Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome everyone to the final term of 2016. Term 4 is always a fun-filled time of the year, filled with many exciting events such as: swimming lessons, small school swimming carnivals, gala sports day and other school-based activities. It is sure to fly-by! Ensure your children are at school every day to maximise their learning opportunities and their exposure to these exciting school and cluster based activities.

Priority School Review – Follow Up Actions

It is official: Moffatdale State School will have a sharp and narrow focus on READING for 2017. Thank you to all of the staff, parents and carers who contributed to the survey. Through your feedback and the analysis of the student achievement data, we will establish a targeted ‘push’ to improve the reading levels of students attending Moffatdale State School.

As part of our renewed focus on Reading, a compulsory school-wide reading session will be conducted before school every day (from 8:00-8:40am). Students will have the opportunity to read ability levelled texts independently or with a teacher. Parents are encouraged to come along, sit with the students and enjoy listening to some amazingly talented readers. Some parents may like to have a student read to them; this is always very exciting for the students. This initiative is aimed at increasing student exposure to texts and fostering a love of reading, especially in our lovely outdoor area near the library. I look forward to seeing this initiative grow over the duration of Term 4.

Attendance

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 a term. In Term 3, we finished with an attendance rate of 88%; a far cry from the 95% we set as our minimum expectation. Let’s work together to ensure that students are attending school each day and maximizing their learning opportunities.
Our week 1 attendance for Term 4 was 91.9%. Congratulations to our Year 1 students who achieved 100% attendance rate for week 1! Outstanding start to our final term!

**Japanese Excursion**

Our Year 5/6 students will be heading to Brisbane as part of their Japanese Experience. They will visit the Japanese consulate and the Yen Shop. Students will also experience an authentic Japanese meal for lunch. Students will need to have returned their permission slips in order to attend this trip. If you believe your child may deem the Japanese cuisine unappealing (which of course will not happen), please pack some additional food for your child.

**Student Absences**

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.

**2017 Enrolments**

Attached to this newsletter is a survey regarding your child’s enrolment at Moffatdale State School for 2017. In order to make informed decisions, accurate enrolment numbers are needed. I ask that all parents and carers complete the survey and return it to the school office as soon as possible. The admin staff will be following-up with parents to ensure we have an accurate representation of returning and new students listed for 2017. If you will not be returning to Moffatdale in 2017, we would also appreciate some feedback regarding your reasons for leaving.

**Important Dates**

- Monday 17 October – Pupil Free Day - No School
- Tuesday 18 October – Year 5/6 Japanese trip
- Thursday 20 October – P&C Meeting
- Wednesday 2 November – Swimming commences - Murgon Pool
- Friday 11 November – Gala Sports Day
- Wednesday 30 November – Year 6 Transition Day to Murgon SHS

Aaron Jones
Principal
Welcome back to Term 4! Firstly, a huge thank you to Mrs Kapernick for working with the 2/3 class whilst I was away. I am yet to hear all of the holiday stories from the students, but the small snippets I have heard have been very interesting! I am sure that I will hear more over the next few days.

ENGLISH: We will examine stories from different perspectives. In this unit, students will listen to, view, read and compare a range of stories, with a focus on different versions of the same story. They will comprehend stories and create spoken retells of stories from alternative perspectives. One of the main books that we will read in the unit will be ‘The Lorax’.

SCIENCE: Students will work through the Primary Connections Unit, ‘Heat it Up’. Students will have the opportunity to investigate different heat sources and how heat moves from one object to another. Through hands-on activities, students investigate the difference in conductivity of materials.

CIVICS AND CITIZENSHIP: Students will engage in the C2C Unit, ‘Participating in my community’. They will answer three key questions - How are decisions made democratically? Why do we make rules? How can I participate in my community?

MATHS: The focus lessons will be on the following topics: Geometry, Angles and Flip, slide and turn; Area and Mass; Patterns and Functions. Students will also engage in their weekly speed tests, trying to move to a new level as frequently as they can.

If you have any questions regarding any of the lessons, please feel free to come and see me. Homework will continue as per normal. It is to be handed in on Friday and students will receive it on Monday.
4/5/6 are enthusiastic this term and have been eager to start our new units of study.

**Science:** This term, students will investigate the properties of light and the formation of shadows. Students will investigate reflection angles, how refraction affects our perceptions of an object’s location, how filters absorb light and affect how we perceive the colour of objects, and the relationship between light source distance and shadow height. Students will plan investigations including posing questions, making predictions, and following and developing methods.

This week, we explored how light travels. Students learnt that light travels in a straight line and how to draw a ray diagram.

**Maths:** Over the term, students will investigate the follow topics in Mathematics: Volume & Mass, Geometry, Angles, Flips & Turns, Patterns & Functions.

Students will continue to focus on number facts. We will focus on subtraction and division.

**English:** This term, students will listen to, read, view and interpret a range of animations including film and digital texts. Students will produce an animated story exploring a character’s behaviour when faced with an ethical dilemma.

This week, students have discussed what an ethical dilemma is and viewed different comics and digital animations.

**Homework update:** Homework has been handed out this week and is due every Monday. Students are expected to complete 1 reading card, 1 maths challenge sheet and practice their spelling during the week. Students have been given their spelling words for the term. Spelling practice for each family can look very different. Some students like to write their words out and stick them to the fridge or verbally test each other (a good time for this is on the drive to and from school). If you have any concerns or questions about homework, please don’t hesitate in contacting us.

**Year 6 Dinner Graduation:** A special year 6 graduation dinner has been booked for Friday 2nd of December (week 9). Save the date, more details to follow closer to the date.

We are needing shoe boxes for both English and Science! Please collect them for us if possible.

“**The Great Battery Round Up**”

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!**