Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are into the hot weather now! Phew! With the increase in heat, I ask that all parents ensure their child arrives at school each day with adequate water (water bottle), lunch and their school hat. Our teachers have been speaking with students about personal safety during this extended heatwave and they have highlighted the importance of staying hydrated, limiting physical activity and seeking shade where available. In light of the heat, teachers will be providing inside activities on a rotational basis to allow students a respite from the oppressive conditions.

As we race towards the end of the year we have a number of important school and community events coming up. It would be great to have maximum participation in these events from students, parents and community members. So, spread the word and get involved! We look forward to seeing you all in the coming weeks at Moffatdale State School.

Explicit Improvement Agenda - Reading

End of Year Testing

Currently school staff are in the process of conducting a number of end of year testing tasks, with a focus on our priority area of reading. Assessments will include: sight word testing, PM reading levels, Early Start – Prep, Year 1 and Year 2 and our PAT-R comprehension. As you can see there are a number of assessment tasks to be completed, so it is essential, students are attending school regularly and arriving on time. The collected data will be used to create individual reading goals for students in 2017.

In line with our review action plan, we will be implementing the work of Lyn Sharratt 'Putting faces on Data'. From week 8, all student PM and PAT-R data will be displayed on a data wall in the staff room. This data will compare student achievement to regional benchmarks and aspirational targets for year levels. If you would like to know more about this project please make an appointment to see me through the office.

Morning Reading

Our compulsory school wide reading session continues to run before school (from 8:00-
At Moffatdale State School we are...

RESPONSIBLE  RESPECTFUL  SAFE

At 8:40am, Students 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 some amazingly talented readers. Some parents may like to have a student read to them: this is always very exciting for the students. We would love to see some of our mums and dads helping to increase our students' exposure to texts and foster a love of reading, especially in our lovely outdoor area near the library.

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 4 attendance for Term 4 was 92%.

Our week 5 attendance for Term 4 was 90.9%.

Congratulations to our Year 5 students who achieved 100% attendance for week 4!

Congratulations to Year 3 and Year 5 students who both achieved 100% attendance for week 5!

Student Absences

Parents, 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.

2016 Open Day

Friday 25 November will see Moffatdale State School open to all potential new enrolments in any year level. Invite anyone interested in seeing the work our amazing teachers and support staff do from 9:00-11:00am. I look forward to welcoming new and existing families for this morning.

Important Dates:

- Friday 11 November - Remembrance Day Ceremony - 10:50am
- Friday 18 November - Gala Sports Day - Years 5/6
- Tuesday 22 November - St Mary's Transition Day
- Wednesday 30 November - Year 6 Transition Day to Murgon SHS
- Friday 25 November - Moffatdale Prep-6 Open Day
- Friday 2 December - Upper years swimming carnival
- Friday 2 December - Year 6 Graduation Celebration
- Wednesday 7 December - End of Year Community Celebration Disco
- Friday 9 December - Term 4 Rewards Day - Aussie World

Aaron Jones, Principal
Two/Three News

In English, we have been reading the Dr Suess story, 'The Lorax'. As with most Dr Seuss stories, there are quite a few 'nonsense' words used throughout the text. Our job this week has been to find these words and then try and work out definitions that help the words make sense in the story.

Mrs Wiley has been helping us to create a ‘The Lorax’ display in our room and it is looking amazing!

In Science, we have been studying heat. Using hot water, we have been testing the effect of heat on spoons made from different materials and using both cold and hot water, we have observed what happens to food colouring when it is dropped into these. 2/3 are loving the hands on tasks.

Prep/One News

Our English Groups are running well every morning. It is pleasing to see the positive progress for all students, particularly the youngest students in the group. Some of our Prep students have exceeded the regional minimum standard for Reading and should be very proud of their efforts and outstanding achievement.

A special, ‘thank you,’ our parents for your continued support of your child’s education at home through regular homework completion and nightly reading. As the saying goes, “It takes a village to raise a child,” and we are very grateful to the families who work alongside the school to help us achieve the very best possible educational outcomes for their children.

Please ensure your child has a WATER BOTTLE every day! As the weather becomes hotter, we are trying very hard to ensure the children are drinking enough water each day.

We have really enjoyed learning about animal characters who take on human characteristics in fiction stories through our investigation of the Anthony Brown series, Willy the Wimp. We have read the books, Willy the Wimp, Willy the Champ and Willy and Hugh. We enjoyed the stories and the characters so much, that we looked up the other titles on YouTube. We watched Willy the Wizard being read by a British teacher and Willy the Dreamer being read by an American teacher.

Can you guess who our friendly Loraxes are?
Throughout this term, our class has been investigating the features of comics, stop motions and animations and how they portray a story or narrative.

To make this simple task more complex, Mr Jones introduced us to the Ethical Dilemma. What is an ethical dilemma, you may ask? An ethical dilemma is when you need to make a choice between two options, neither of which resolves the situation perfectly. We refer to these decisions as ‘lose/lose’. These decisions are personally influenced by society norms, personal and ethical guidelines or religious teachings and can differ from person to person.

We have been working hard on designing storyboards that include; Orientation, Complication, Climax and Resolution. The final task is using our iPads as our recording studio - setting up scenes, characters, and props to bring each frame to life.

The final step is inserting speech bubbles, thought bubbles, captions, onomatopoeia and other features of comics and animation. This has been a time consuming process but we have persevered and now we are successfully engaging with digital technology in a fun and educational way.

We are all very excited to share our short ethical stories with the school community.

This Friday is Remembrance Day.

The Student Council will hold a Remembrance Day Parade from 10:50-11:15am. Mr Trevor Williamson will be our Guest of Honour. Parents, guardians, carers, community members and friends of Moffatdale SS are invited to attend and commemorate this important day with us.

PBL News

This fortnight, our focus is on:

- Use kind words and actions
- Care for yourself and others

It is very exciting to see so many students receiving Silver and Gold Vivo Certificates on Parade. This week we have given out our very first Gold Certificate. This is awarded to any student who has earned 1000 Vivos. Congratulations to Olivia Zelinski—our first Gold Certificate recipient for the year. Awesome effort.

Our Rewards Day is sneaking closer and closer! If you are wanting to pay the $10 for your child’s trip, you are able to do this already. If your child does not meet the criteria and is unable to attend, this money will be reimbursed back to you.

Remember - to be able to attend, students MUST have:

- 95+% attendance

Make positive behaviour choices.