New Programs

This term you may have noticed some changes in the homework. This is mostly due to the changes in the way we do spelling. This term we are putting a large focus on the spelling rules and concepts. This means that rather than just focusing on learning the words for the week, they must now be looking at why the words are spelled this way and find other examples of words such as these. The biggest focus will be on sorting words in regard to their weekly rule or concept. Please feel free to contact me with any questions regarding this.

Year 5 Online Math & Timetable Changes

This term the year 5 students begin a new math program online with the school of distance education. They work with their teacher, Mr McFayden, daily between 12 and 1. Due to this, we have changed the break times to 10.30-11.15 and 1.00-1.30.

Middlemount Races

The Middlemount Races are coming up on the 2nd of August. Mackenzie River State School P&C will be selling raffle tickets on the day to be in the chance to win a wheelbarrow full of alcohol. If you’re free come along and support the school!

Soccer Clinic

The soccer program begins this Friday. Please return your forms by Friday if you wish your child to attend.

School Opinion Survey

Sent home this week were the invitation letters for the school opinion survey. This year all the surveys are online. The surveys are not linked to any individuals, so are anonymous to the school and the department. Please take the time to complete the survey and give your honest opinion of our school.
Last week we headed to Mackay for our school camp. After setting up tents at Kinchant Dam we left for the forest fly. This first activity proved to be the most popular with excellent views and exciting thrills. Next we left for Eungella. We weren't able to see much over the Eungella lookout over the fog, but learned plenty about milking cows from the Riverside Dairy. Then back to Kinchant for our first night in the tents. Everyone was well behaved and went to sleep quietly.

On day 2 we set out for the Recycling Plant where we saw the process for sorting out recyclable materials. Next we headed into the Art Gallery, which for some was their first time with this kind of experience. Here we had a tour of the gallery and discussed the pieces. We then had a try at drawing and learning from the art on display. That afternoon we left for the Sugar Shed. Here we viewed how sugar is made and tried some of the products throughout the process. While not all were nice, we were able to taste some free fairy floss at the end.

Day 3 we left for the alpaca farm where we saw and fed many different kinds of animals including pigs, miniature horses, goats, sheep, donkeys, birds and of course alpacas. We then headed back to Kinchant to join the other students from the Winchester Camp. Here we participated in a range of activities including orienteering, team building and sport.

Day 4 was the first day of the Whitsunday Voices. In our first session Jake was lucky enough to be called on stage with Tiffany Hall to be a ninja! We saw a range of authors and illustrators, inspiring many of the children to read their books. For lunch we had pizza and afternoon tea ice creams, yum! That afternoon we had a book signing with the authors who were all very lovely. We then joined the Winchester schools for afternoon activities including sports, races and rock climbing. Both myself and Mrs Luck were brave enough to climb the wall.

Day 5 we got up early to pack up at camp, then left again for Whitsunday Voices. Here we saw some very engaging authors including Chris Morphew and Morris Gleitzman. After a BBQ lunch we departed with many eager for home.
Words of The Week
Each week this term, we will have 3 focus words for our vocabulary development. This week’s words are:

- Scarce—rare; present in small amounts
- Sopping—soaked with liquid; really wet
- Swift—moving or happening very quickly

Next week’s words will be:

- Reclusive—shut off or apart from the world; solitary
- Rowdy—rough, loud, excitable, quarrelsome or aggressive
- Ragged—worn, torn or uneven along the edges

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 organisation. As we are changing many of the routines at school this term, it is important for students to be organised. This means having your books and materials ready, being in your seat quickly and moving into new areas at a brisk pace!

Regards,

Leah Mullane
(Acting Principal)

Other Messages

Vehicle Inspection at “Junee”
Vehicle inspections at Junee will occur on Wednesday 3rd September. To have your vehicle inspected at the crossroads, book through Main Roads. Contact Matt Luck for more information on 4987 3079.

School Cleaner Applications Open
The position of school cleaner is open for application. For further information and an application package, please contact the school on 4985 8155 or the.principal@mackrivess.eq.edu.au
Athletics Awards

Brigalow Carnival Age Champions:
Carter Wight
Gabby Torrisi
Caden Torrisi

Brigalow Records:
Caden Torrisi: 5 year old Boy’s High Jump

Peak Downs District Qualifiers:
Sara Schottelius - 100m, 200m, shot put, long jump, discus & high jump
Carter Wight— 100m, 200m, shot put, long jump, discus & high jump
Jake Phillis— Long jump
Miranda Luck— 100m & long jump

Central Highlands Regional Qualifier:
Carter Wight: 200m, Multi, long jump & shot put

Capricornia Qualifier:
Carter Wight: Shot put

Congratulations to all the students who did their best!