Principal’s Messages

NAPLAN

Last week we received our official NAPLAN results from 2014. The individual student reports are being sent home this week. I have also attached a copy of students’ writing from the writing task. Well done to all the students who participated this year, and to everyone who worked hard to help these students succeed. Some of our achievements include:

- Year 3 average higher than state average in Reading, Grammar and Punctuation, Spelling and Numeracy!
- Year 5 average higher than state average in Reading, Grammar and Punctuation, Writing and Numeracy!
- That’s 8/10 areas where our average is above the state average.

WELL DONE!
Reading Strategies —Parent Pipeline

This term in reading we are focusing on leaning 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: Chunky Monkey

When teaching children to read, we are always looking for ways to help them decode words efficiently, rapidly, and accurately. This allows them to focus their attention on understanding what they read rather than focusing on the fundamentals of each word. One way we accomplish this is through teaching children to watch for familiar word patterns called chunks. Chunks are groups of letters that when put together form a recognizable sound or word. Chunks can be found at the beginning, middle, or end of a word. Your child is working on the accuracy strategy of **chunking letters and sounds together**. Use the following suggestions to support your child’s learning at home.

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

1. When reading with your child, have your child look for well-known letter chunks in the words they are reading. These chunks could be prefixes, suffixes, endings, whole words, or base words. For example, your child may look for the chunk *end* in the word *send*, or *air* in *chair*.
2. When chunking a word, have your child first read each chunk separately. Then, have your child put the chunks together to make the word. This will train your child to quickly and easily spot chunks.
3. If your child is having difficulty finding chunks, guide him/her to look for familiar endings and familiar prefixes.
4. Encourage your child to use his/her fingers to frame the chunks found in words, decode those chunks first, and then move on to tackle the whole word.
5. To help train your child to look for chunks in words, play a game of “I Spy” when reading. For example, when looking at the word *blend*, you would say, “In this word I spy the word *end*”. Then, switch roles with your child and let your child “spy” chunks in words.
Attendance

Unfortunately after sports camp our attendance data is looking a bit sad at 85.7%. Let’s see if we can improve this for the remainder of the term!

Ambition Day

The student action group decided they would like to hold an ambition day in the last week of school on 16/9/14. On this day the students will dress up as what they want to be when they grow up. We are also looking for community members to come and share information about their career with the students. If you would like to be a part of this day, please contact the school on 4985 8155

Words of The Week

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

- Valuable — having value or worth; very important
- Vulnerable — able to be hurt easily
- Vacant — empty; not occupied

Next week’s words will be:

- Intricate — very detailed or complicated; complex
- Infinite — endless; going on forever
- Irrational — not making logical sense

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 on persistence. This means trying hard and never giving up. Even when things seem hard, just keep trying your best. No skills will ever improve without persistence!

Capricornia Track and Field Trials

Congratulations to Carter Wight on his fantastic effort at the recent Capricornia Track and Field trials in Emerald. He competed in Shot Put and finished 8th in the Capricornia region for his age group with a throw of 7.71m.

Sports Camp

Last week half the school was off at the ICPA sports camp. The students had an excellent time playing a range of sports including netball, volleyball, tennis, handball, rugby, soccer, cricket, and softball. The coaches were all excellent and everyone seemed to be learning some valuable new sporting skills!
Wombat Stew & Zoo Excursion

While the big kids were at sports camp, the rest of the school went for an excursion to Rockhampton to the Pilbeam Theatre for Wombat Stew! The show was excellently done, not only providing entertainment, but also teaching the students different elements of putting on a play.

After Wombat Stew we went to the Rockhampton Zoo. Here we saw lots of interesting animals birds, kangaroos, crocodiles, dingos, wombats, snakes, primates and koalas.

Leah Mullane
(Acting Principal)

Other Messages

MACKENZIE RIVER PONY CLUB INC.

OPEN DAY

Saturday 6th September 2014

PONY CLUB GROUNDS - "MULGOWRIE", FITZROY DEVELOPMENT ROAD, DINGO.
STARTING AT 10:00AM
(FULL GEAR CHECK PRIOR TO STARTING)

Non Pony Club members welcome
Mackenzie River Community Round Table

Join us to have a say on your community’s future:

Isaac Regional Council would like to invite you to attend the Glenden Community Round Table meeting.

When:
10am – 12.30pm
Tuesday 9 September 2014

Where:
Mackenzie River State School
Fitzroy Developmental Road
Mackenzie River

Round Table meetings are your chance to discuss opportunities and challenges in your town and surrounding region with Councillors, the Chief Executive Officer and Council staff. As an individual, community group or organisation you are invited to bring your voice to the table to discuss:

- Community opportunities
- Community challenges
- Local government
- Advocacy
- Assistance/advice
- Information share

Visit:
Isaac Regional Council website: www.isaac.qld.gov.au - Click on the About Council tab and then follow Community and Stakeholder Engagement link.

Email:
roundtables@isaac.qld.gov.au

Phone:
1300 ISAACS (1300 472 227)
Student of the Week:
Antony Torrisi—For continually showing resilience in the classroom and with changes to his program.

Spelling Awards:
Week 6: Gabby, Joe, Carter, Jake, Miranda, Lachlan