From the Acting Principal

It seems like I say it at the beginning of every term but this one really is going to be huge! We kicked off Week 1 of Term 3 with the Winchester Foundation Camp, including the trip to Whitsunday Voices in Mackay. Looking ahead there will be many more events occurring throughout the term including Sports Camp, visitors to the school, a visit to Middlemount Community School and our excursion to the Robocup Junior Competition in Rockhampton. While these are all very worthwhile activities, they do reduce our classroom time and is a timely reminder that students should aim to be at school every day - making every day count. I am not anticipating this will be a problem for us however, as Mackenzie River has had an outstanding attendance rate so far this year. We are looking forward to all the experiences and challenges ahead of us in Term 3. Keep an eye on our newsletter to follow our learning experiences and achievements.

Catherine Phillis

WINCHESTER CAMP

On Wednesday of Week 1, the students travelled away for the annual Winchester Camp. After picking up Valkyrie School, we made our way to Kinchant Dam where we were based for the days we were away. The camp, which is fully funded by Mrs Beryl Nielsen and The Winchester Foundation, brings students from the Brigalow small schools together so they can spend time together and attend the Whitsunday Voices Literature Festival in Mackay. Everyone agreed that it was a fantastic experience and that we are very fortunate to be invited by the Foundation to attend each year. We would sincerely like to thank Mr Craig Wight for driving us to Kinchant Dam and back as well as to the festival in Mackay. We also appreciate all the assistance he gave while on camp. Our appreciation also to the Bus Conveyance Committee who are always extremely generous in letting us use the bus for camps and excursions. A big thanks to Valkyrie for shouting us lunch on our way home. Those hot pies and sausage rolls went down a treat in the cold, wet weather!
**Sports Success**

As always there was a great turnout for the 2016 Brigalow Athletics Carnival which was held in Middlemount and hosted by Clarke Creek. The event, which was held at the end of Term 2, was a chance for students and parents to catch up with friends from the Brigalow area. There was lots of good sportsmanship on display and plenty of determination. I was very proud of our students and the courage they showed during the march and singing of the war cries. It was quite overwhelming for such a small group to perform in front of a large crowd but they did a fantastic job.

Congratulations to Lane Parker and Grady Wight who made it through to the Peak Downs Trials for 200m sprint and shotput and discus respectively. Grady put in an excellent performance at Peak Downs and was selected to advance further to the Central Highlands Trials in shotput and discus. We will have our fingers crossed for him when he competes again next week. It is a very exciting achievement.

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**LEGO MINDSTORMS**

Term 3 is finally here which means the students have begun their Digital Technologies unit with the Lego Mindstorms. Thinking about what a robot is, why we have them and how we use them, helped us to commence the unit. We then built a model called the Riley Rover which we will use for all of our projects. One of the most exciting activities of the unit will happen on Friday when we will travel to Rockhampton to watch the CQ Robocup Junior Competition being held at CQU. The competition is for teams of primary school students who can compete in any of 3 categories: Dance, Rescue or Soccer. Watching schools who have been using Lego Mindstorms for some time will be a great experience. It will give our students the chance to go behind the scenes of the competition and to talk to the competitors and will give them some ideas about the way they can use their own robots.

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**GETTING ARTY**

It seems like the action just never stops at Mackenzie River. This week we had a visit from Indigenous artist, Lloyd Hornsby and his wife, Wendy. Lloyd showed the students some techniques to apply paint to boomerangs, using traditional symbols. The finished products were very impressive and will be making their way into the classroom to be put on display. Lloyd and Wendy entertained us while we painted by recounting stories about their lives, travels and art. Following the painting, we moved out to the oval and Lloyd showed the students how to throw a boomerang and have it return. While ours weren’t quite as successful as Lloyd’s, the students made some pretty good throws.

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**SOCCER FUN**

This morning we welcomed back our friends from the Brisbane Roar who will be doing some soccer sessions with the students over the next couple of months. They kicked off the excitement by bringing some giant Zorb balls with them to play Zorb Soccer. If today’s session was anything to go by, the students are in for a lot of fun while they develop their skills.

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**PARENT SCHOOL OPINION SURVEYS**

Please find attached the 2016 Parent/Caregiver School Opinion Survey. This is a valuable opportunity for you to have your say about what our school does well and how it can improve. Please follow the instructions on the attached letter to complete the survey online. Completed surveys must be submitted before July 29th.
The fortnight in pictures...
VALKYRIE STATE SCHOOL P&C
MINI-OLYMPICS FUN DAY 2016

Cricket  Tennis  T-ball  Volleyball

Back by popular demand, Valkyrie is hosting another Fun Day like last year, promising to leave you with sore ribs the following day from an abundance of sports and laughter!

Where: Valkyrie State School

When: Saturday 13th August

Time: 8am sharp

Cost: $50 per team

(A team can be made up of an unlimited number of people, however requires a minimum of 6 people and must be over the age of 13)

To nominate your team or for any inquiries, please call
Stewart Green on 0407 178 789
Nominations must be in by 30th July

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