From the Acting Principal

For a small school, there are certainly a lot of exciting things happening at Mackenzie River. This week Miss Tammy and I attended a robotics workshop as part of our lead-up to introducing Lego Mindstorms robotics in the classroom. The kits we purchase will form an integral part of our Digital Technology curriculum. With each project Miss Tammy and I completed on the day, there was much cheering and excitement. Several times we looked up and commented, “The boys are going to love this!” There is also a more serious reason for introducing the kits however. As we continue this journey, I will be sharing more background information about the Lego Mindstorms kits and the skills and understanding that they will be helping to develop.

Our new school sign has been completed and is now ready to be placed in its position out by the Beef Road. It will add to our already fantastic looking grounds and will help draw people’s attention to our whereabouts. A big thankyou to the P&C who were instrumental in getting everything organised. In addition to the sign, the students have also been working on a project to help beautify the grounds. I am sworn to secrecy at present but I am hoping I can reveal all soon.

Later in the month, we have invited some members of the Capricornia Potter’s Association to do a clay workshop with the students. It will be the first time they have had a chance to work with this medium so I am sure they will find it very interesting. Adding to the excitement, we have asked Valkyrie State School to join us on the day. The students are very much looking forward to hosting another school especially after the visit they had with Valkyrie last term.

Finally, with Mother’s Day coming up I must say a big thankyou to all of the mothers in our community. While it may be a frustrating and tiring job on many days, the children of this area are an absolute credit to you. It is your hard work, love and devotion that shapes them into the great little people they are. Well done!

Catherine Phillis
NAPLAN

NAPLAN testing will be held next Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. As part of our regular lessons, we have been preparing since Term 1, practicing key skills that are vital to all subjects. These skills have been embedded in their regular lessons to show students how they relate to all areas of the curriculum.

NAPLAN should never be cause for undue anxiety or upset in a child. It is important to remember that each one is a single test designed to give feedback to teachers on areas where a student is working well or where they may need more support. It will not define the child for the rest of their schooling.

To help students perform to the best of their ability, we plan to have a special breakfast available on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Could I ask that parents support their child by making sure students get adequate sleep so that they are feeling fresh and well? I have every confidence that the students will tackle NAPLAN with a positive attitude and strive for their very best.

ICPA SPORTS CAMP FORMS

Just a reminder to parents that the forms for the ICPA Sports Camp are due by no later than 17 June. The forms need to be returned to the address supplied on the paperwork. We would like to thank the Clermont ICPA for once again including us in this incredible camp. It has been a highlight for Mackenzie River students for many years now. For students growing up in isolated areas it offers an invaluable opportunity to try new sports under the guidance of very experienced coaches.

CELEBRATING GREAT WRITING

Have you ever seen mum and dad cooking and thought gee, I want to do that too? Well, according to my research cooking is something everyone needs to learn because you never know when someone is going to ask you to make something for them. - Grady, Year 5

Cooking is easy and not to mention great fun! Just grab some spices, pumpkin and a cooking pot as well as some cooking tools and you have got yourself a great pumpkin soup. You don’t need to pay $350 dollars to feed your family at a restaurant, just go and buy a few ingredients from your local grocer and cook them up. - Cam, Year 6

Food! Who doesn't like food - the smell in the air and the taste in your mouth? That’s why I think people should learn how to cook. - Lane, Year 4
The fortnight in pictures...
You are Invited!

to attend Valkyrie State School's Under 8's Day Followed by a Teddy Bears' Picnic

Thursday, 26th May 9:30am - 12:30pm

Morning tea will be provided. Please bring a plate to share for lunch and your favourite teddy bear.

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