Dear Parents, Friends and Carers,

2015 Enrolment
We are already planning for 2015 and currently our projected enrolment numbers are going to be higher than anticipated, which is great news. If you know that you are leaving town, please inform the school and we will factor it into our class planning.

If you are aware of any Pre Primary students that are not yet enrolled for 2015, please encourage them to make contact with the school as a matter of priority.

Our school will receive funding under the new Student Centred Funding Model next year and this means some adjustments in how we plan to staff our school. It is critical that we have the most accurate information available to plan from and student numbers are vital for this. Any help with this information would be greatly appreciated.

If you have a class placement request for your child in 2015 this can be made in writing to the Principal – Private and Confidential. All requests are given consideration in the class placement process.

Motor Cycle visit
TA 5 and TA 6 will have a Motor Cycle Safety visit next week. They will learn more about safety equipment, riding safely and how to enjoy riding a motorcycle responsibly. Karratha has many opportunities where young children can experience riding a small bike or quad and we want them to be aware and prepared to take part in a safe and responsible way.

Prefect Election
The election for prefects in 2015 will take place next week. Mrs Donoghue has been guiding our prefects this term and they have already spoken with potential Year 6 students. Year 5s wishing to nominate for the prefect elections will give a short speech to Year 4 and Year 5 students next Monday. Shortlisted nominees will be interviewed by the Principal and Deputy after the elections.

Swimming
This is the last week of swimming and feedback from the swimming teachers has been very positive. Students have participated with enthusiasm and have displayed positive behaviours at the pool.

Our next assembly will be presented by TA 7 on Thursday 13th November.

We hope you can attend.

Kind regards

Weston Jackson
Principal
Our next assembly will be held on **Thursday, 13 November** and will be hosted by Mr Maxwell’s TA 7 class. The assembly will commence at **8.25am** in the covered area. Parents and friends are most welcome to attend.

**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.

**REMEMBRANCE DAY**

This year 11 November marks the 96th anniversary of the Armistice which ended the First World War (1914–18). Each year on this day Australians observe one minute’s silence at 11 am, in memory of those who died or suffered in all wars and armed conflicts.

**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 all schools close (as do most, if not all, work places). If the alert occurs during the night or in the early hours of the morning, school will be closed. If a yellow alert is called before lunch, the school closes at lunch time. Parents need to make arrangements to pick their children up as the school will not simply send them home.

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 or access the information on the school’s website: [www.millarswellps.wa.edu.au](http://www.millarswellps.wa.edu.au).

**ARE YOU MOVING?**

If you know that you will be leaving town before the commencement of the new school year (February 2, 2015), or that your child(ren) won’t be attending Millars Well PS next year, please advise us at the office as soon as possible. This helps us with the planning of classes and determining staffing levels.

**CLASS PLACEMENT REQUESTS 2015**

We will soon be considering class structures for 2015. Our role is to ensure that children are placed in classes that best suit their needs and allow them to develop to their full potential. One of the things that have been a great tradition in the school has been the input that parents have had to this process. If you have a perspective on your child’s placement for next year, you are invited to submit this in writing and please address it to:

**The Principal**  
Private and Confidential  
Class Placement 2015  

Please understand that teachers spend many hours creating classes to ensure there is a balance in regard to class dynamics and abilities. We therefore ask that if you make a request it is based on the specific needs or issues pertaining to your child. Additionally we request that you do not specifically ask for particular teachers. There is always the possibility of staff turnover. We will try wherever we can to take parent information and student needs into consideration.

**LIBRARY NEWS**

The **Book Fair** will be held in the Library during Week 5, beginning on Monday 10th November. There will be a display of books and novelties set up and you are welcome to come in and browse anytime during the week. Purchases can be made with me on **Monday, Wednesday or Friday** between 8am-3pm, by cash, cheque or credit card. Our school receives a very generous percentage of the total sales in new books for the Library, so we really appreciate your support. I hope to see you in the Library during the Book Fair.

Robyn Rayson, Library Officer
Next meeting:
The next meeting for the P&C will be on the 18th of November. It was great to see so many people at our last meeting and would like to see people come along to the next one. We are planning on talking about the fundraising that is happening in the school this term being run by Hayley Barker, Breigh Pearson and Sally O'Donoghue. We would also like to discuss what fundraising we would like to do next year. If you have ideas and would like to be involved please come along.

Canteen:
We are still looking for volunteers for Wednesday and Friday mornings in the canteen. If you have an hour or two to spare please put your name down in the front office.

Facebook page:
The current Millars Well Primary School Parents & Citizens Association page will be closed and we will start a new group which will be a closed group. Keep an eye out for it, we will use it to keep everyone updated with what the P&C is up to.

VACSWIM 2014/2015

VACSWIM DECEMBER and JANUARY 2014/15 SCHOOL HOLIDAY SWIMMING PROGRAMS
Swimming pools and beaches are part of our Western Australian lifestyle. It is important for every child to learn to swim properly and develop essential water safety skills. VacSwim’s October school holiday swimming program is conducted by qualified instructors who teach children the skills to be confident swimmers and safe in the water.

VacSwim is available to all children five years old and under 18 years on the first day of each lesson. Details of dates, locations, costs and how to enrol are online. For further information and how to enrol, please visit education.wa.edu.au/swimming.

Program 1 - Monday 29 December 2014 - Friday 9 January 2015
(9 day program - no lessons 1 January 2015)
Enrolments for January Program 1 close Monday 17 November 2014

Program 2 - Monday 12 - Friday 23 January 2015
Enrolments for January Program 2 close Monday 24 November 2014

THE GIFT OF GIVING
The Millars Well Christmas fundraiser is off to a flying start! Our Guess the Jellybean contest raised $206 and was won by Trey Kittle in TA 13, great estimating Trey! We have also had our first bake sale run by Kindy and Pre Primary, this was a sensational morning tea with $450 being raised!

A huge thanks to all of the parents who have supported us by letting their children participate in the fundraising events and who have baked all of the delicious cakes, biscuits and other goodies. On Thursday we will have a jar of mixed items instead of lollies for everyone to test their estimating skills on for a gold coin donation. Next week the bake sale will be held by TA’s 5, 6, 7 & 8 on Thursday the 13th of November.

The teachers have been very impressed with the students money counting and organisational skills in running these events. Keep an eye on the display board out the front of the office that Mrs Dunne has created, to see how much money we have raised and to see photos of the students at Millars Well hard at work making Christmas a special time for everyone.
Why isn’t my child stacking their multiplication sums?

With today’s smart phones and other digital technologies, there is no longer a great need to solve large sums using traditional pen and paper methods. There are also many alternative strategies in which students can solve sums mentally without digital devices.

Usually, mental calculation strategies are easier, faster and can often be used without the need for working out.

Although traditional algorithms work, they can take time to solve and students often make errors as they do not have a deep understanding of the mathematics behind them.

**Five Times Tables**

There are two patterns that can be used when numbers are multiplied by five.

1. For even numbers multiplied by 5, the answer always ends in 0 and the digit in the tens place is half the number you are multiplying by 5.
   
   \[8 \times 5 = (8 \text{ is even therefore it will end in 0, half of 8 is 4}) \times 40.\]

2. For odd numbers multiplied by 5, the answer always ends in 5 and the number in the tens place is half of the number that comes BEFORE the number you are multiplying by 5.
   
   \[7 \times 5 = (7 \text{ is odd so there will be a 5 in the ones place, 6 comes BEFORE 7 and half of 6 tens is 30}) \times 35.\] Therefore the answer is 35.

**Two Times Tables**

Once a child knows their doubles to ten, they know their two times tables. Once again, use concrete materials to model two ‘groups of’ and make the connection to doubles facts.

A great song to use is the Doubles Rap 1-5 on youtube: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ljPkoNJH1Jg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ljPkoNJH1Jg) or the Doubles Rap 6-10 at: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yFuslXXQa4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yFuslXXQa4)

The collections below can be thought of as 3+3 or double three. From here you may point out it is also 2x3 and because we know our doubles we know 2x3 is 6.

More information brochures and videos can be found on the school website: [www.millarswellps.wa.edu.au](http://www.millarswellps.wa.edu.au) in the Curriculum section under AC Maths.