

202

KEY IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES

Attendance: all students reaching 92% or higher

English :Reading across all curriculum areas with a focus on phonological awareness, decoding skills and comprehension strategies.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wed 14th Feb	Tuckshop orders due
Fri 16th Feb	Library borrowing Tuckshop: Chicken Nuggets & Chips
Fri 16th Feb	Leadership Badge Presentation 9am
Tuesday 20th Feb	Mid term celebration: Fluro Fun Day: Come dressed in your fluro colours!
Fri 23rd Feb	Newsmail photographer—prep students
Friday 1st March	Clean Up Australia Schools Day
Tues 5th March	P & C AGM P & C General Meeting 3:30pm at school
Wed 13th-March	NAPLAN Yr 3 & 5 assessment window opens
Mon 5th Mar	NAPLAN assessment window concludes



McIlwraith News

13.02.24

'Strive to Achieve'



We are RESPONSIBLE, we are RESPECTFUL we are SAFE, we are LEARNERS.

Dear Parents,

There is always a lot of busy happenings at the commencement of the year. One such event is our P & C AGM. Here at McIlwraith, we truly believe that behind every good school is a great P & C! And I'm very proud to say that we have a fantastic one here at McIlwraith! Although small, we are blessed to have a very proactive and passionate P & C who support our school, helping all to achieve our educational goals.

Throughout the year our P & C, work cooperatively on major fundraisers throughout the year to be able to provide valuable funding for extra curricular events, activities and resources. Last year our P & C funded the live theatre trips to the Moncrieff theatre, bus transport for school camp, library books, book presentations for all students at concert, graduation gifts for Year 6 students, bakery items for events, break up day activities and lunches, two performance stages for our concerts as well as other incidentals throughout the year. The funds they provide allow us to target funds in the school budget into important human resources, providing extra support for students in the classroom. With the new year well and truly underway, our first meeting of 2024 will be **Tuesday, 5th March at 3:30** in the classroom. Everyone is welcome to attend and I encourage all those that can, to attend, as we will be looking at the year ahead, ventures we can hold and an expenditure plan to support the school. A short AGM will be held first, where all current members step down and all positions become available: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and tuckshop convenor. After that, we will move onto our first general meeting of the year. The more support and volunteers we can gather, the easier events are to organise and run. We appreciate time is precious, and know that without our generous volunteers we would not have been able to achieve what we have in previous years. If you are unable to attend, but have ideas you would like to put forth, please see one of our current executives—Bonnie, Muppi or Jamie-Lee. Have a great fortnight ahead,

Kind regards,

Felicity

Equity and Excellence

Realising the potential of every student



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What is a P & C?

P & Cs, short for Parents & Citizens, exist to promote a school's interests, facilitate the school's development and contribute to the school's improvement.

Facts & Questions

I only have limited time, how can I help?

Our "Just One Thing" initiative lists various ways of how you can contribute to improving our school. Small contributions can make a big difference.

I would like to help but I don't want to be a member.

You don't have to be a member to attend meetings or participate. However, only members can vote on motions at meetings.

I am new to town and don't know anybody.

P & Cs are one of the best places to meet other parents. We are an open and inclusive environment and no one will be harassed into volunteering.

Can I bring my kids to the meetings?

Absolutely.



I hear meetings are long and boring.

We do our best to keep them short and succinct. They are an excellent way to keep informed about what is happening in our school.

I don't want to turn up and then be stuck doing everything.

There is no pressure on members/attendees to take on duties, it is solely on a volunteer basis.

What are the roles of the P & C executive and what is its purpose?

President, Vice President, Secretary & Treasurer. The executive take care of all the procedural matters, running meetings, correspondence, paying bills etc and setting the overall direction for the P & C.



"Just One Thing"



Any contribution to our P & C is valued no matter how big or small. Your "Just One Thing" for our school community may include: |

- Helping in the tuckshop
- Helping sell tickets and merchandise
- Organising raffles, sponsors and donations
- Helping set up stalls
- Donating food / baking for fundraising events
- Helping man the BBQ and serve food
- Coordinating volunteers
- Planning and organising events
- Writing grant applications
- Attending meetings

Why join the P & C?

- ✓ Meet other parents and community minded people
- ✓ Stay informed on what's happening within the school
- ✓ Learn new skills & share a laugh
- ✓ Support fundraising events and investment in our school
- ✓ Be part of the school's decision making process



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Tuckshop: Chicken Nugget and Chips meal deal orders due tomorrow. Students are encouraged to place their orders in the tuckshop box in the classroom. Student Council is also selling Zooper Doopers for 50c, every day during second lunch. Thank you parents who have volunteered for tuckshop. We really appreciate it!

In the Classroom: In English our Prep,1,2 students have been examining what a narrative is and looking at the structure. They have been identifying the beginning, middle and ending of stories as well as main characters and settings. Through retells and story maps we have been sequencing main events in stories that are based around the theme of friendship. For our assessments, Yr 2 are working towards writing their own narrative that has an underlying theme of friendship, Yr 1 students will be making connections to personal experiences and identifying the purpose and structure of a narrative, and Prep will be responding to a story, stating personal preferences and making connections to personal experiences. Our Year 3 students are currently enjoying reading a wide variety of texts including classic and contemporary literature of Australian and world authors as they work towards creating an adaptation of their favourite story. This story may be told from the perspective of a new or existing character, or set in a similar or different setting. As well as the structure of a narrative, students are also identifying images that extend meaning and author language that influences mood. They are particularly working towards including greater detail to build setting and characters.

Meanwhile Year 4, 5 & 6 students, (and myself included) are really enjoying Jackie French's novel, 'The Night they Stormed Eureka'. This is set in modern time but has a time shift back to the era of the Eureka Stockade and bushrangers. Lots of new vocabulary is being explored as we identify historical context and look at the language features that the author uses to keep the reader engaged. Year 4 are working towards creating an imaginative adaptation, while Year 5/6 students will have the task of creating a final chapter. Both the 3/4 and 5/6 cohorts have been identifying language that the authors use to build characterisation and setting. In particular we have been identifying rich vocabulary, descriptive noun groups and adverbs that tell us what the characters are doing.



Maths: Our focus over these past weeks has been number. Prep has been busy identifying numbers 0 -10, sequencing counting patterns, counting on from a given number and counting backwards from 10. Year 1, 2 and 3 have been focusing on place value of 2 digit and 3 digit numbers, plotting numbers on a number line, addition with regrouping and partitioning numbers. Year 3-6 have revised algorithms with a focus on division to 2 decimal places, using place value, plotted fractions on number lines, investigated positive and negative integers, and represented fractions in equivalent forms. Mrs Stevenson has been investigating positions, locations and transformations involving rotations, flips and slides.

In science, Prep, 1 and 2 students are studying a unit on Life and Living. They have classified living organisms according to observable features and have identified living and non living organisms, what they need to survive and life cycles/stages. Year 3-6 have also been investigating observable features of living organisms, with a focus on how the environment contributes positively and negatively to the survival of a living organism. We will be looking at the different roles living organisms have in a habitat and adaptations that allow them to survive in especially harsh environments.

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Student of the Week



Congratulations to Sylvia who has demonstrated an exemplary work ethic and careful presentation of work. Keep up the Great work!



Congratulations to Benjamin for mastering his 3 x tables and working Carefully to form entries and exits in his handwriting. Well done Benjamin!



Gotcha Winners

Congratulations to the following students for being 'caught out' for your positive behaviour!

Sophia: careful working in her alphabet book.

Clark: remembering to put his hand up when wanting to speak during class.

Wyatt: Playing well with his friends and sharing the balls

Sylvia: Well done on handing in Japanese homework on time.

Phoebe: Working very hard in English and contributing ideas

Attendance Champions

Fantastic to see so many students on target with their attendance. Research shows that the more time a child attends school the better they will achieve in school and in life generally. For the past 3 weeks we have been sitting on a very high 94.8% whole school attendance rate, which



Student Leaders Induction Ceremony:



A warm invitation is extended to our school community to join us this **Friday, 16th February**, for one of our most favourite and special days of the year, as we induct our leaders into their roles and present their leadership badges. This will be held in the classroom, commencing at 9am. Parents, grandparents and friends are invited to join us and stay afterwards for light refreshments. If you are able to attend, we would love to see you there.



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Writing: To foster enjoyment for writing and to help generate ideas quickly, we have been completing daily quick writes, which are based around fun topics such as 'would you rather fly like a bird or swim like a dolphin?' Students in grades 1-6 write their preference and reason for an activity. Their reasons have been quite enjoyable to read. In our daily writing, our focus has been using conjunctives, (our joining words such as so, as, however, because, while, etc) in sentences and the correct use of tense. Using the correct verb tense is proving to be tricky for some students. If you do hear your child use the incorrect tense, please could I ask you to correct them so that this correct use becomes habit and flows into their writing. In handwriting, our whole school focus has been on neatness and presentation, aiming to form our letters correctly, control the size of our writing to fit the space we have, touch the correct guidelines, and use entries and exits(Yr2,3).

Oral Language: Our English units in the lower grades have a big focus on students opinion of the story and making a connection to their own experiences. Part of their assessment is to state whether they enjoyed the text, provide reasons why they liked it or disliked it, and comment on what the book reminds them of. We are practicing identifying these concepts at school and also giving responses that are full sentences.

Show and Tell: To assist with our oral language development and confidence speaking in front of our peers, students in grade one and prep are invited to bring in a special, interesting item that the students have a personal connection to. This may be a letter, photograph, something interesting they found in the garden, etc. Students will be prompted to tell their friends about the item and answer questions that their peers ask. Our Show and tell sessions will be on Monday and Tuesdays.

Pick of the Crop: We are getting back into the swing of the program this week with a gardening session planned for Friday afternoon. Unfortunately the hares got into our gardens and in the process of burrowing tunnels, have destroyed seedlings that we had growing. We are requesting the donation of any seedlings that you may have that have popped up in your gardens after the recent rain. We are also excited to have been chosen twith our cluster schools—Bullyard, Booyal, Walville and Kolan South—to participate in a combined initiative of Bundaberg Fruit and Vegetables Growers Association, Health and Wellbeing Qld and Pick of the Crop Programs, called 'The Alphabet of Healthy Eating'. This will see our students and school showcased through a video, that will be used by schools to encourage greater consumption of fresh fruit and vegetables amongst students, and also Bundaberg tourism, as a means of attracting greater visitors and people to the Bundaberg region. More information will come home on a letter that will explain the project further and what exactly will be involved.



Cooperative play: It has been very pleasing to see our students of all different ages playing cooperatively during their play break. Dodge ball has been the game of choice, one that the students are particularly fond of. I'd like to take a moment to acknowledge our senior students who have been very patient with our younger students, who are still getting the hang of the rules and learning that it is ok to get out.

Red Folders: Please encourage your child to bring their red folder to school everyday. Library books do not need to be returned until Friday.

A message from JODIE GOODWIN-Early Years & Family Worker, Bundaberg Regional Council
Hello families,

Over the past few weeks, I have had several families asking about lunch box ideas and other food related questions. Last week was Healthy Lunch Box week. I have a number of healthy eating menu ideas, see attached. Please let me know if you are seeking information or advice about your child's lunchbox and other food ideas such as recipes, feel free to reach out. M 0438 505 587E jodie.goodwin@bundaberg.qld.gov.au

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