As always, there have been lots of interesting things happening over the last fortnight at Mackenzie River. But firstly, I would like to bring your attention to something very important. We have decided that this year’s End-Of-Year Concert And Presentation Night will be held on Wednesday, 7 December at the school. This is always the highlight of our year and is a great celebration of everything that the students have achieved through their hard work. It would be wonderful to see as many families, friends and community members there as possible to support them. Concert night is also a wonderful occasion for us to all get together and celebrate the festive season as a community. More details will be published in the months to come but for now, please mark your calendars.

From the Acting Principal
Catherine Phillis

NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK

This week is National Science Week and the theme of 2016 is ‘Drones, Droids and Robots.’ This fits perfectly with the work we have started in Digital Technology with our Lego Mindstorms Robots. In addition to our work with the robots we also found some time to celebrate Science Week with a Science Quiz and a very tasty experiment. Congratulations to Cameron who was our Science Quiz Champ answering all manner of questions on animals, the body, planets and technology. To follow up we adjourned to our Science Lab aka ‘The Kitchen’ where we made some tasty honeycomb. Our experiment demonstrated how bicarbonate decomposes above 80 degrees and releases carbon dioxide gas. The gas bubbles are then trapped in the honeycomb mixture as it cools.
WORD OF THE WEEK

It has been incredibly exciting to see how quickly the students have been soaking up our focus ‘Word of the Week.’ We started this vocabulary program in Term 1 this year and now have a long list of words that we have studied and try to use in our everyday work. There have been many instances where the students have excitedly told us about different places they have encountered the focus words or they will stop us in the middle of reading to announce that they have spotted one of them.

This week our word is ‘frenzied’ and next week we will look at the word ‘relentless.’ It would be great if parents could talk about these words with their child or use them in a conversation with them. An improved vocabulary has been shown to increase reading and writing ability considerably it is also a great way to boost a student’s confidence.

AIM FOR AN ‘A’

Any time students are assessed it is important that they understand the task they have to do and how it will be marked. This term we have started a new program called, ‘Aim For An A.’ The basis of the program is that students can achieve high standards of work when they know explicitly what teachers are looking for and are given specific feedback to work on. They are taken through a process which helps them to pull apart their task and criteria sheet and understand what is required in their own words. Students then aim to fulfil the criteria for an ‘A’ piece of assessment, using the detailed feedback they receive from their teacher. The students have received this program very well. They have quickly understood what is required and are producing some very promising work.

SPORTS CAMP

Next week the students will be attending the Clermont ICPA Sports Camp in Clermont. Mackenzie River has been attending the camp for many years and are very grateful to the Clermont ICPA for including us. The camp is a unique opportunity for the students to be involved in a wide range of sports led by very experienced coaches. It also affords the children the chance to spend time with other small school students. We wish the students all the best on their week away and look forward to hearing all their stories when they return.
THANKS A BUNCH

A big thankyou to Bindi Muntlewit for giving up some of her time to help clean out the gutters of the school buildings and take care of some odd jobs around the school. You are welcome any time! Thankyou also to Scott Phillis for transporting our sick tractor mower to Emerald and to Lynton Wight for making a new latch for our front gate. We are very lucky to have friends and family who are so willing to help us care for the school.

SUPER SENTENCES USING OUR NEW VOCABULARY

The man exploited the dog by telling his wife that the dog had eaten the cupcakes that were on the bench. The dog therefore, got in deep trouble. “Those cupcakes were for a party Bonnie,” said the man’s wife. - Grady Wight

I was bewildered to see the cows standing on their front legs as they stood in the wide, green paddock.—Lane Parker

I was bewildered by the abundance of debris left in the plane’s wake.—Cameron Frankish

The fortnight in pictures...
Mackenzie River Newsletter

TERM 3, WEEK 6 — 18/08/16

Merion Hay Sales
Forage hay for sale
Ph: 49723027

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Electrical and Air Conditioning
Please call me for any enquiries or quotes
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Rate: $80 p/h Travel: $1.10 p/km (No hourly rate for travel)
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