Dear Parents, Friends and Carers

I extend a very warm welcome to new families and those returning to our school. School has recommenced very smoothly and I congratulate our students on the way in which they have settled into their classes.

**New Staff:** I would like to introduce and welcome our new teaching staff and make you aware of some changes to the specialist teacher positions. Ms Romola Brennan is our specialist music teacher and works across the school on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Ms Leesa Wallen is our LOTE (Japanese) teacher and also does a support program in classes. Mrs Cummin (nee Post) returns to our school as a year one teacher. Ms Morton, Ms Baxter and Mrs Saunders return to our school and all work on Wednesday in PP2, PP1, and Kindy respectfully and Mrs O’Donoghue is now our Physical Education specialist.

The first days with staff on Thursday 31st and Friday 1st focussed upon our school plans, First Steps Writing, and Kagan – which uses collaborative approaches to learning with students. We reviewed and inducted staff in the use of our Behaviour Management policy and the importance of Attendance in our school. These two days were highly valued by staff in preparing for the year ahead. Teams of teachers have been meeting to discuss coming events such as On Entry assessment for Pre Primary, Year one and Year two, Camp for year 7, and common assessment tasks across the school.

**Expression of Interest:** Mrs Brennan is seeking expressions of interest and support from parents to be involved and help with a Millars Well school float for this year’s FeNaCING festival.

**Year 7 Camp:** Year 7 teachers have begun their planning and discussion about camp which will take place in term 3. We are inviting organisations and businesses to consider sponsoring. To acknowledge their support we will be able to arrange to have their company logos and motifs placed on a camp tee shirt or hat. If you would like to be involved or know more please contact Ms Corcoran, Mrs Neeson or Mr Wheals.

**KidsSmart:** On Wednesday and Thursday of this week, Mrs Brand and Ms Clegg in Pre Primary will participate in learning more about the KidsSmart program. In their classes they now have a teaching and learning resource (Kids Smart) that children will utilise to further their learning. It looks like a rather large computer and can be used by all children.

**Faction Captains & Prefects:** Mrs O’Donoghue (PE Specialist) organised the election of faction captains last week and the elected captains will be announced after the Prefect election is completed on Thursday. On Thursday morning of this week Mr Palmer will support year 7’s with their prefect elections and speeches. These roles provide further leadership opportunities for students that are beyond the classroom and across the school.

**Easter Break:** Term one is an 11 week term and Easter occurs at the end of week 8 and beginning of week 9. Usually the Easter break falls during school holidays. Schools have been required to indicate if they will take Easter Tuesday as a Public holiday, or take the Monday after FeNaCING as a local holiday instead. Millars Well School will be taking Easter Tuesday as a public holiday in 2013.

**School Enrolments:** Our school enrolments are currently a little less than the same time last year, however this brings with it some advantages. The playgrounds and play area are less congested and car park congestion and traffic flow has eased a little. Furthermore, our Kindy and Pre Primary classes still have some vacancies for new families.

Towards the end of 2012 we were recognised for overall school improvement in areas of attendance and also within writing. We intend to build upon these successes and keep them as a focus for 2013. We would love your support by talking about and sharing stories and writing experiences at home. Help your child with a shopping list or itemise things to do. Persuasive texts are a focus in all classroom writing programs, so questions and discussion about with your child(ren) relating to justifying their choices and opinions on a range of topics would be very supportive and will consolidate their class learning. Our first whole school assembly hosted by TA8 will be on Thursday 28th February. I hope you may be able to make it.

Warm regards

Weston Jackson
Principal
A Contributions Payment envelope has been included with this newsletter. Contributions are an important part of our school’s revenue and assist us to purchase resources such as text books and sporting equipment to enhance learning outcomes for your children. Please place cash/cheque in the envelope provided, clearly list student’s names and teaching areas and return the envelope to the front office. Your early attention to this is appreciated. A Contributions and Charges Schedule was sent home at the end of last year and is available in the front office if you did not receive one. Please note that costs quoted in the area of optional activities are set at a maximum level and many of the programme costs will be less than the quoted amount. Also note the sliding scale of the voluntary contribution for families (and that you can make payment by instalments if that suits your budget).

P&C CONTRIBUTIONS

Parents and Citizens Association have requested that each family make a contribution of $20.00 to assist them in their school support programmes (class incentives, sunscreen, trophies, medallions, book prizes and Concert Night venue costs). This year the P & C are offering parents the chance to become members by paying the $1.00 per person, through the school with their school contribution payments. Your financial support of our school is not only appreciated but is essential if we are to continue to provide those additional components that make Millar’s Well the great school that it is.

CYCLONE PROCEDURE

The annual cyclone season is upon us again. From an organisational point of view, the most difficult time is when a yellow alert is called during the school day. When Karratha goes on to yellow alert before 12.00 the school closes at lunch time. If the alert occurs at or after 14.00, school will generally be closed the following day. Please ensure you have a copy of the school’s Cyclone Procedure and read the information carefully. If you need clarification of this procedure or did not receive this information, please contact the office.

VALUE FOCUS - GETTING ALONG

Getting Along means…..

Getting Along means working well with classmates, solving problems with classmates without getting angry, and following the rules in my classroom. Getting Along means making responsible choices so that everyone’s rights are protected.

Examples of Getting Along

- Working well with my classmates.
- Listening and not interrupting when someone else is speaking.
- Talking rather than fighting when someone treats me unfairly.
- Not breaking important class or school rules.

Habits of the mind to help me get along

Being tolerant of others means not thinking that when someone is mean to me that he or she is a totally bad person. Playing by the rules means thinking that by following the school rules, school will be a better place to live and learn. Thinking first means thinking that when someone treats me badly, I need to think about the best way to act.

P&C ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

An Invitation to Be a Part of Our School’s Parents & Citizens

Our school P&C provides the Uniform Shop and Canteen, organises ways in which parents can share in the shaping and developing of school policies, raises funds to provide additional resources to benefit our children’s education and much more. For our new parents, the P&C is an effective way for you to get to know the school community and feel like you belong. For ‘old’ parents who have not yet tried the P&C, your experience as parents in the school is valued. The P&C welcomes your interest and membership, to share your views and to make the work light and fun.

P&C Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, February 26 at 7.00pm

School Staff Room

Bring $1 membership fee

Election of the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer will take place at this meeting. All positions will be declared vacant and a quorum of 10 people is required for the voting in of positions. There is no obligation to take on a role but we would greatly appreciate your attendance. Everyone is welcome!! Please come along and support your school.

“I thought someone should do something, then I realised that I was someone.” JFK

TERM PLANNER

A planner for term 1 accompanies this Newsletter. Other items may need to be added as the term progresses. If any parents would like an A3 copy of the planner please see the office staff.

MWPS is a collaborative, safe, vibrant school focussing on values, Literacy and Numeracy. All students are empowered to realise their full potential as happy, independent, responsible members of our rapidly changing society.

In achieving this vision, parents are partners in the education of their children.
Twenty two of our year seven students have nominated themselves as a prospective prefect - a great reflection of the enthusiasm that this group have towards leadership in our school. We need to select 4 more to join the 4 that were elected last year. Students will deliver their prefect speeches this Thursday, 14 February at 8.20am in the undercover area. Students in the year 4-7 classes will then return to class and vote.

A BIG THANKYOU to our volunteers Leah Black, Karen Hancock, Sharon Hill, Ann McComb, Nicole Kot, Jo Simpson and Julie Pennman who made it possible for the Millars Well Uniform Room to be open for families on the Thursday and Friday prior to school commencing. We appreciate you giving up your time to help the school. Please note that the uniform room is operating on Tuesdays from 8.00 - 9.00am.

Welcome back to the 2013 school year and a special welcome to all the new families at Millars Well PS. I am a part time Library Officer and I am in on Monday, Wednesday and Friday each week. Please feel free to call into the Library and see me with any queries on those days, or call me.

Please make sure your child/ren have a Library bag for borrowing sessions with their class. It does not have to anything fancy, even a plastic shopping bag will do.

I organise the Scholastic Book Club across the school, with two issues each term sent home for ordering. Issue 1 went home on Friday and is due in Friday 15th February if you wish to order. Book Club is very popular here, and the commission points earned from students orders ensures a steady flow of new books and resources into the Library from Scholastic. Just one thing to note, if possible the office staff and I really appreciate you paying by credit card whenever possible. I also run two Book Fairs in the Library each year, in May and November.

I have a rather large number of new reading books ready to be covered, so that they can be used by the students this year. If you have time to cover some at home, it would be greatly appreciated. All material required will be supplied. Please come and see me in the Library.

Robyn Rayson, Library Officer

Parents of year 7 students are advised that the school based immunisation program previously offered to year 7 students will be now be delivered in year 8 starting in 2014.

In 2013, the school based immunisation program is focusing on students in years 8, 9 and 10. All male students in these years will be offered the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine series to protect them against developing a range of cancers and diseases.

If your child is in Year 7 in 2013, they will receive their school vaccines in 2014 when they are in year 8. Please be assured that all children will be provided an opportunity to access the school based vaccines during the program shift.

If you require any further information, please contact Pilbara Population Health on 9158 9220 or speak to your school nurse Shelley Paterson on 9143 2251.

Would you like to have your brand recognised while supporting our school? When you donate towards the cost of the Year 7 leavers T-shirts, your company logo will be modelled by 50 of our Year 7 students around the school and all over town! Not to mention recognition in our local newspapers and school newsletter! Please contact Nicole Corcoran, Baden Wheels or Tania Neeson on 9185 2400 or email nicole.corcoran@education.wa.edu.au if you are interested in helping us out.

Pictured on the right are students from PP2 making a human number 5 on the fifth day of school. All the junior classes at Millars Well PS are participating in a 100 days of school program this year. Students are counting how many days they attend school and when they reach 100 they get to celebrate.
INTRODUCING OUR NEW STAFF

My name is Romola Brennan and this will be my fifth year of teaching Classroom Music. I love teaching Music as it is an ideal way for including everyone. I am very excited about the FeNaCING weekend and hope to have the school and community involved in a parade as well as a performance. I have just moved up from Narrogin and am looking forward to a nice warm winter with no need for stoking the fire throughout the day!

Hi, my name is Amanda Rupp and I come from Edmonton, Canada. I'm participating in a teaching exchange with Ms. Emma Cowling for the 2013 school year. I have taught primary school for 8 years and year 4 for the past two years in Edmonton. I'm excited to be at Millars Well and I am looking forward to teaching year 4 in TA 3 this year!

Hi, my name is Leesa Wallen and I have recently moved back to Australia from Japan after teaching there for one year. I have loved the Japanese culture for many years and I can't wait to share it with the students at Millars Well Primary School.

Also a big welcome back to Ms Aimy Baxter, Mrs Erin Cummins(née Post), Ms Dawn Morton and Mrs Kylee Saunders.