**Principal’s Report**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The week marks the half-way mark for Term 1. Unfortunately, our recent wild weather has caused havoc for many of our families. Our thoughts are with all those affected by the weather.

School Improvement

The start of term 1 has seen our school achieve an average attendance of 92.7%. Our school target is to have an average attendance rate above 95%. This means we are very close to achieving our goal. *Every day matters!* So, thank you, parents and students for your support in ensuring that every day, in every classroom, our students are present, learning and succeeding.

Our SSP program is continuing in classrooms each morning. Students have been levelled and are now participating in activities that target their personal code level. Students will receive targeted instruction in the skills associated with the sound pics within their code level. In the coming weeks, students will participate in a level assessment to gauge their areas of strength and weakness. This level assessment will also serve as an opportunity for students to demonstrate competency in their current level and move on to the next level of SSP. The attached 1 page overview outlines the skills and concepts covered in the SSP program. If you would like further clarification around the program or have any feedback on its inclusion into the Literacy program at Moffatdale State School, please make a time to speak with Mr. Aaron Jones (Principal).

Our students have been eagerly working through mathematics related tasks within our iMaths program. In the coming weeks, students will begin their mathematics assessment tasks for term 1. These tasks will take the form of problem solving activities, core skills and real-life iMaths Investigations.

School Rules

**SAFE, RESPONSIBLE** and **RESPECTFUL**

We encourage all parents and carers to talk with their children about what these rules look like at our school and encourage them to display these positive
behaviours in all aspects of their lives.

Rewards Day Criteria:

- Students must earn 150 tokens by week 9.
- Students must have at least 90% attendance up to the end of week 9. (Students can have up to 5 days off this term.)
- Students must not receive any major incident referrals for behaviour.

Student Absences

We encourage all students to attend school every day. We would like to congratulate the families who have shown a commitment to ensuring their child/children attend school each day.

Centenary Information

Our centenary celebrations are quickly approaching and the Centenary Committee have many exciting events planned over the next few months. In order to stay up-to-date with the latest news and developments regarding the Centenary Celebration please check-out the dedicated Facebook page. The next Centenary meeting will be conducted at Moffatdale State School on Tuesday 24 March at 6:30pm. We hope to see some new faces join us in the planning of this very important day in the history of our small school.

Small School Swimming Carnival

Unfortunately, due to recent circumstances we have had to move our small school swimming carnival for the upper year levels to term 4. More information will be distributed to parents as it becomes available. We apologize for the inconvenience, but accept that the circumstances were beyond the control of the small schools.

Regards,

Aaron Jones,
Principal
School News

Student Resource Scheme

Thank you to the families who have paid or commenced a payment plan for their children’s Student Resource Scheme.

We ask all families to have either made full payment or arranged part payments of these fees by the end of term 1.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss part payments, please do not hesitate to contact the office.

P&C News

Thank you to everyone who attended the P&C AGM.

Thank you to the 2014 committee and welcome to the 2015 committee.

The minutes for this meeting are attached.

The next P&C Meeting will be held Thursday 12th March at 8:30am

All welcome

From the Art Room

This term the Year 4-6’s will be looking at tonal scales in visual arts. They will be learning about what different lead pencils can do and completing a black and white photographic portrait of an Australian digger. The students will have an opportunity to learn more about shading and develop skills in drawing.

The year 2 and 3 classes will be investigating the theme “the art of war”. In this theme we will look at some historic images of landscapes and heroic people. The students will learn a little bit about the ANZAC and Gallipoli and develop water colour landscapes about this time in history. They will also look at the meanings behind many symbols used in military art.

Finally the Prep-Year 1 class will be investigating funny faces. This theme will allow us to explore shape and colour as an introduction to Visual arts. We will be focusing on drawing skills, warm and cool colours, and learning the names of many different materials used in art.

Book Fair

Our annual book week will be held in our last week of term 1, Friday Mar 27th - Thursday 2nd April. We will be hosting a variety of fun activities to get students interested in reading books.

The theme will be Medieval - Kings, Queens and Castles and a dress up day will be held to get us all into the spirit of the week. Watch this space for more information.

Murgon Show News

Moffatdale State School will again be participating in this year’s Murgon Show in the schools’ exhibition part and our theme for this year is the spirit of the ANZACS.

The students will be creating a variety of artworks and written pieces to showcase what a clever and talented group of students we have. I will be setting up on Wednesday 11th March and would love any help parents can give. Please see me or contact me at Moffatdale on a Monday if you can help.

Thanks sincerely, Teresa Hankinson (Visual Arts
5 golden rules for parenting success in 2015  By Michael Grose

The requirements for effective parenting are changing rapidly, just as the profile of parents is changing. If you add to this mix that children are growing up at the speed of light, information technology can make parents seem redundant, and increasingly parents claim lack of time is their biggest impediment to effective parenting. So what is a parent to do? Here are 5 golden rules to guide you along your parenting journey in 2015:

1. **Build confidence** - With so many parents reporting that they have a child experiencing anxiety it would seem that we are currently experiencing a crisis in children’s confidence. It would also seem that we have somehow forgotten how to absorb children’s fears, insecurities and anxieties, and instill a sense of confidence that these can be overcome. Using a mixture of coaxing, coaching and cajoling parents need to find a way to impart in children a sense of courage to put themselves in new or potentially awkward social situations; to have a go at activities where failure is a real option; and to contribute to the wellbeing of others, which reduces anxiousness and fear.

2. **Build developmental knowledge** - Many challenges parents experience with their children are due to a developmental mismatch. That is, parents raising their ten year old as if they are eight. The nuances of parenting are age-related, yet due to inexperience we so often don’t read the cues. Recently, I witnessed a mum and dad tearing their hair out trying to communicate with their nine-year-old son. For the first time he was saying no to them. They thought him stubborn and disobedient. I thought him normal, as nine can be a problematic age, where usually malleable children suddenly start changing. Puberty is stirring. When this couple’s second child turns nine she will experience the benefits of her elder brother paving the way and breaking her parents in for her.

3. **Swim against the tide** - Listen to talkback radio, read the headlines of a newspaper or watch a current affairs TV program and you’ll realise that, right now, we live in an incredibly judgemental society. Parents are harshly judged as well. Allow your kids to walk to school and you risk being judged as negligent. Drive your kids to school and you risk being told that you are spoiling them and neglecting their physical wellbeing. It takes a strong parent to swim against the tide of popular opinion. It also takes a strong parent to deny her child say a mobile phone when every other child has one. It helps to say “This is the way we do it in our family.”

4. **Be brave** - Perhaps the biggest challenge facing parents, and their children, is the ability to let go of their parental reigns and give kids the freedom they need to develop autonomy. It’s relatively easy to develop children’s independence at home as the stakes aren’t as high. If they can’t cook a meal then you just have to do it for them. However, developing children’s independence outside the home is a different story. Granting kids freedom has an element of risk; that’s why parents need to be brave. Having the courage to let go is a basic requirement of parenting. It won’t stop you worrying, but that’s part of the game.

5. **Add emotional intelligence to your parenting mix** - With kids experiencing mental health challenges at a depressingly high rate it’s time to add some emotional intelligence to the parenting mix. While many schools are now introducing emotional and social programs on the curriculum, it’s important that parents develop a deep understanding of how emotions work: how emotions can be recognised; how they can work for us and against us; how we can regulate our emotions so they don’t overwhelm us; and how to recognise and respond to the emotions of others. These sound like life-changing skills that if learned, are capable of
impacting significantly and positively on future generations.

Watch this space for more helpful tips 😊

### Prep/Year 1 News!

The Prep/1 students have been very busy over the first 5 weeks of the year. In Science, students have been engaged in a unit of work that investigates the needs of living things. In History, students have been creating a time capsule starting with a photo of themselves as a baby. This will be used in conjunction with a time line of events from their past to the present and they will imagine what their future might look like.

In Maths, Prep/1 students are currently engaged in the strand of number. Within this strand students will investigate numbers 0-10 (Prep)/0-100 (Yr1). Our Prep students will begin their first iMaths investigation which will focus on the passing of time, day/night and sequencing. Our year one students will learn various ways of counting (1’s, 2’s, 5’, 10’s) backwards and forwards to 100, place value and begin to regroup numbers.

In English, students have been enjoying learning about different emotions that characters in story books feel. Students have investigated using verbs to describe the actions of these emotions.

This term students are engaging in fine motor activities for an hour each week. These activities are explicitly designed to develop skills that require the small muscles of the hand to work together to perform precise and refined movements. These skills will develop strength and dexterity in their hands and fingers in order to correctly hold/manipulate and control items such as a pencil and scissors. Each activity has a focus that relates directly to our subject areas. Mathematical elements such as shape, sorting, matching, ordering, patterning, identifying and describing attributes are also included into this program.

For the History Unit we are in need of shoe boxes for the students to be able to create their time capsules. We are also looking for parent helpers every day for SSP rotations between 9am and 10.10am if you could volunteer your time it would be much appreciated.

Please remember to bring in a baby photo for show and tell and for students to have a visual for their time
lines.

2/3 News!

It is hard to believe we are half way through the term already. We have been very busy working through all of the learning areas and I would like to praise the students on their efforts so far.

Leilani has brought in some eggs that we currently have in our incubator in the classroom. Hopefully we will have a chicken or two hatch which would be very exciting!

In History, students have been comparing their baby photo’s to photo’s of how we look now. It is very interesting to see how much the students have changed and also to notice the features that have stayed the same.

We have started our iMaths program and students have been working hard through the activities. I will continue to send home the lessons for revision and also to allow you to see what we are working on in class.

Happy birthday to Brett for his birthday in February.

Congratulations to those students who have already become members of the Bronze and Silver club.

Year 4-6 News!

The term is flying by and it is difficult to believe we are half-way through Term 1 already! Our class has settled well into the new school year and the students have adjusted to our routines and expectations with confidence and maturity.

Our C2C English Unit is in full-swing and we are thoroughly enjoying our exploration of the Emily Rodda book, *Forests of Silence*. We completed reading the first half of the story as a class on Tuesday and have begun to explore the main characters in preparation for the writing of our Character Analysis for our assessment. Students have begun exploring the perspective of the author and considering the way authors construct sentences to convey the most powerful message to the reader. We look forward to seeing the development of the students’ writing within this Unit and finally, their completed character analysis pieces. *Forests of Silence* is the first book in the *Deltora Quest* series and it would be wonderful if
our students were inspired to continue reading the rest of the books in the series once our unit is complete.

This week, we began our first iMaths Investigations. These investigations aim to provide students with a real-life context for the mathematics concepts they are covering. The units explore concepts of time and timetables, weather and temperature, including negative numbers and multiplication and division. Within our class, students work across four ability levels in Maths. Each group will complete a different iMaths Investigation:

iMaths Book 3 – It’s on the Cards: students will invent their own clever card game. They must make their cards in sets of four, matching analogue and digital times to daily activities.

iMaths Book 4 – iFlicks Movie Marathon: students will use data, timetables and timelines to make decisions about how to spend a day at the movies. They will be required to use reading and viewing skills linking numeracy with literacy.

iMaths Book 5 – Never a Cross Word: students will produce their own maths crossword. They will work through concepts of multiplication and division in a challenging and interesting way to create equations for their crossword.

iMaths Book 6 – Weird or Wonderful Weather: students will investigate two locations and present a thorough weather analysis. They will investigate how Australian weather data is gathered, presented and recorded on the Bureau of Meteorology website.

All students also continue to work through the ten iMaths Problem Solving Strategies throughout our Maths lessons each day.

Our Primary Connections Science Unit: Friends or Foes? is also progressing well. Students continue to explore the role of insects in our ecosystem. Over the next week students will investigate how bees pollinate flowers and will complete an experiment into pollination using paper cups, pipe cleaners and powder paint in place of bees, flowers, nectar and pollen.
ARE you interested in learning how to manage acute illness at home?

**Homeopathic Acute Illness & 1st Aid Course**

There are safe, natural and effective ways to treat everyday ailments and accidents at home: eg

- coughs, colds, flu
- fever, teething, earache
- food poisoning
- shock & trauma, injuries
- bites, stings

Come and join us for a fun and informative short course to find out more...... and learn about:

- Concepts in health and disease
- Basic principles of homeopathy
- Conditions you can and can’t treat safely
- How to select the right homeopathic remedy
- Guidelines for taking the remedy
- 16 acute / first aid remedies

2 x 2½ hour sessions: 6 – 8.30pm  
Registration 5.40pm  
**Wednesday, 18th & 25th March**  
$50 full course fee  
C&K Kindy, MacAllister Street, Murgon

First aid kits for $110 and books ($14) will be available to order  
Payment required when placing order

To reserve your place call  
Leanne: 0438 684 705

---

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**2015 mainlY music**

WHERE
New Horizon Christian Church  
15292 Bunya Hwy

WHEN
2nd & 4th THURSDAY of the month  
9:30–11:00am

WHAT TO BRING BRING
Pack your child a little morning tea & hat and enjoy a cuppa and chat afterward

COST
$4 per family

For more information
Trish: 07 4169 5720  
Joy: 07 4168 3291  
New Horizons: 07:4168 3455  
email: jenralongproductions@bigpond.com

Music dancing and rhymes for your little one to enjoy from birth to school age.
A wonderful bonding experience for you and your child while they learn co-ordination and motor skills with song and rhyme.
A great place to meet and get to know new people.
If you’re a Mum, Dad, Grandparent, Aunt, Uncle or Cousin come along all welcome.

---

**FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE**

6th March 2015  
6pm—9pm

**South Burnett Saints AFL**

Come and Try  
Aussie Rules Football (AFL)  
(for 8 – 16 year olds)

Free Saturday morning clinics  
Saturday 21st and 28th February  
Saturday 7th and 14th March 2015

Time: 9.30 am – 11.00 am  
Venue: Wondai State School, Kent Street, Wondai

Attend 3 out of the 4 clinics and receive a free  
South Burnett Saints Pack (on the last clinic day)

For any enquiries please contact:-  
President: Dan Glacy – 0413 833 103
Email: southburnettsfc@gmail.com  
Like us on Facebook

Proudly supported by the South Burnett Regional Council’s  
Mayor's Community Benefit Fund