places. Students will examine our playground, plan a town and also look at world divisions for their assessment.

SPELLING/READING: These groups will be the same. Spelling lists are in the homework folders and these words need to be practised regularly. Remember, 75% is achieving at level.

BIRTHDAY NOTICES:
Happy birthday to Harry G for his birthday during the Easter holidays!

Four/Five/Six News

Students have settled in and have started our new units for the term.

English: we are completing a unit around film reviews. Students have chosen a movie to study (Storm Boy or Matilda) and will complete a written film review and a panel discussion with their peers. This week, students discussed positions critics take when reviewing different media. We also started to explore camera angles and the effect it has on the audience.

Science: we have started our new unit Matter Matters.

This week, students explored solids, liquids and gas. We completed two experiments and learnt that gas has mass and takes up space.

Ask your child to show you our two exciting but very easy experiments to teach you at home.
What a fabulous End of Term Rewards day we had on the last day of Term 1. Thank you so much to all of those students who dressed up and behaved so well! It was a wonderful way to end the term. Hopefully we can have the majority of students attend this terms Reward Day. Remember— to attend you must have 95% attendance (5 or less days).

There has been a shift from using the term ‘rules’ to the word ‘expectations’. We will now be enforcing our school expectations of Be Safe, Be Responsible and Be Respectful. These are what we EXPECT all of our students to be doing.

VIVOs continues to be very popular. At the end of last term a few students had made their first purchases from the VIVO store and it was a very exciting day when the mail arrived. All staff are able to reward VIVOs to students. These are rewarded for positive behaviours. The graph below shows the top 10 students with the highest number of VIVOs overall in our school. Well done to those students.

Each week there will be a particular focus on behaviours within the school/playground that we feel need to be addressed. These could range from wearing hats outside to walking on the concrete. Staff will make these a priority when looking to reward behaviours. These will be included in the newsletter so that you can discuss the expectations with your child.

Week 2 Expectation: WALK ON THE CONCRETE

Health Screening Consent Form— Cecil Brown from Cherbourg Health Services will be visiting our school in Term 2 for student health screening. If your newsletter has a consent form attached and you would like your child/ren to have access to this great service please complete the Consent Form and return to our office. If you have any questions please contact Cecil Brown on 4169 8900.

“The Great Battery Round Up”

1st April to 31st May

The Moffatdale P&C are raising funds through recycling old dead lead Acid batteries in order to purchase new school materials for the students.

You can either hand your old lead acid batteries to a school collector or drop them out to our collection point at the school.

Every Battery Helps

Centenary Cook Books—Our school is looking to do a final printing run of Centenary cook books and would like to take orders from interested family and friends. Please contact our office if you wish to put your name down to purchase a Centenary Cook Book.

PARENTING IDEAS FROM MICHAEL GROSE—TIP #3—Establish study habits — The most successful students are those that develop regular study habits that suit their lifestyle, their study style and their school’s expectations. Find out the work expectations from your child’s school and help them establish a work routine that matches.