Principal’s Message

Welcome to the first school newsletter for 2016. I am pleased to say the school year has commenced very smoothly and students have settled quickly into their new classrooms, routines and school programs. I am honoured to be the Acting Principal of Millars Well PS for this term, whilst Mr Jackson enjoys a well-earned break on Long Service Leave.

New Staff
I’d like to warmly welcome our new staff members for this year. Miss Tamara Clarke has been appointed to PP2 after having taught in Wagin last year. Mrs Chantelle Smith worked as a relief teacher at MWPS and we are pleased to be able to appoint her to the Year 3 class in TA 13. Mrs Leesa Butler is an Educational Assistant who will be specialising in the junior primary area of the school and a literacy initiative throughout the school. Ms Apryl O’Brien joins us from Tambrey PS and has been appointed as our LOTE (Japanese) teacher and has some amazing initiatives in store for us this year! Mrs Wendy Gore has considerable experience and expertise and will oversee “Students with Special Needs”, Curriculum Planning and will assist in the role of being a Teacher Development Coach. Congratulations are in order for Miss Breigh Pearson has been appointed as the Deputy Principal for 2016.

New School Uniforms
Congratulations are in order to the School Council, P&C and in particular the Uniform Shop for coordinating the new school uniforms. They look spectacular and students are wearing them with great pride. Coordinating orders for literally thousands of items, overseeing payments and then distributing these uniforms to the school community is a massive task.

I would like to convey our thanks and appreciation to the volunteers who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to successfully oversee this initiative.

Student Leaders
Late last year our senior students elected four Prefects to oversee various leadership responsibilities around the school including the coordination of special assemblies, fundraising activities and various school initiatives. Last week we ran elections for School Factions and Vice Captains and the enthusiasm expressed by our year six students along with the self-confidence and quality of speeches was outstanding. I would like to congratulate all students who nominated and were brave enough to deliver a speech to their peers and thank the elected Captains and Vice Captains for the leadership roles they will be undertaking throughout the year.
Canteen
A reminder our school canteen operates Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Orders can be placed by logging onto the website: ouronlinecanteen.com.au Thank you so much to the staff and parents who have worked so hard in hot and trying conditions to ensure the smooth running of the canteen from the commencement of this term.

Parent & Citizens
The P&C plays a significant role in the school. Their support and fundraising goes a long way to provide valuable resources and infrastructure to further enhance MWPS and improve opportunities for our student clientele. The meeting last Tuesday evening had to be cancelled as there was not a quorum. We require twelve parents at the AGM and unfortunately we only had six. The AGM has now been postponed until Tuesday 1st March and we would really appreciate parents coming along in order to confirm office bearers and commence various initiatives for the school community.

P&C Facebook
Please note there are a number of regular posts on the Millars Well PS P&C Facebook page. The purpose of this is to inform the school community about school related events and various logistical arrangements. Please note, it is not for airing grievances or issues of concern about the school as this can potentially impact upon individuals and the reputation of our school. If anyone has any issues they wish to raise, please liaise with the school office so it can be addressed. Many thanks for your cooperation!

School Council
Please contact the school office if you are interested in being a member of the School Council. This committee meets regularly throughout the year to discuss and oversee various school decisions and initiatives. It consists of staff members, parents and members of the wider community. One issue that will need to be discussed this year is the possibility of Millars Well PS applying to be an IPS (Independent Public School) status.

Gondwana Indigenous Children’s Choir
What an amazing opportunity for Kasidi Pearce and Connor Ingram to experience in the recent school holidays. They represented their families, MWPS and our state when they participated in the Gondwana Choir for two weeks in Sydney. They have written about their amazing adventures and experiences, and this features on page four of this newsletter.

Book Awards
At assembly last week we presented two book awards to students who were absent for the Awards Presentation at the end of last year. Congratulations to Aussie Maluka (Mrs Hole’s class) and Giovanni Montalvo (Miss Learmonth’s class) for receiving these special awards.

Attendance
Regular attendance plays a critical role in both the academic and social & emotional development of children. If your child(ren) is/are unable to attend school, please ensure you contact school so that we are aware of the circumstances. To date we have 91.2% attendance of students throughout the school. This is a little lower than “Like Schools” and it would be nice to improve this percentage in the coming weeks and months.

Positive Behaviour Support
Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) is a research based framework for schools to follow to guide them to create and implement a positive, proactive school-wide approach to behaviour management. Implementing PBS assists Millars Well to become a safer, more effective school. PBS involves the establishment of effective school-wide routines and consistent responding to behaviour, both positive and negative. PBS is based on the idea that social acceptable behaviours are now skills that need to be clearly defined, directly taught, regularly practised and followed by frequent positive reinforcement. (The same way that numeracy and literacy skills must be taught.) By implementing PBS, Millars Well will be building upon its existing strengths and strategies for behaviour management. We will be using the PBS framework to collect and analyse behavioural data. We will then use this data to assess students’ behavioural needs and make informed decisions in order to cater for those needs.

Cyclones
Please ensure you are familiar with procedures for cyclones within our region. School cyclone information is available at the front office and is also available on the school website.
Emergency Evacuation
We conducted a whole school emergency evacuation drill on Monday morning. It is important the school rehearse these types of procedures so that we are well prepared in the event of a genuine emergency. We will also be rehearsing a “Lock Down” drill next week, in order to ensure we have systems in place to cater for such an emergency.

Parent Information Sessions
It has been pleasing to see the number of parents who have come along for these information sessions. This provides an opportunity for parents to familiarise themselves with their child’s classroom teacher and the various programs, expectations and routines that take place at school. Should parents have any queries, please liaise with your child’s classroom teacher as it is important we work closely together in order to ensure positive outcomes and a happy environment for students.

NAPLAN
Year three and five students will be participating in NAPLAN assessment this year. This will be taking place between Tuesday 10th-Thursday 12th May. A parent information brochure was forwarded home last week. Please contact your child’s class teacher should you have any queries?

Term Planner
An outline of significant school dates was forwarded home to all families last week. This is also outlined on our school website. We endeavour to provide as much forewarning as possible regarding important dates, however, from time to time these dates are subject to change.

Air-Conditioning
The recent hot spell has impacted on some of the school’s air-conditioners. We have had several tradesmen come out to the school in order to ensure our air-conditioners are fixed and maintained. Please note that when air-conditioners are not working properly and this impacts upon a particular class, we move students to another part of the school to ensure their comfort.

Indigenous Morning Tea
Many thanks to Roslyn Randall and Kellie Vidler for coordinating a special Indigenous morning tea taking place today. This provides an opportunity for indigenous parents to meet and familiarise themselves with Millars Well PS and the various programs and expectations of the school. The next Indigenous morning tea will take place on Friday 18th March.

I would like to thank everyone for the warm and friendly welcome I have received since being appointed to Millars Well PS. Our students are generally very well behaved and beautifully mannered. It is evident we have committed and professional staff who want to provide a high quality education for the students of Millars Well PS. This school has an excellent reputation and I am very much looking forward to working closely with the school community throughout the term.

Warm regards

Daryl Mansfield
Principal

Voluntary Contributions
A contributions payment envelope has been sent home this week to parents by mail. Contributions are an important part of our school’s revenue and assist the school to purchase resources to enhance learning outcomes for your children. Please place cash/cheque in the envelope provided or complete the EFT details 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 from the office. 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.

Library News
Welcome back to school and a special welcome to new families. I run Scholastic Book Club here, with two issues going out each term. I also organise two Book Fairs each year in May and November. Scholastic offer great ‘rewards’ for sales from Book Fair and Book Club, so we enjoy a steady stream of lovely new books into our Library. Your support is very worthwhile.

Just a couple of points to keep in mind when ordering. It assists busy office staff if you pay online or by phone with your credit card. Instructions are on the Book Club order slips. Please ensure the student’s orders are clearly marked with their name and TA, placed in well-sealed envelope or zip lock bag and placed in the collection box in the front office, or handed to me. If you do pay by cash, please enclose the correct amount as no change will be given. I work Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9am-3pm, so please feel free to call in and see me with any queries.

Help needed: Are there any parents who have time to cover some small reading books please? We have a collection of new books purchased late last year, and they are now ready to be covered so that they can be used by the students. Plastic, sticky tape and training all supplied. Please see me in the Library on a Monday, Wednesday or Friday if you can help out. Thanks very much.

Robyn Rayson, Library Officer
Physical Education- Keeping Fit and Active
The students at Millars Well do not view the heat as a barrier to their learning of Physical Education, but an opportunity to explore alternative ways to remain fit and healthy as we learn the importance of maintaining a strong and healthy Heart. The incorporation of Yoga to our junior lessons at the completion of our fundamental skills lessons as well as modified sports such as Crab Soccer for our senior students have been embraced with great enthusiasm. Keep up the great effort Millars students!!!

Mrs Fazzolari, Physical Education Teacher

Creating Resilient Kids
Let’s help our kids cope with difficult problems and situations that may come their way by
1. Making them self-aware of their strengths and challenges.
2. Being able to self-reflect.
3. Being able to accept that setbacks and problems are a normal part of life.
4. Being able to understand and manage strong emotions.
5. Focussing on the positive.
SDERA-Resilience and Wellbeing.

Breakfast Club
Foodbank WA supplies quality School Breakfast Program food products to registered schools free of charge, to ensure that all students have an equal opportunity to receive a wholesome, nutritious breakfast on a regular basis.

Millars Well Primary School Breakfast Club will be commencing next Monday 22nd February. It will operate Monday to Friday from 8.00am in the building next to the small undercover area.

Gondwana Indigenous Children’s Choir Recount
On the holidays, we went to Sydney with Gondwana Choir. It was a good trip. When we arrived in Sydney, Lyn Williams and Sam were waiting for us at the airport, they gave us big hugs. We had so much fun on the way to Macquarie University. We stayed at Dunmore College. The next morning, the choir from Cairns came; they were the others from the Pilbara Project, which is the Aboriginal choir. The songs that have been written for us are all about the Pilbara. There is Spinifex Gum, Yurlar, Marlia, Gawarliwarli and Wandangarli, these songs have been written by Felix Reibl. We went to the shops two times for excursions and we saw the Sydney Harbour Bridge and the Opera house. Next, we went to the Sydney rock markets which were really fun. When we went to Macquarie Centre it was busy there. Finally, the time came when we had to perform; it was a really big place. The days went fast. On the day we performed we had 4 hours practicing and it felt like forever. Then it was time to go on stage and perform. We were so nervous, then it was over just like that. Hours had flown past. The next morning we were on a bus to the airport to head back to Perth. We had the best time of our lives.

Written by Connor Ingram and Kasidi Pearce
Hi my name is Wendy Gore and I will be working as a Literacy Coach and a Learning Support Coordinator this year. This is my first year in the Pilbara and I am loving being here. My son and I have moved here from Golden Bay, south of Perth, but I was born in Sydney and my son in South Africa. We love to spend our weekends and holidays exploring this beautiful country, camping in new places when we can. I look forward to working with students, parents and the lovely staff at Millars Well P.S this year to ensure that this year is a successful and rewarding one for everyone.

Hi, My name is Tamara Clarke and I have recently moved to Karratha from Bolgart. My parents are grain farmers and are 2 of the 48 people who call Bolgart home. This is my second year of teaching. I enjoy travelling and was lucky enough to have lived and experienced school life in America. On weekends I enjoy going to the beach and camping. I am really looking forward to working at Millars Well PS with the fabulous Pre-Primary’s in PP2.

What does Karratha Public Library have to offer?

Well yes, books, we have hundreds of them from fiction, non-fiction, children’s and young adults to large print, foreign language and graphic novels and if we haven’t got what you’re looking for we will certainly do our best to get it.

But we’re more than just books!

  We’ve got CD’s, DVD’s, Audio books galore,
  Download e-books, magazines, on-line resources - more!
  We have guest speakers, training, 3D printing- that’s prime,
  History services, kid’s activities, rhyme and story time.
  Then there’s faxing, photocopying, laminating and scans,
  See our gallery of fine art done by talented hands.
  So visit Karratha Library, come in and see,
  What we have to offer, there is no fee - it’s free!

Contact the library for more information 9186 8660
Located at Dampier Hwy, Karratha WA 6714 (opposite Broadhurst Road)
The Dampier Sharks Football Club and its fully incorporated Junior Committee invite players of all age groups to join the club for the 2016 season. Registrations will be held on

**Saturday 27th February** at the Dampier Sports Club, Windy Ridge Oval
As well as

**Saturday 12th March** at the Dampier Sports Club, Windy Ridge Oval
Both will be held between 10.00am and 12.00pm.

**Proof of age ID is essential**, as requested by the association. All players and families past & new made welcome.

To encourage new members from Karratha we are offering a free bus service on training nights to transport players from Karratha to Windy Ridge oval and then returning them after training finishes.

Dampier Sharks Junior Football Club, PO Box 1473, Karratha, W.A. 6714

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