From the Acting Principal

From a very short term to a slightly longer one than usual and work in class is already well underway. I would like to congratulate the students on their high attendance over Terms 1 and 2 so far. The commitment of students and parents helps to ensure that learning is not interrupted and that students receive maximum learning time.

Tomorrow we will mark ANZAC Day with a special ceremony at the school. The ceremony will begin at 8:40 and we welcome everyone to attend. The students have been learning about the significance of some of the rituals surrounding the ceremonies and will play significant roles in tomorrow’s service.

Out of the classroom, there has also been lots of activity. Last Friday night many community members came to the school to participate in a Trivia Night to raise money for former student, Morghan Wight, who is travelling to Japan as part of a Sister City program. The night was very successful in terms of raising funds and was a lot of fun for all those who attended. There was a great deal of good humoured rivalry and it was in fact a team from Dingo who took out line honours. No doubt they will be invited back in the future for another title challenge.

Miss Tammy and I took a road trip this week to visit Marian School where we observed some lessons on Problem Solving in Maths. We also had a chance to learn more about Open-Ended Problem Solving and had a go at writing some questions ourselves that were based on skills the students are currently focussing on. I look forward to challenging students in class.

Finally, with some long weekends coming up, I am sure many will be travelling away. From all the staff at Mackenzie River, we wish you a good break however you spend it. Please take care and travel safely.

Catherine Phillis
Lego Mindstorms Storming Into Mackenzie River

As part of our school’s STEM initiatives, Mackenzie River is about to embark on an exciting new project with materials from Lego Mindstorms. No one is more excited than the students who are eagerly awaiting the arrival of the kits which will allow them to program, build and test their own robotic models. Both teachers and students will participate in workshops to learn more about the Mindstorms kits before they get to put their new skills into practice as part of a Digital Technologies unit.

VCOP—Vocabulary, Connectives, Openers, Punctuation

This term we have been learning about and using more of the VCOP system for writing. VCOP focuses on just 4 areas of writing which can greatly improve student work when done well. They are some of the attributes shown by confident writers. Last term, we began to develop our vocabulary with focus words (this week’s is ‘tedious’) and this term we are working on improving our punctuation. We are also examining different sentence openers and we have been practicing how they can be used for a variety of topics and situations. I look forward to sharing some examples of the students’ work soon.

Brigalow Cluster Newsletter

Very shortly, you will receive a special edition newsletter. The newsletter will contain combined news and events from the schools of the Briglow Cluster. These schools include Nebo, Clarke Creek, Valkyrie, Coppabella, Nebo, Kilcummin and Mistake Creek. We hope to produce a newsletter each term to highlight important events at each school and to show how the school are working to support each other. This edition will also include a page to introduce each principal and to explain the nature and history of the cluster.

Congratulations!

We are very excited to be able to congratulate some special members of our community on their engagements. Former student, Myles Schottelius, and his beautiful partner, Emma Stanke, recently became engaged. To further add to our joy, our very own staff member, Sarah Stanke (Emma’s sister), has also become engaged to her partner, Tim McCamley. From everyone at Mackenzie River we wish them great happiness as they embark on this new path together.

The Fortnight in pictures...

The boys are enjoying their new PE unit with the scooter boards.
Miss Tammy gets creative
Ready to receive guests for the Trivia Night.
Mackenzie River Newsletter

WEEK 2—21/04/16

They Who Try Succeed

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