Dear Parents, Friends and Carers,

Welcome back to school, and a very warm welcome to the several new families that have commenced this term with us.

I encourage you all to be involved with your child’s learning and support our school activities where you can. We would love to see you in the morning to help with Guided Reading which has proven to be an effective strategy, increasing the confidence and skill of readers. Talking with your child at home about their day is also important. Listening to reading, discussing the story, asking questions and encouraging and predicting all help to build a deeper understanding.

You might also choose to assist our P and C with volunteer help in our canteen or uniform shop. Our P and C intend to coordinate some school activities like, busy bees, school discos, and fundraising events. We welcome your ideas and involvement, so if you are keen to help or share an idea please talk it over with your class teacher, send the school an email, or make a time to drop in and see me.

Semester One Reporting - At the end of this term students will receive their semester one report which will indicate the progress students are making. Many staff were able to meet with teachers from other schools in Karratha on our first school development day and one of the professional learning sessions presented discussed the assessing, moderation and reporting processes. Students will be reported against the achievement standards indicating what they have been able to demonstrate in their learning whilst considering what has been taught up to that point in time.

Grades will be allocated from A through to E (or excellent - very low). A grade C descriptor indicates that progress is being made at an expected level. In the lead up to reporting teachers collaborate with others and use common assessment tasks to moderate the judgements they make. Where there is a concern about the progress that is being made by students, class room teachers will request a meeting with parents.

Wet weather - When we get heavy rain as experienced recently we modify activities for recess and lunch. Staff share in the supervision of students in classes and wet areas and outside play is limited. Please talk with your child about any alternative arrangement you might put in place for the end of the day. It is possible for you to call the school and we can pass a message on to your child but this should be done well before the end of the day. If you are picking up your child/ren up please exercise caution in the carpark and on the roads.

NAPLAN - On Tuesday 13, Wednesday 14 and Thursday 15 May, students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will take part in the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy, or NAPLAN, as it is commonly known. Skills that will be tested include reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy.

These tests are done here at school and are considered just another part of the curriculum. It is important for you and your child to know that NAPLAN is not a pass/fail test. It simply looks at what level students are achieving in Literacy and Numeracy against National Standards and compared with student peers throughout Australia.

NAPLAN cannot be studied for and students are not expected to do so. The best way you can help your child prepare for NAPLAN is to let them know that it is just a routine part of their school program, and to urge them to do the best they can on the day. All students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 are expected to participate in NAPLAN testing. Later in the year we will send parents an individual student NAPLAN report that you can use to view and monitor how your child is progress-ing. More information is available on the NAPLAN website - www.nap.edu.au

If you have any concerns, please contact Erin Smith, Pippa Lovel - Deputy Principals or myself on 9185 2400.

Kind regards,

Weston Jackson
Principal
Our next assembly will be held on Thursday, 22 May and will be hosted by Ms Pearson’s TA 10 class. The assembly will commence at 8.25am in the covered area. Parents and friends are most welcome to attend.

**VALUE FOCUS - ORGANISATION**

Organisation means setting a goal to do your best in your school work, listening carefully to your teacher’s instructions, planning your time so that you are not rushed, having all your supplies ready and keeping track of your assignments’ due dates. A few kids seem naturally organised, but for the rest, organisation is a skill learned over time. With help and some practice, kids can develop an effective approach to getting tasks completed.

**Examples of organised behaviour include:**

- making sure you understand the teacher’s instructions before you begin work
- having all your school supplies ready at a neat desk
- recording your assignments and their due dates
- planning when you’re going to do your homework so that you have enough time

**Positive Habits of the Mind that help develop a young person’s organisation include:**

**Setting Goals** - thinking that setting a goal can help me to be more successful at a task.

**Planning My Time** - thinking about how long it will take me to do my schoolwork and planning enough time to get it done.

Not only is it practical to teach these skills, but knowing how to be more successful will help your child feel more competent and effective. Kids feel self-confident and proud when they’re able to accomplish their tasks and responsibilities and they have some extra free time to do what they’d like to do.

**SCHOOL NURSE UPDATE**

**COLDS & FLU**

Colds and flu are everywhere, especially in winter, so it is almost impossible to stop children from catching them. A child’s immune system is less mature than those of adults, so they’re more susceptible to germs. They are spread by coughing/sneezing or talking, even touching something that has the virus on it and then touching your nose, eyes or mouth. So how do we stop the spread of colds and flu?

**HANDWASHING IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY IN REDUCING THE SPREAD OF GERMS.**

- Teach your child to cover his/her nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing, and to wash their hands straight afterwards.
- Hands should be washed before eating.
- Use tissues once, then throw them in the bin (avoid handkerchiefs).
- Make sure that your children eat a balanced diet of plenty of healthy foods.
- Keep your child away from smoke – it irritates their airways and nasal passages, making it more likely that they will catch a cold.

**What if your child has a cold or flu**

No treatment will cure a cold or flu or make it go away more quickly, but you can help your child feel more comfortable by;

- Keep your child home from school or day care if he/she has a cold/cough/fever/pain.
- Plenty of rest = Take it easy – watch movies, read a book, take a nap as often as needed and a good 7-8hrs sleep a night.
- Drink plenty of fluids – even small sips of water, milk or juice. Iceblocks are great and may help soothe sore throats. Plenty of fluids keeps sick children hydrated.
- When in doubt – see your GP.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Shelley Paterson (School Health Nurse)**

shelley.paterson@health.wa.gov.au

Telephone: 9143 2251

**NAPLAN**

NAPLAN testing will occur in all schools across Australia during week 3, 13 -16 May. The staff have been busy preparing the students in *Years 3, 5 and 7* for these Literacy and Numeracy tests. It is vital that the students in these years sit the tests as the data collected influences the amount of funding the school receives. Please encourage your child to try their hardest and the staff will ensure the actual testing period is as stress free as possible.

Some of the tests commence at 8.20am so please ensure that your child arrives at school on time.

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<thead>
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<th>Friday, 16 May</th>
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<td>1. Language Conventions</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Numeracy (Year 7 calculator)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Writing</td>
<td></td>
<td>Numeracy(Year 7 non-calculator)</td>
<td>Catch-up</td>
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**TERM PLANNER**

A planner for term 2 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.

**FROM THE SPORTS DESK**

Welcome back and I hope you all had a great holiday; we have a busy period coming up with some fantastic events.

It kicks off on the 6th of June when students from years 1-7 will participate in the Adidas School Fun Run. Your child will soon be bringing home a sponsorship form for the event which now allows students to utilise online fundraising by creating a student profile page. This will enable those family and friends living in other postcodes to support their run, resulting in great prizes for the kids and vital extra funds for the school – win win! Look out for the form from next week.

In keeping with the running theme, on June 13, Millars Well PS will be holding our Cross Country event. This is also for years 1-7 with classes already starting some morning training sessions. More information will be available shortly.

The following week (June 20), students in years 4-7 will have the opportunity to represent the school at the Winter Carnival. This event is held at Bulgarra Oval and we will be entering teams in Basketball, T-Ball, Australian Rules Football, Tennis, Volleyball, Minkey (modified hockey) and League Tag. All students in years 6-7 will be given the opportunity to participate in the event with available positions taken up by year 4/5 students. I’d like to thank Camerin and Emma Coles for volunteering their time to help train our T-Ball team on Friday afternoons; your help is really appreciated!

When too much running is never enough… At the start of Term 3, Millars Well will be hoping to have a large representation for the Activ Foundations City to Surf Fun Run. This will be held on July 27 and we have big shoes to fill after taking out the largest team from last year’s event. There will be a 4km and 12km course and it would be fantastic to see parents dust off their runners and help support the school.

*Mark Simpson, Physical Education Teacher*

**ANZAC DAY SERVICE at MWPS**

At Millars Well Primary we held our ANZAC Day Service on Thursday, 10 April at 9.00am. Thank you to our special guests, Lieutenant Colonel Paul Smith, the Commanding Officer and RSM Mark Retallick from the Pilbara Regiment for participating in our ANZAC Service.

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**BREAKFAST CLUB - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

The Breakfast Club has been running at Millars Well Primary school for two years now and we regularly have students using the program. It is a vital program that allows students an opportunity to receive a meal upon arrival at school and be ready to face the challenges of learning at school. The program’s survival relies heavily on the devotion of volunteers to help facilitate the feeding of students, up-keep of the food stock and cleaning up of the canteen afterwards.

We have had regular volunteers who assist in the program and they have been incredible in their support and dedication to the existence of the program and what it provides our students. However, we currently are struggling on having enough ‘hands on deck’ to maintain a daily operation of the program.

We are seeking volunteers who can help out between 8.00 – 8.20am. If you can assist or should you require any further information on this topic please contact the school on 9185 2400.

**SHOES WANTED**

Has your child recently grown out of shoes but they are still in good condition? Would you like to donate them to a worthy cause? If so, we would be happy to receive them at the office and we can put them to good use.
Karratha Mother’s Day Classic
Sunday, 11 May 2014
Walk or run for breast cancer research
From 7am at Frank Butler Community Centre
www.mothersdayclassic.com.au
MDC medal & gift
Zumba
Life & Soul aerobics warm up
Bouncy castle
Brekkie barbeque & drinks
Face painting
Loads of giveaways

Special guest Alison Braun

Gold Sponsor
Silver sponsors
Bronze Sponsors
Major Sponsor
Media Partner

www.drawnlearn.com
Our website is up and running!

TERM 2 PROGRAM
FUN-FILLED DRAWING LESSONS (For 5-10 Years)
TUESDAYS - 13th May’14 - 1st July’14 4:30-5:30pm
THURSDAYS - 15th May’14 - 3rd July’14 4:30-5:30pm
FRIDAYS - 16th May’14 - 4th July’14 3:30-4:30pm

FUN FOR LIL’ FINGERS (For 3-4 Years)
WEDNESDAYS - 14th May’14 - 2nd July’14 10:30-11:30am
THURSDAYS - 15th May’14 - 3rd July’14 9:30-10:30am
FRIDAYS - 16th May’14 - 4th July’14 10:40-11:40am

Every Week At: Karratha Family Centre
For more info contact NUTAN SHUKLA on
0420 929 454 or 08 9144 4245
Email: info@drawnlearn.com
shukla.nutan@gmail.com

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URBAN ART PROJECT
@ The Youth Shed
29 May - 5 June 2014
12+ years

Supported by Shire of ROEBOURNE
For more information contact Brittany Moxham at The Youth Shed
on 9186 8646 or email brittany.moxham@roebourne.wa.gov.au