From the Principal

Welcome back to Term 3! I hope everyone had an enjoyable break from school and had the opportunity to have a safe, restful and relaxing break. This term we have already seen a couple of events occur, the first event being the Winchester Voices Camp. Students in Grades 3-6 had the opportunity to listen to a range of published authors and singer/songwriters.

The second event was the Central Highlands Athletic Trials in which two of our students, Carter and Grady Wight participated. Students travelled to Dysart and participated in the Shot-Put and Discus events. I have already received feedback that the boys tried their best and placed very well out of a field of approximately 25 students. Well done! You have done yourselves and Mackenzie River proud.

School Review

On the 6th and 7th of August the school will be involved in a whole school review by the Department of Education and Training (DET). These reviews are scheduled periodically by DET and will assist us to identify and plan for continued improvement in our student’s outcomes. As a part of this process, staff, students and parents may be invited to participate. This is a great opportunity for Mackenzie River and I look forward to showing our guests this wonderful school.

Daily 5—Reading

We have introduced the next phase of our Daily 5 Reading Program and students will now focus on a particular strategy to assist with their reading. These are centered around the CAFÉ strategies which are:

- Comprehension
- Accuracy
- Fluency
- Expanding Vocabulary

We have also introduced an A to Z Vocabulary list. The purpose of this list is for students to write down words that they do not recognize or know the meaning of. These words will then be taught explicitly in class. You can assist your child in their reading by asking them what strategy they are focusing on, and what new words they are learning at school. If you would like any further information regarding this program or would like to borrow additional resources, please just contact the school.
Words Their Way—Spelling

Last week all students completed a small diagnostic test in order to develop new spelling lists for the semester. These lists will be used in class and in homework to consolidate spelling patterns and rules. As such, to ensure that each student is targeting identified areas that they need, their results are currently being moderated. Once completed, spelling lists for the term will be sent home via email as they were earlier in the year.

Pre-Prep

This semester we have welcomed three young and eager students to our school as part of our Pre-Prep program. They will be joining us every Monday this term in preparation for next year and will participate in a range of play-based activities, including singing and painting. It’s very exciting to see our young new faces and it would be remiss of me if I didn’t thank Miss Tammy for her continued work in ensuring that our new students have a smooth and fun transition into school at Mackenzie River.

Camps / Excursions

ICPA Sports Camp

The students have already begun talking about their next camp. This is another wonderful opportunity for our students to form friendships with children from other small schools. These friendships will become invaluable as our older students transition into high school. The sports camp is scheduled to occur in week 7 of this term.
Lastly, I would like to welcome Mrs Small to our school. Mrs Small will be teaching History and Science in Semester 2. She is no stranger to Mackenzie River and I’m sure you will join me in welcoming her back!

Troy Mutton
Principal

Days Absent From School
Unfortunately, this term there are a number of days that will require me being absent from school or class. These days are:

- 24th July
- 27th and 28th July
- 6th and 7th August

I will continue to endeavour that days absent from school are kept to a minimum.

Parent/Teacher Learning Conversations
Everyone should now have received their child’s report cards for Semester 1. If you would like to schedule a time to meet and discuss your child’s report, goals or general progress, please do not hesitate to contact the school or email me directly.

Lastly, I would like to welcome Mrs Small to our school. Mrs Small will be teaching History and Science in Semester 2. She is no stranger to Mackenzie River and I’m sure you will join me in welcoming her back!

Troy Mutton
Principal