From the Principal
We are already in the middle of our term and we are currently participating in a whole school review by the School Improvement Unit. These reviews are scheduled periodically by the department and will assist us to identify and plan for continued improvement. It will also assist us in the creation of our new strategic plan that will be discussed in the future. Many thanks to the parents, staff and students who have participated in this process. I will seek more feedback and thoughts regarding our new strategic direction in the weeks to come.

NAPLAN Results
NAPLAN results were officially released this week and parent reports have been sent home. A very big congratulations to everyone once again for your efforts throughout this important process. The data derived through NAPLAN is a valuable and will assist us to differentiate and focus on concepts for individual students. We have already used this data to create our new learning targets.

Target Setting
With the release of NAPLAN we have analysed all student data and used this to inform our targets for Semester 2. These targets are aimed at our focus areas of reading, spelling and numeracy. Each student’s targets are different to reflect their individual challenges and will soon be emailed home to parents. If you would like to discuss your child’s targets or how you can support your child ascertain these goals please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Daily 5
Students now have their ‘target areas’ and we will begin to focus on key strategies in class linked to these. One of these specific strategies is ‘Cause and Effect’. Readers who recognise cause and effect relationships understand that in text events happen (effects), along with the reason why they happen (causes) When students recognize this relationship, comprehension is increased. Each newsletter will now include a ‘Parent Pipeline’ that will explain one of the strategies that we are currently working on and can be found on the last page.

Attendance
With our school camps and the inevitable flu and cold season that can come with winter, our school attendance for Semester 2 has dropped from 96.2% to 93.3%. We are just below our target of 95% attendance for the year. Thank you very much for your efforts so far. I’m sure that by the end of the year we will achieve our goal.

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Words Their Way—Spelling

Spelling lists have been emailed to parents and students have begun practicing these words in class on a weekly basis. We are monitoring students' improvement on their weekly spelling lists through Pre and Post testing. Our general process in that we follow in class is:

⇒ Monday—Pre-Test and Word Sort (Individual)
⇒ Tuesday—Word Sort - Explain/Teach Patterns
⇒ Wednesday—Spelling Ladders (Individually)
⇒ Thursday—Blind Sort (With a partner)
⇒ Friday—Post Test

Minion of the Week/s

We had three minions of the week presented on parade last week (due to my absences from school). They were:

- Week 1—Miranda Luck—for her outstanding behavior and confidence during the Winchester Camp.
- Week 2—Jake Phillis—for his voracious reading of the Harry Potter series
- Week 3—Gabrielle Torrisi—for her outstanding effort in writing!

A massive congratulations to all three students. Keep up the great work.

Middlemount Races

A very big thank you to everyone that was able to assist during the Middlemount Races. It is a fantastic opportunity to fundraise for our small school and we couldn’t have asked for a better day. A very big congratulations to Claire, the winner of our wheelbarrow raffle on the day.
Camps / Excursions

ICPA Sports Camp

This is another wonderful opportunity for our students to form friendships with children from other small schools. These friendships will become invaluable as our older students transition into high school. The sports camp is scheduled to occur in week 7 of this term. I will be in contact with parents of students not able to attend the sports camp shortly to organize alternative arrangements for our bus run.

Pre-Prep Program

Our Pre-Prep program is well underway! Our students have been completing a range of activities involving drawing, identifying shapes, identifying colours and reading nursery rhymes. The children also had the opportunity to play colour bingo! As always, a very big thank you to Miss Tammy who continues to be a vital part of this wonderful initiative.

Mackenzie River Pony Club

Lastly, the Mackenzie River Pony Club is holding an Open Day on the 5th September. More information will be sent out in the next newsletter, however, if you would like more information please contact Mrs Tanya Wight.

If there is anything at all that you would like to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact the school or myself.

Yours Sincerely,

Troy Mutton
Principal
CAFÉ Strategy: Recognize and Explain Cause-and-Effect Relationships

Understanding cause-and-effect relationships is a basic thinking skill. It is a strategy used by readers to understand why things happen the way they do in the text. Students are taught to look for clue words that will assist them in determining the cause and effect of the events in the text. It is a strategy that is not only used in reading, but it is experienced in day to day life.

Readers who recognize cause-and-effect relationships understand that in-text events happen (effects), along with the reason why they happen (causes). When students recognize this relationship, comprehension is increased.

How can you help your child with this strategy at home?

1. Encourage your child to look for clue words when reading. These clue words include: because, if, then, since, so, therefore, & as a result of.
2. When reading with your child, show examples of cause-and-effect relationships in the text. This modeling is essential to understanding.
3. Sometimes we must infer the cause because it is not always stated in the text. If this is the case, ask your child, “Why do you think this happened?”
4. Spark conversation about the text by using the following questions:
   • What happened and why did it happen?
   • What were the clue words?
   • Why would this have happened?
   • Give examples of cause-and-effect relationships throughout your life—in your family, in sports, and in your friendships.

Thank you for your continued support at home!

• Ideas and strategies are taken from: The CAFE Book, written by Gall Boushey & Joan Moser
  • Written by: Allison Behne ©www.thedailycafe.com