From the Acting Principal

Week 4 has seen lots of visitors welcomed through the door at Mackenzie River. It is an anomaly of many small schools that despite being a bit removed geographically and having small numbers of students, we are never short of visitors. We feel fortunate that this is the case.

Our first visitor this week was a well known and respected face at the school. To help the students with their current Civics and Citizenship unit, Senior Constable Andre Meurant joined the students to talk about how laws are made and upheld. You can read more about his time with the students in the stories that follow.

Mr Peter Tanzer, our Acting Assistant Regional Director, also visited this week and was impressed by his discussions with the students. In addition to a robotics demonstration, the students talked to him about other things they are currently doing in the classroom and shared some of their writing with him. Peter congratulated them on the standard of work they had created. A sample of some great writing work has been included later in the newsletter.

Just when we thought it was noses back to the grindstone, ABC Radio Journalist, Amy McCosker, stopped in on her way back to Rockhampton. Amy’s visit was an absolute highlight for us all. She had asked if she could record an interview with some students and staff for ‘The Queensland Country Hour.’ Once here however, the boys began talking about their Lego Mindstorms robots that they have been working on. Amy could see how enthusiastic they were and asked if we would like to do a live interview to talk about our robotics program. The boys said yes without hesitation and with that, Amy set up her portable radio station. It was quite fascinating for all of us to listen to Amy’s explanation of how the equipment worked and how the interviews were coordinated between her and the main studio.

The interview went very well and the boys spoke beautifully. We couldn’t have been more proud of them. If you didn’t catch it, you can go to http://ab.co/2aw69OM to listen or to the Queensland Country Hour’s facebook page where there is a great shot of the boys.

Catherine Phillis

SCHOOL WATCH

13 17 88

Term 3 Focus Areas

♦ Spelling—Words Their Way
♦ Reading—Daily 5
♦ Grammar—VCOP
♦ Writing—7 Steps
♦ Aim For An ‘A’

Date Claimers

AUGUST
2—ICAS English Test
4—Soccer
5—P&C Meeting
8,9—Mrs Phillis at PD
11—Soccer
16—ICAS Maths Test
18—Soccer
21—ICPA Sports Camp

SEPTEMBER
15—Sports Gala Day Middlemount
16—Last day of term
An update from Mrs Meurant

The boys have all made an enthusiastic start to the term. Our new subject "Civics and Citizenship" has seen the boys create a ballot, learn about our rights and responsibilities as citizens and understand the law with a visit from Senior Constable André. We have another special guest visiting soon to tell us about becoming an Australian citizen! All of this knowledge will be very helpful when the boys make their trip to Brisbane next term and visit the state’s Parliament House.

Our current Science unit focuses on natural disasters, with students creating an information and preparation brochure for their assessment. The boys are continuing to improve in their presentation and quality of work. They have been very engaged by our new topics and I can’t wait to see what they produce by the end of the term. Well done!

Grady Bound For Central Highlands Trials

A big congratulations to Grady Wight who was recently selected to compete at the Peak Downs Athletics Trials. After throwing a personal best in discus, Grady has now made it into the Central Highlands Athletics Team. He will compete later this month in Rockhampton and we will all have our fingers crossed for him.

Celebrating Writing

Writing is one of the focus areas for Mackenzie River School this year. Writing tasks and techniques are incorporated into our daily activities and students are working hard to make improvements over different areas such as paragraphing, sequencing ideas effectively and entertaining the reader. Cameron Frankish recently produced this great piece.

As I picked up the precious gem that we had dragged our sorry bodies through the Amazon to find, Jack looked at me with eyes gleaming and the world’s biggest smile. “Okay,” I said tucking the gem in my pocket, “let’s get out of here”. ‘Here’ being the middle of a temple in the heart of the Amazon. We turned and ran down the dark, mossy stone corridor. “Look out Per...!” Jack shouted but it was too late and I felt a falling sensation. Suddenly, I landed on a strange, spongy, cold and slithery mess and I knew this would not turn out well. I looked down upon the poisonous snakes known as Vipers but luckily they were startled and had begun slithering away a bit before realising the chance for a snack and returning. “The flute the old man gave us in the village!” I yelled to Jack. He got it out and replied, “What do you want me to do with it?”
The fortnight in pictures...

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
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
Father’s Day Tug-A-War Comp
Bash The Bomb

COMMUNITY FUN FAIR
Hosted By Nebo State School P&C

September 3rd
3pm til late

Old MacDonald’s Farm,
Mechanical Bull, Cup & Saucer
Ride, 3 Jumping Castles & Face Painting

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE
Food & Games
Entertainment
Family Fun!

Market Stalls, Food
Stalls, Bar, Father’s
Day Raffle, Lucky
Door Prize
And Loads More!

Special Thanks
To South Walker
Mine Social Club
And to our major sponsor
Rio Tinto Hail Creek

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