Dear Parents, Friends and Carers,

**Online Survey**
At Millars Well PS we are constantly striving to improve and provide a quality service for our students and school community. As a part of our own self assessment we are inviting you to respond to our online survey. The survey is current until **Friday 14th March** and can be accessed by visiting [http://apps.det.wa.edu.au/dest/64224](http://apps.det.wa.edu.au/dest/64224). Your feedback is very important to us and we would love to hear from you.

**Reading Eggs Survey**
A big thank you to the families that responded to our recent Reading Eggs Survey. The responses were positive about the use of this program and we are intending to continue using this resource in the junior years.

**Wish list**
The P and C recently requested a wish list from our staff so that they would be able to target during this year. The list focuses upon resources inside classes and outside of classes. With your help we hope to improve areas of the school and also the facilities we use.

**Guided Reading**
Guided Reading has taken off in our senior classes each Monday and Tuesday morning. A really big thank you to the many parents that are coming in and helping with these sessions. Working with small groups of students whilst reading focuses upon them gaining meaning, reading fluently and with expression and predicting parts of texts. I enjoy my sessions working with a regular group on each of these days and I can already notice an increase in the confidence and level of participation by students.

**Fridges for classes**
Last Thursday 8 new fridges arrived and they have already been placed into classes to help keep student's lunches cool. The generosity of the wider community from businesses and individuals was amazing and the speed in which this initiative took off and was met was a big surprise to us all. Thank you once again to all that were involved in the organisation and purchase of the fridges.

**Attendance**
This week we are auditing our records of attendance and absences. We are required to follow up any unexplained absences and some families will receive a letter asking them to explain a student's absence. We thank you in anticipation of your assistance with this.

**Skate visit**
This week representatives from Skateboard Australia will provide a free workshop in our school. The clinic will include: spatial awareness activities; stretching exercises; and the basic movements in skateboarding. Mr Simpson will work with these visitors during his Physical education lessons. The classes taking part are TA13 and TA14 and a separate note went home about the visit.

At our last assembly we saw the amazing students of years 3 and 4 from TA 16 present an item using words, rap and music. They created a word study of the story they were telling as well. Assemblies are a great way to kick the day off, celebrate and recognise achievement. We hope you may be able to come along to our next assembly on Thursday, 27 March presented by Miss Garstone’s TA 11 class.

Warm regards
Weston Jack
Principal
Our next assembly will be held on **Thursday, 27 March** and will be hosted by Miss Garstone’s TA 11 class. The assembly will commence at **8.25am** in the covered area. Parents and friends are most welcome to attend.

**CERTIFICATES OF MERIT**

Congratulations to the following children in being recognised at our last assembly for their hard work and endeavour: Elijah Coles, Taylor Kelly, Cody Kittle, Riley Wiltshut, Blake McKay, Keely Berry, Jackson Holmes, Latifah Bung, Jessika Booth, Ely Anderson, Bailey Ames, Tyler McDonald, Peter Bell, Tahni Johnston, Amelie Cunningham, Max Jones, Ebony Bradley, Haiden Hills, Delkin Brown, Bianca Bradley, Marie Acebes, Regita Maluka and Georgina Pritchard. Physical Education Award – Tamelia Mitchell and Portia Scali-Anderson. **SCIENCE** Award – Emma Brierley and Jake Headley. Well done!

**HARMONY DAY**

Millars Well Primary School is recognising Harmony Day on **Friday, 21 March**. The message of Harmony Day is Everyone Belongs. It is a day to celebrate Australia’s diversity. It is a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home – from the traditional owners of this land to those who have come from many countries around the world. Harmony Day is an Australian Government programme and coincides with the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Since 1999 Harmony Day has been widely celebrated across schools, community groups, churches, businesses and federal, state and local government agencies.

There are many ways we can celebrate Harmony Day – through sport, dance, art, film, music, storytelling, cooking and sharing cultural meals. By participating in Harmony Day activities we can learn and understand how all Australians from diverse backgrounds equally belong to this nation and make it a better place. To encourage celebrations, Millars Well PS classes will participate in a range of Harmony Day activities.

**Harmony Day Free Dress**

For a **gold coin donation** children will have the option of **wearing multicultural dress** that may be relevant to their culture (e.g. saris, Irish dress, Aussie clothes etc), **orange** which is the colour for Harmony Day or any **rainbow colour**. Money raised from this day will go to our overseas sponsorship programme with World Vision for our sponsor children, Lightness Lemuru Masarie, in Tanzania, and Harold Duran Huillacahuaman, in Peru.

**VALUE FOCUS - PERSISTENCE**

Over the next four weeks at school we will be focussing on **Persistence** which means trying hard and not giving up when something feels like it’s too difficult to do.

**Examples of Persistent Behaviour are:**

- Continuing to try even when school work is hard
- Not being distracted by others
- Checking my work when I’m finished to make sure it’s correct
- Completing assignments on time

**Habits of the Mind to Help You Be Persistent**

**I Can Do It** means thinking that even when my work is hard, I can still do it.

**Giving Effort** means thinking that the harder I try, the better my success will be.

**Working Tough** means thinking that to be successful, I sometimes have to do things that are not easy or fun.

**SCHOOL NURSE UPDATE**

**HANDWASHING**

Throughout term 1, the school nurse team focus on presenting hand hygiene sessions to all of our kindy classes and some of the pre-primary classes. We encourage you to discuss with your child what they learnt and role model good hand hygiene.

- Washing hands is the easiest way to protect ourselves from contagious diseases, like colds, influenza and gastroenteritis.
- Hands should be washed before and after eating or preparing food, after going to the toilet and after nose blowing.
- When teaching your child to wash their hands;
- Use clean water and soap, making sure they cover their hands and wrists.
- Use a brush to clean under nails if they’re dirty too
- Dry their hands with something clean (like a paper towel)
- Alcohol based sanitisers are useful when soap and water is not available. Use a half a teaspoon of the product and encourage your child to rub their hands together until they’re dry. If you can see dirt on their hands, it is better to use soap and water.

If you require any further information please don’t hesitate to contact:

**Shelley Paterson (School Health Nurse)**

shelley.paterson@health.wa.gov.au

Telephone: 9143 2251
Every School Day Counts!!  
Millars Well School Attendance

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child’s education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind.

Why is Every Day School Attendance Important?
We all want our children to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day. If children miss school regularly, they miss out on learning the basic skills that will set them up for success in the later years of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their education. Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

Attendance in the Early Years
Good attendance patterns are established early – a child regularly missing days in kindergarten, pre-primary or year 1 will often continue to miss school days in the later years, and receive lower test scores than their classmates. It’s vital that students go to school every day – especially in the early years of primary school.

The Main Reasons for School Absences

Sickness and Holidays
There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they’re sick. It’s vital that they’re only away on the days they are genuinely sick, and setting good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a huge difference.

It’s very important that holidays are planned during school holidays where possible, and not during the term if it can be avoided.

“Day off”
Think twice before letting your child have a “day off” as they could fall behind their classmates – every day counts.

Truancy
This is when students choose not to go to school without their parent’s permission. There can be many reasons for truancy. The best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together.

If for any reason your child must miss school, there are things you can do with your school to ensure they don’t fall behind:
- Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.
- Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan. Remember, every day counts.

If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible. Openly communicating with your child’s school about all absences is very important.

Unexplained Absences
It is very important for all parents and carers to notify the school either by phone, text message, in writing or in person when children are absent. If school absences are not explained, they will be recorded as ‘Unexplained Absences’. These absences will be followed up with a letter throughout the term so that we can accurately maintain reasons for student absences.

If you’re having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit:  

Erin Smith
Deputy Principal

The Smith Family Educational Scholarships

The Smith Family offers Educational Support through Scholarships and other Educational Programs from Y 1-9

Eligibility Criteria applies
For further information please contact us at:  
Welcome Lotteries House
7 Morse Court Karratha
Ph 9144 1854

tsfkarratha@thesmithfamily.com.au
www.thesmithfamily.com.au
Find us at www.facebook.com/TheSmithFamilyAustralia
Children in Years 1 to 7 are invited to experience a number of great sports at the Junior Community Sports Expo!

Take part in drills and games delivered by coaches, parents and players from various local sporting groups and learn what’s available in your community! For information and to register, contact Shire of Roebourne Club Development Officer Sam King on 9196 9555 or sam.king@roebourne.wa.gov.au. Please note, spaces are limited.

**Future Clubs Junior Sports Expo**
Friday, March 21, 2014 from 4.30pm to 7.30pm
at Bulgurra Oval, Hunt Way, Karratha

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**Karratha BMX Club**

**Come and Try BMX**

**Saturday 15th March 2014**

registrations from 4pm - 5pm start

Tell your Friends & introduce them to a fantastic sport that the whole family can enjoy......

This day provides the chance for anyone in the community, of all ages & ability, to come & try the thrill & excitement of BMX Racing in a safe environment with Coaches to assist participants. All participants are covered under the BMX Australia riders insurance.

You will need to wear, long pants, long sleeve shirt, fully enclosed shoe’s, ankle covering socks, gloves & a helmet.

For a sneak peak of the TV Commercial promoting the come and try day, go to [http://www.bmxatv.com.au/](http://www.bmxatv.com.au/)

For further information on BMX
Karratha BMX Club – Rosemary Road, Karratha

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CREATING SYSTEMS OF MUTUAL SUPPORT

Local Information Network Karratha (LINK) in collaboration with AnglicareWA are offering a series of four free two hour workshops to engage with parents and caregivers of children aged 0 – 18 years. There will be a different topic each week:

**Tuesday 4th March 12.30 – 2.30pm – Communication Learning effective communication skills**

**Tuesday 11th March 12.30 – 2.30pm – Parenting Exploring different parenting styles**

**Tuesday 18th March 12.30 – 2.30pm – Relationships Exploring ways to nurture your relationships**

**Tuesday 25th March 12.30 – 2.30pm – Self Care Pamper day!!! Music, fun, laughter!!**

**VENUE**
Karratha Community House
Parr Boodawarn Family Centre
51 Goodgalla Dr, Boynton West

**TO BOOK** www.trybooking.com/BKP
For further info, please contact
LINK – 9144 2155
E-mail: karratha@bigpond.com

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**KARRATHA AUSKICK CENTRE**

**REGISTRATION DAY FOR:**

- **AFL AUSKICK** (Kindy – Yr 3 boys or girls)
- **AFL ‘ALL GIRLS’ PROGRAM** (Girls Yr 1 – 3)

**When:** Saturday 15th March

**Where:** Frank Butler Centre, Bulgarra

**Time:** 9.00am – 10.30am

Registration forms available on the day or can be done on-line @ aflauskick.com.au (Please print off and bring with you.)

All registrations must be accompanied by full payment.

This year's fee is $70 per child (Includes Auskick pack)

Further information contact
Steve 0439 736 729 or Louise 0439 736 759

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**Discounted Price**

**behaviour tonics presents**

**1-2-3 Magic® and Emotion Coaching**

A humorous look at parenting, a serious look at discipline!

**3 WORKSHOP OPTIONS AVAILABLE**

**Karratha Family Centre, Crn Baimoral & Warramble Rd. (opposite BP)**

**Workshop 1:**
- **2 x 3 hr sessions**
  - Wed 2nd & 9th April, 9.15am to 12.15pm
  - CRECHE AVAILABLE $15 per family.
  - Register online at www.trybooking.com/EJPG

**Workshop 2:**
- **3 x 2.5 hr sessions**
  - Mon 31st March, Wed 2nd & Wed 9th April, 7 – 9.15pm
  - Register online at www.trybooking.com/EJPJ

**Workshop 3:**
- **3 x 2.5 hr sessions**
  - Tue 1st, Thurs 3rd & Thurs 10th April, 7 to 9.15pm
  - Register online at www.trybooking.com/EJPN

**You will learn:**
- The two approaches to parenting
- How to discipline without arguing, yelling or smoking
- How to handle the 6 kinds of bleeding and manipulation
- 7 tactics for encouraging and behaviour
- How to control outbursts and emotional intelligence in your child
- How to strengthen the relationship with your child.

**Cost $40 pp OR $60 for a couple**

Parent workbook included. Tea and coffee provided.

Book online by following the link for the course you wish to register for OR Contact Bess or Monica at LINK link_karratha@bigpond.com ph: 9144 2150 mob: 0400 100 446