Mackenzie River News  16/9/14

Principal’s Messages

Mackenzie River Cricket Competition

On Saturday the 18th of October Mackenzie River SS will be holding a sport day with cricket, tennis and volleyball. Registration is $60 per team and the event starts at 8am. Please see attached flyer for further details.

Attendance

Unfortunately again this week our attendance rate has continued to decline. I am aware that students have been unwell and this is causing absences. Please remember to inform the school if your children are going to be absent.

Words of The Week

Each week this term, we will have 3 focus words for our vocabulary development. This week’s words are:

- Extinct — no longer in existence; completely wiped out
- Essential — necessary; very important
- Excess — more than expected, needed or usual

Encourage your children to use these words in sentences and at home in their everyday language. The more extended and complex children’s vocabularies are, the higher the rates for reading success.

Weekly You Can Do It Value

This week’s ‘You Can Do It’ value focus is on confidence. This means always trying your best in class. Never getting upset that you can’t do something, but always giving it a go and thinking ‘I can do it!’

Eggs

If you would like some free eggs, there are plenty available at the school on a regular basis that are not being consumed.
Reading Strategies —Parent Pipeline

This term in reading we are focusing on learning specific strategies for decoding texts when they are hard to read, and strategies for comprehension. Each week I will share some information on the strategy so that the children can practice these strategies at home. While they may seem very simple, it is important that even the older students remember these strategies as a useful tool to draw on when stuck on a word.

This week’s strategy: Skippy Frog

As experienced readers, when we come to an unfamiliar word in a text, we are usually able to use context clues to help us figure out what the word is. We use the accuracy strategy, “Skip the Word, Then Come Back” without even thinking about what we are doing. We have enough experience and practice as a reader to know this strategy works.

When children come to words they don’t know, some stall on the unknown word and are unable to move on. These children must learn strategies to help them move forward. Your child is working on the accuracy strategy, “Skip the Word, Then Come Back”. This strategy teaches a reader to skip over the word until the end of the sentence or passage. Then, the reader should back up and read the sentence again, using the first letter or letters of the skipped word and their context clues to decode the unknown word.

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

1. When listening to your child read, help him/her realize it is okay to skip over a word and then come back to it. If, when reading, your child gets stuck on a word, encourage the use of this strategy.

2. Model this strategy for your child. Read aloud and stop at a word they may find difficult. Think out loud. Say, “I am going to skip this word because I am not sure what it says. I will read the rest of the sentence and then come back to it to see if I can figure it out.” Hearing someone else think through the use of a new strategy can be helpful to a reader that is learning to use that strategy for the first time.

3. Play a game of “Guess My Word” with your child. Write a sentence and cover up one word. Have your child read the sentence and guess what the word might be. Then, uncover the first letter of the word and help them use the first letter and context clues from the rest of the sentence to figure it out. You may also want to reverse roles and have your child write a sentence and cover a word for you to guess. This will allow you another opportunity to model this strategy for your child.

Thank you for your continued support at home!
Ambition Day

On Tuesday we held ambition day at the school. The students dressed up in the clothes or outfit of what they want to be when they grow up. We had a few different outfits including drover, butcher, grazier, nanny, football and cricket players, cowboys and even a ninja!

In exposure to different career paths, we had Senior Constable Brett from Middlemount Police come out to speak to the group about what is involved in become a police officer. He told us that he had also gone to a small school when he was a child growing up in the country, and that from this age he always wanted to be a country police officer. He let us know that lots of study and hard training is essential. He informed us of the different branches of the police and the different jobs people do, including investigations, traffic work, and even police diving. There were many interesting questions being asked, including questions about fingerprints and DNA. We were very lucky to have Senior Constable Brett come to visit and share this information on this career path.

Leah Mullane

(Acting Principal)
Mackenzie River State School

Cricket Comp; Tennis & Volleyball

Sat 18 October
8:00am

Registration: $60/team

(All games 6-a-side but you may have as many team members as you wish)

Food and drinks available at canteen all day. BBQ lunch. Families welcome.

Contact Scott Phillis 0427857175 for further information.
Student of the Week:
Sara Schottelius — For continually persisting at difficult tasks

Spelling Awards:
Week 8: Carter, Jake, Miranda, & Sara
Week 9: Grady, Gabby, Cameron, Carter, Jake, Miranda & Lachlan

Well Done!