From the Principal

It’s hard to believe that we find ourselves in week 10 of the term, how very busy it has been. Students have had the opportunity to participate in many activities and camps this term including: painting with Deadly Arthur, attending the Brigalow Athletics Carnival, NAPLAN, Canberra Camp, Beef Week and Cross-Country! Not to mention we have been completing our normal lessons linked to the Australian Curriculum. As it is week 10, this time of the term is a great time to stop and reflect on the work and achievements of our students. All of our students should be proud of their efforts and congratulated on the achievements and improvement that they have made. Report cards will be issued to students on Friday and will also be emailed home. Learning conversations will occur early in Term 3.

Canberra Camp

Last week students in grades 4-6 attended our nation’s capital Canberra. Students had a fantastic time and we got to visit a wide range of places and undertake a range of activities with a focus on Australia’s history, culture, heritage and democracy. During this week long visit students got to:

- Visit Parliament House, The House of Representatives and The Senate
- Meet our federal member, Michelle Landry and the ‘Magne Carte’
- Visit the War Memorial and lay a wreath during the Last Post ceremony
- Visit the CSIRO
- Make their own coin at the Australian Mint
- Undertake various science experiments at Questacon including seeing lightning and experiencing freefall
- Learn about famous buildings at Cockington Green
- See the sights of Canberra from the Telstra Tower
- Visit and Ski in the snow
- Undertake an election to learn how preferential voting works
- And much much more.

We are currently trying to put together all photos that were taken on the trip onto a U.S.B. and we will hand it out to all students early in Term 3. The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit the national capital as part of their Civics and Citizenship education. To assist families in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government is contributing funding of $80 per student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate program towards those costs. The rebate is paid directly to the school upon completion of the excursion.

We will soon be drawing on all of these personal experiences and using them to assist us in our Civics and Citizenship unit in Semester 2.
Attendance

Unfortunately our official attendance rate has fallen to 93.8%. With the wide range of events and camps occurring this was expected, however I’m sure in Term 3 we will once again meet our target of 95%. As always, thank you for your efforts in ensuring that the students at Mackenzie River are making Every Day Count.

Brigalow Athletics

Wow! I was very proud of all our students for the way that they conducted themselves at the Brigalow Athletics carnival in Nebo. Our students were competitive and displayed great sportsmanship and determination. It was fantastic to see Gabby win her high jump event after suffering an injury and our students race in the sprinting events. A special mention to Caden Torrisi who was the Age Champion for his year level, and overall Junior Champion. A very big congratulations, well done! I thought the day was simply sensational and I would like thank Craig Wight and Sandy Frankish for driving the school bus on the day. Events like this are an opportunity to display what Mackenzie River students are capable of and they certainly did their community proud!

Pre-Prep

In Semester 2 of this year we will begin a Pre-Prep Program for those children that are eligible for Prep in 2016. We have registered two students in E-Kindy at school and this will be run on Mondays beginning Week 2 of Term 3. The program will be facilitated by Miss Tammy but will be supported by an early years teacher on the day. We will also be running some pre-literature and numeracy units of work.

If you know of anyone that may be interested, please encourage them to ring the school. The successful transitioning of children into school and its associated routines is a vital aspect of developing successful, confident learners. We can’t wait to see our new students.

Lastly, as we are approaching the school holidays I would like to wish everyone a restful and safe break. If you notice anything odd on the school grounds please don’t hesitate to contact Pat or myself. I am actually planning on travelling to Karumba to chase down some more crabs (hopefully no female ones this time), but please do not hesitate to contact me either via email or phone if you need anything at all. Wishing everyone a restful break!

Troy Mutton
Principal

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