From the Principal

Welcome back from the holidays! For everyone that managed to get away I hope that you found it relaxing; for those that couldn’t get away, I at least hope you enjoyed having a break from the normal routine. Term 4 is well underway and it is shaping up to be a busy one as always. We have already:

• Started our units of work in English, Mathematics, History and Science
• Had a visit from our LOTE teacher, Miss Bintley
• Unpacked our assessment so we know what we need to do in order to do our best.
• Started swimming in Middlemount
• And lastly, we have begun our preparations for the Christmas play

With all of this happening (and more) I cannot emphasise enough the importance that our students are attending school as much as possible. Every Day Counts. It is going to be an exciting term and I am certainly looking forward to it.

MRSS Awards Night / Community Health Afternoon

On the 4th December, in conjunction with the Isaac Regional Council we will be holding a joint Health Afternoon and Mackenzie River State School Awards Evening. It is shaping up to be a great event and everyone is invited. So far we have confirmed that we will have a jumping castle, a large slippery slide, a fairy floss machine, a slushy machine, a health stall offering free blood pressure checks and a ‘Pig on a Spit’ with three vegetables for dinner. We are also trying to secure a prize for one lucky family on the night. The health afternoon will then be followed by our school play and award presentations. Please spread the word, it would be great to see as many families here as possible to celebrate the school year.

Attendance

Unfortunately our attendance in Term 3 took a very big hit. At the end of Term 1 our attendance was approximately 96.3% - an amazing effort and one of the highest in the region. Unfortunately in Term 3 our attendance slipped to 88.4%. I know and understand that sometimes absences cannot be avoided, but with the interruptions of camps and the flu season now behind us, it is time to rally! If I can help in any way to ensure this happens please let me know. Overall, with the peaks and lows of the year, our official year to date attendance is 91.9%.

Our target is 95%, it is still definitely achievable.

Term 4 Focus Areas

♦ Spelling—Words Their Way
♦ Reading—Daily 5
♦ Numeracy

Date Claimers

19.10.15 ⇒ Student Free Day
26.10.15 ⇒ First Aid Course
06.11.15 ⇒ P&C Meeting
11.11.15 ⇒ Remembrance Day
20.11.15 ⇒ Proposed Brigalow Swimming Carnival
04.12.15 ⇒ Christmas Concert

5 Keys to Success

♦ Organisation
♦ Confidence
♦ Getting Along
♦ Resilience
♦ Persistence

School Rules

♦ Be Safe
♦ Be Responsible
♦ Be Respectful
Words Their Way—Spelling

Our new spelling lists have been sent home and we have once again begun our spelling sessions in the morning. You can assist with your child’s spelling by asking them to tell you what rule/pattern/sort they are working on this week. For example, one group this week has been working on words in the past tense. We discovered that although they all end in –ed, they can *sound* different which is why we can spell them incorrectly. Examples of this are:

- Picked—Sound like it ends in a ‘t’
- Waited—Sounds like it ends in an ‘id’
- Rained—Sounds like it ends in a ‘d’

Spelling can be tricky, but with your ongoing support we will improve.

Homework

Homework has once again begun. All students should have received their folders this week and new spelling lists have been emailed home. If you would like a paper version of these spelling lists please just contact the school.

Minion of the Week/s

Our students of the week for the last fortnight were:

Week 1—Miss Miranda Luck
⇒ For her caring attitude and ‘looking out’ for our Pre-Preppy—Skyla

Week 2—Mr Jake Phillis
⇒ For his confident, enthusiastic approach to school play rehearsals.

Congratulations to both students. With our new rewards system in place, students that receive a Minion of the Week award also receive 3 tickets that they can use to purchase different items at school.

Brigalow Cluster Meeting

Last term we needed to reschedule this event due to unforeseen circumstances. We have hopefully confirmed a date, Friday 23rd October. As a cluster we have tried to hold face to face meetings at least once a term to hold professional development, develop a culture of coaching and feedback amongst Principals, but most importantly establish relationships with students from other schools. It is sure to be a valuable day for all involved.
Book Club

Book club flyers went home this week and are due back by the 26th October. Can parents please have a close look at the magazine and contact the school if they find something that may be suitable for the end of year presentations?

Tissues and Paper

Just a gentle reminder. If you could please send through to school any reams of paper or boxes of tissues for the remaining term it would be greatly appreciated.

Absence from school

There are already a few days that will require me to be absent from school. I do try minimize these days however it is not always possible. Currently, the days I will be absent are:

- 27th October—Budget Planning
- 11th November—Asbestos Training
- 23rd November—Principals Meeting

(Our first swimming lesson... and yes, it was cold!)

As always, if you have any questions or would like to contact the school please do not hesitate to call or email.

Yours Sincerely,

Troy Mutton
Principal