Dear Parents, Friends and Carers,

Principal's Message - I will be taking some long service leave shortly and wish to take a moment to reflect upon our school's progress and achievement this year. The school has continued to implement a number of positive strategies through classroom teaching. Teachers have used case management approaches and closely monitored the progress of students. We have had many parents assist in the class with Guided Reading and this has really assisted students and teachers. Our attendance data show that we have some students who can improve upon their current attendance rate. Attendance is a significant factor upon student achievement. We must continue to strive to improve in areas of literacy, numeracy and attendance. We are investing in revitalising areas of our school and have begun in the Early Childhood area. We plan to repaint areas, install new pin up boards and furniture. Our gardens look great thanks to the fantastic work of “Harry” but we hope to improve them even further. Mrs Carr, our Art teacher will work with some students and to complete a mural as an entry statement into the Pre Primary area.

My leave will continue for 12 months in 2015. A selection process for the Acting Principal appointment is currently being concluded and I will be able to announce the Acting Principal in the near future once the process is completed.

My last day this year will be 10th December, and Mrs Erin van der Sluys will be acting Principal.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge the support that parents have given to our school this year and the commitment shown by a very hard working and caring group on our P & C. Our President, Mrs Karen Hancock has worked tirelessly this year pulling together the challenges of the Canteen and Uniform Shop and supporting our school. It has been great that we now have some new faces and a bigger group involved as we head towards 2015.

Our students continue to work hard and this year it has been amazing to see our younger students thrive and excel in maths and writing. Our Ten a Day and Guided Reading does make a difference. Staff have supported all students in achieving their potential through case management approaches, and regular assessment to monitor progress.

I have always felt very privileged to be leading Millars Well Primary School and in recent years can really say I have seen staff and students work closely together achieving greater success. I am going to miss school while away, even though it is work; it is something I really enjoy. I know you will continue to work closely together as a community seeking to achieve each and everyone’s full potential.

Staff Leaving - After many years in our school, Ms Pereira will have her last day this week at Millars Well Primary School. Ms Pereira is about to take up a new role with Department of Education as a Teacher Development Coach. On behalf of the school I thank her for her contributions and the support she has given to students and staff. I thank her for her final semester reports and wish her all the very best in her new position. We will certainly miss her energy around the school.

Commencing next week Mrs Astrid Morgan will be the class teacher in TA6 for the remainder of term and Mrs Brittany Norton will be the class teacher on Tuesdays. Mrs Morgan is well known to students and has been working across our school. Mr Andrew Swift will take on the remaining 4 weeks of PE lessons on Wednesday - Friday which have been provided by Mrs Morgan.

School Survey - I invite you to take part in our schools Survey which is live online today. We appreciate your feedback and see this as an opportunity to look at how we may do things differently, or perhaps improve upon what we are doing well. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey using the following link: http://www.schoolsurvey.edu.au/s/9eEGehx and access code: kCwNb3Lx. The survey closes next Wednesday 28th November at midnight. Your input is appreciated.

Next Step Conference - Thursday, 20th November is the day our Year 6 and 7 students attend the Karratha High School along with students from other primary schools for a conference focussing on transition.

Remembrance Day was observed last week and students representing our school attended the Remembrance Day Service at the RSL. They lay a wreath alongside others placed by representatives of other local schools, volunteer groups and the Pilbara Regiment.

Kind regards
Weston Jackson
Principal
Our next assembly will be held on **Thursday, 20 November** and will be hosted by **Miss Barker’s TA13** 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 students in being recognised at our last assembly for their hard work and endeavour: Jazmin Adams, Kayd Gibson-Cooper, Mali Hodzic, Rawdy Stott, William Pritchard, Izaac Evans, Beau Bailey, Mariah Acebes, Triana Inglis, Josh Ridley, Alyssa Kjellgren, Nikita Smith, Brayden Smith, Travis Reti, Zecara Bung, Cory Hospital, Soham Walimbe, Sophie Haydon, Jarrod Renton, Cody Bailey, Jake Baker, Kevin King, Brandon Gunawan, Mitchell Fischer, Crix Johnston, Jenna Tait, Jack Smith and Malakai Parker. Science Award - Trenton Peck and Dana Bak Yan Yi. Physical Education - Mitchell Fischer and Elijah Kingi. Well done!

**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.

**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**

Thanks to everyone who came along and supported last week’s Book Fair! It was great to see so many students and parents in the Library. Sales were excellent and I have been able to choose $885 worth of lovely new books for our Library. I hope the students are all enjoying their purchases.

The final Book Club for the year - Issue 8 will be sent home at the end of this week, with orders due to be returned by Monday 24th November.

Robyn Rayson, Library Officer
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 on the roster in the front office.

Uniform Shop
Open every Tuesday morning from 8am to 8.45am. If you can help, please put your name down at the office.

Facebook group
We have made a new Facebook group. We have done this so it is a closed group. The P&C will use this as a way of updating everyone with what we are doing. The name of the group is Millars Well Primary School Parent and Citizens Association. If you are on Facebook, please request to join.

THE GIFT OF GIVING UPDATE
It was another week of sensational fundraising by Millars Well students this week. TA’s 5, 6, 7 and 8 ran a fantastic bake sale that raised over $500!! It was fantastic to see the senior students running the stall with such maturity. The conversations and interactions regarding money and what and how many items students can buy, highlighted the value of providing authentic situations for students to use and develop the financial literacy and money skills they have acquired.

The guessing contest run by the junior school was won by Jazmin Adams in TA 9, awesome estimating Jaz! In week five we raised a grand total of $667.50!! Check out our fundraising thermometers at the front of the office to see how close we are to our goal.

In week six we have a sausage sizzle being run by TA 7 and 8 on Tuesday and a bake sale hosted by TAs 9, 10 and 11 on Thursday. Once again, thank you everyone for your support.

MOTORCYCLING WA VISIT
TA 5 and TA 6 had a visit from Motorcycling WA last week. Concern for the safety of children has led Motorcycling WA in partnership with Smarter than Smoking to develop MotoSafe, a safety orientated educational program. Since 2007 over 7000 primary school aged children have been introduced to the Smarter than Smoking MotoSafe program and subsequently exposed to the different types of Motorcycle sport and their clubs, as well as being educated with the message of safe and responsible riding practices.

The message that being safe requires a few rules is of value to all students and includes:
- Developing a positive attitude to sport
- Where to ride motorcycles legally and safely
- Respect for the environment
- Respect for yourself and those around you
- What to wear when riding a motorcycle
- How to be responsible on a motorcycle
- Safety equipment is cool!
The students in TA 13 have been challenging themselves with lots of problem solving this year. Last week they began problem solving with fractions. They discovered new strategies to solve word problems involving groups of fractions. For quarters they now use half/half. For example $\frac{1}{4}$ of 4264, we halve 4264 and that equals 2132. Then we halve 2132 and that equals 1066.

We did a ‘Fraction Fruit Challenge’, where Mrs Dunne made fruit platters with fruit cut up into different fractions. The students then had to work out how many whole bits of fruit were used to make the platter.

It was great to listen to the student’s reasoning and explain how they were working their answers out.
STARRUCK PERFORMING ARTS PRESENTS...

IT'S ALL GREEK TO ME!

A SHOW COMPRIISING OF ACTS SUCH AS HERCULES, TALES OF MEDUSA, KING MINOS AND OTHER GREEK GODS, COMEDY ACTS AND DRAG QUEENS!

SATURDAY 29TH NOVEMBER 2014
5.30PM – 9.00PM
TAMBREY FUNCTION CENTRE

TICKETS $10.00
CONTACT TEAGAN BROWN ON 0415 417 267 OR EMAIL STARSTRUCKDRAMA@MAIL.COM OR SPEAK TO SARAH AT THE TAMBREY

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY THE TAMBREY TAVERN

KARRATHA COMMUNITY HOUSE INC.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOR KARRATHA COMMUNITY HOUSE INC.
at
Pam Buchanan Family Centre
51 Gardugarli Drive, Baynton West
on
Thursday 20th November 2014
At 8pm
All Board positions will be elected at this meeting.
All KCH members are encouraged to come along and join us for light refreshments afterwards.