Mackenzie River News

Principal’s Messages

ICPA Sports Camp
Sport’s Camp forms must be returned by this Friday 20th June. Please return forms straight to the ICPA.

Athletics Carnival
The Brigalow Athletics Carnival is this Friday the 20th June. Don’t forget: school uniform, school hat, water bottle and sunscreen. Also remember if you did not order tuck shop to bring food for the day.

Red Nose Day
Friday the 27th June is red nose day. The school will have noses and accessories available in the school office if you wish to support this cause.

Camp
Camp forms for both the school camp and Winchester camp have gone out this week. Please ensure they come back ASAP.

Word of The Week
Each week this term, we will have 3 focus words for our vocabulary development. This week’s words are:
- Perceptive—observant and insightful
- Rare—Not happening very often; uncommon
- Preserved—kept in the same condition; protected from harm

Next week’s words will be:
- Significant—important or having influence; having special meaning
- Sufficient—enough; as many as are needed
- Serene—peaceful and calm

Encourage you 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 resilience. Resilience means being able to stop yourself from getting extremely angry, down or worried when something "bad" happens. It means being able to calm down and feel better when you get overly upset, and bounce back from adversity.
Attendance
Attendance at school is vital for your child’s success. Missed time in class can accumulate to large amounts of time and work missed, possibly leaving your child behind where they need to be. If your child is away for the day, please ensure you contact the school to let us know the reason, or provide a signed note. For more information on Everyday Counts visit http://education.qld.gov.au/everydaycounts/index.html

Report Cards
Report Cards will be sent home in Week 10. Please remember the following message in regards to your child’s report card.

Understanding Your Child’s Report Card
As you are aware, students and teachers this year have been working with the new Australian Curriculum, as interpreted through Queensland’s C2C curriculum resources. Whilst the Australian Curriculum is similar in many respects to the previous Queensland curriculum, there are some differences which have required adjustments. For example, some concepts are covered earlier than previously expected, there is a stronger focus on specific areas and in some cases a different standard of work is expected of students.

For Semester 1 report cards, teachers are evaluating student work based on our C2C units and assessments tasks from Term 1 and 2 in English, Maths, Science, and History.

Due to the implementation of a new curriculum, report card results may also reflect students’ ‘learning curve’ in terms of the change in expectations for learning in their year level.

This is not cause for concern, as teachers are adapting and adjusting their teaching/learning to ensure that students receive the necessary prior knowledge and are supported through their learning tasks.

Also, C2C units are in ongoing review and adjustment, based on feedback from teachers. However, it is worth noting the fact that report card results in English, Maths, Science and History this semester are based on the new content descriptors and year level Achievement Standards from the Australian Curriculum, and as such may not be reliably compared to previous years’ results. For further information on the Australian Curriculum standards visit the online curriculum at http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/

Over recent years, parents, students and teachers across Queensland are gradually becoming more familiar with a 5-point scale (e.g. A-E) process for reporting in all schools.

The new system schools are using refers to attainment standards called “benchmarks of achievement” or “criteria.” So what makes an “A”, “B”, “C” etc is predetermined by a scale of achievement. Any student who shows evidence of meeting a particular level, deserves that benchmark grade.

This is what you could consider the new difference for a “C” really means:

A “C” means that the student has met the criteria for a learner to be at the appropriate age level.

A “C” means that the student is doing everything required at their Year Level at school. The best description is to say that a “C” means that the student’s academic development is exactly where it needs to be.

That means attaining a “C” for Achievement means you are ON TARGET for your age level!

With all of this in mind, we must accept that it may be harder to get an “A” or “B”. These grades are not awarded simply to the top students in the class. They are only given to students who show that they are independently capable of working beyond the criteria required for their Year Level. This often means working 1 to 2 year levels above the standard required for their year level.

Regards,

Leah Mullane
(Acting Principal)
Minute-To-Win-It and Black Friday Disco

Last Friday was our minute-to-win-it and black Friday disco. The afternoon and evening were very successful with everyone having an excellent time. Many of the students were working hard to beat each others records in the games, however no one was able to complete the 3 balloon challenge. Perhaps next time! We also had some excellent dancing at the disco. My personal favourite was the student/parent knights, mounts and cavaliers game. Thank you to all the people who put in the effort to make this event happen!
Bees and Honey
In week 7 we had a visit from Aiden who came to teach us all about bees and honey. He showed us a hive of bees and the students were able to identify the queen. The students learned about the process for making and collecting honey, and were then able to taste the honey for themselves straight from the honeycomb.

Spelling Awards
Week 7 — Congratulations Jake
Week 8 — Congratulations Carter, Sara, Lachlan, Joe & Miranda

Number Fact Awards
Week 8 — Congratulations Miranda

You Can Do It Awards
Lachlan Frankish — For being persistent during the English writing task