Dear Parents, Friends and Carers,

Welcome to our school community and the 2014 school year. We have had many new families commence at our school and we wish these families a smooth transition into Millars Well PS.

New Staff - A warm welcome and introduction to our new staff: Ms Roisin Shannon, Ms Tahlia Elmer, Ms Pippa Lovel – Deputy Principal and Mr Harry Anderson – Gardener. Welcome back to Ms Deanne Johansson, Ms Astrid Morgan, Mr Mark Simpson, Mrs Donna Stott and Mrs Fiona Byrne – Science.

A Good Start - It was noticeable last week the positive efforts that were made by students being on time to class in the morning. This has been greatly appreciated and ensures a smooth start to each school day for students and staff. Our Year 6 and 7 teachers have hosted an information session on Monday this week. Other teachers will be hosting their parent sessions in the near future and I encourage you to attend.

Settling in - It can be usual for some children, parents and even staff to experience some anxiety at the beginning of the new school year. If this occurs it is ok to talk about it as talking to someone does help. Separating for the first time or after a longer holiday period can break routines and does require some adjustments. Our staff are committed and will listen and help where they can. Please feel encouraged to make time if you need to talk about it.

Specialised Science and Art Program - At the end of 2013 our LOTE (Japanese Teacher) and Music teacher accepted positions in other schools. These vacancies were listed but were not filled. At present there is no LOTE program, nor music. In their place we now have a specialised Science program delivered by Mrs Byrne and Mrs Stott, and a specialised Art program delivered by Mrs Cannon. Mrs Cannon is a very accomplished artist whose art works were most recently displayed in The Port Hedland Courthouse Gallery. Mrs Cannon was assisting in our school during 2013 and is well known by students and staff.

Fridges for Classes - Our P and C has been proactive already and through the generosity of local businesses and community people we are about to receive a refrigerator for each class. Students will be able to keep their lunches and snacks cool during the day. Thank you to the businesses listed below for their generous support and also Mrs Karen Hancock, P and C President for her coordination.

Businesses that have kindly donated fridges are Allmine Maintainence, Dampier Plumbing & Gas, Dance Kix Karratha, Federation Centres, Karratha Massage Worx, Origal, Pharmacy 777, Red Dog Fitness, Toxfree - Industrial Services, Toxfree- Solid Waste, Toxfree - Technical Services and Turf Guru. It is truly appreciated by our students and staff.

This has been a great start to the year. We would love you to be involved where you can in the P and C. The first P and C meeting is on Tuesday 25th February at 7pm in our staff room.

Revitalised - We have been invited to attend a Shire of Roebourne stakeholder meeting on Wednesday 12th Feb 5-7pm (TONIGHT) at the Karratha Leisureplex to discuss a revitalisation plan for Millars Well, Pegs Creek and Bulgarra. If you would like to see our area revitalised please attend and contribute your ideas. If you are unable to attend you can contribute online www.roebourne.wa.gov.au/karratharevitalisation It would be wonderful to see these areas revitalised.

Cyclones - Be familiar with procedures for cyclones within our region. It would not be unusual to experience a cyclone or two during this term and knowing the procedure for school closure is important. School Cyclone information is available at the front office.

Contact Details and Medications - When you change your mobile or contact number, please let us know. It is vital that we can contact parents/carers in the event of an emergency or incident especially if your child has a medical action plan. If your child requires any medication, please check that the expiry date is still valid.

Priorities - This year our priorities focus upon students being successful in Literacy and Numeracy, having good attendance and displaying good behaviour. Our challenge will be to build upon the success of 2013. NAPLAN data indicated that students made positive progress in these areas and our attendance data was also positive. Staff will focus upon individual student achievement and may ask for your support in areas such as Guided Reading and Ten a Day in class, if you are available.

Our first formal assembly will be hosted by Miss Barker’s TA 13 class and is in week 4 on Thursday 27th.

Warm regards
Weston Jack
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, medals, 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 Millars 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 - CONFIDENCE
Confidence means….. feeling I can do it and not being afraid to make mistakes or to try something new.
Examples of Being Confident
- raising my hand to answer a hard question.
- doing hard work without asking for help.
- sharing a new idea with my teacher and class.
- saying “hello” and talking to someone new.

Habits of the mind to help my Confidence
Accepting myself means not thinking badly about myself when I make a mistake.
Taking Risks means thinking that it’s good to try something new even though I might not be able to do it.
Being Independent means thinking that it’s important for me to try new activities and to speak up.

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.

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 25 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

MWPS is a collaborative, safe, vibrant school focusing 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 six and seven students have nominated themselves as a prospective Faction Captain - a great reflection of the enthusiasm that this group have towards leadership in our school. We need to select 8 students, 2 of which will represent each faction. Students will deliver their speeches to their faction group in classrooms this Friday, 14 February at 8.20am and students in the years 4-7 classes will then vote.

A BIG THANKYOU to our volunteers Denise Brierley, Karen Hancock, Ann McComb, Nicole Kot, and Danielle Williams 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 now operating on Wednesdays from 8.00 - 9.00am.

Dough Raiser Program
Ceanne England, owner of Bakers Delight Karratha gave families at our school the opportunity to raise funds by giving back to the school 5% of every purchase over $5.00 from their store in 2013. Ceanne presented to the P&C a cheque for $63.00 and has decided to continue the program in 2014. All families need to do is present their Dough Raiser cardboard card or mention Millars Well PS at the time of purchase. Dough Raiser Cards are available in the front office. We thank Bakers Delight for their continuing support.

Welcome back to school and a special welcome to new families. As you would have already noted, we take part in Scholastic Book Club here at Millars Well PS. There are eight issues per year, two each term and I also run two Book Fairs, in May and November. Scholastic are very generous in their ‘rewards’ for books sold via Book Club and Book Fair, and we enjoy a steady stream of lovely free new books into the Library. Just a couple of points to keep in mind when ordering: it does help office staff greatly if you pay online or by phone with your credit card. When ordering from multiple magazines, just one credit card slip is required, for the total amount. Also please ensure the children's orders are clearly and completely filled out, well sealed in envelopes or zip lock bags, and placed in the collection box in the front office in time for the order date. If you are paying with cash, please enclose the correct amount, as no change will be given. Please feel free to speak with me in the Library on a Monday, Wednesday or Friday to ask any questions about Book Club.

Robyn Rayson, Library Officer

INTRODUCING OUR NEW STAFF

Hi, my name is Tahlia Elmer and I have come here from Kambalda West District High School where I taught Pre-Primary/Year One (2012) and Pre-Primary (2013). So far it has been a great start meeting all the friendly staff and students at Millars Well Primary School and I look forward to working with the school community.

Hi, my name is Roisin Shannon and I’m from Ireland and have recently moved to Karratha. I have previously taught in the UK, Ireland and now Australia. I have taught in most of the schools in Karratha already across different age groups and I am looking forward to a fun and productive Term 1 at Millars Well PS.

Thank you to all students and parents for such a warm welcome to Millars Well Primary School. I am thoroughly excited to be joining such a distinctive school in the Pilbara. I look forward to active partnerships with all staff, students and parents. I have previously worked as a Deputy Principal in the Pilbara for four years and undertaken leadership roles in a range of schools for twelve years. I aim to inspire and motivate children, staff and the school community with a distinctive leadership style and an ongoing commitment to education, achievement, equity and excellence.

Also a big welcome back to Mrs Fiona Byrne, Ms Deanne Johansson, Ms Astrid Morgan, Mr Mark Simpson, and Mrs Donna Stott.
Expression of Interest
For Players without Teams
(Juniors & Seniors)

If you are new to town and interested in playing netball or are an existing senior player but wish to try out for a higher division or a new club, we would love to see you at the Karratha Leisureplex outdoor courts on Tuesday, 18th February 2014 at 5.30pm (Juniors) and 6.30pm (Seniors). Seniors will be required to bring sports shoes/clothing, drink and towel. Juniors are graded as per their age in 2014 so will not be required to play a scratch match. Seniors will warm up and take the court. KNA reps will attempt to ‘grade’ you as best we can to enable you to be placed in the appropriate team/club for your skill level. Don’t panic if you haven’t touched a ball for a while or are feeling a tad unfit after the Christmas break, we welcome all forms of netballers☺. We would especially like to encourage all ‘new to town’ players of a high standard (eg. Ex state league or similar, ex Div 1 player from a city association, etc) to attend the EOI’s to assist KNA to upkeep a competitive competition. More information can be found on the KNA website at www.karrathanetballassociation.wa.netball.com.au.
Big Red Hearts

Family Day Care

Mel Keeley
OWNER / EDUCATOR
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ABN 67 783 264 569

- Diploma in children services 0-12
- First Aid Certificate Qualifications
- Strength based programming
- Protective behaviors in children services DCD
- Behaviours Management
- Working with Children

CARE THAT’S FULL OF HEART
- 0-4 YEARS
- 5-12 YEARS
- LIMITED SPOTS

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