Principal’s Message

It’s incredible to think we are at the end of week nine and there are only four more school days for students prior to the April Holidays. There have been numerous highlights for the term including Cycle to School Day, Harmony Day, Easter Hat Parade, Special Assemblies and a host of exciting classroom activities and great work from our students. Mr Weston Jackson is the substantive principal of Millars Well PS and he will be returning at the commencement of Term Two. I have thoroughly enjoyed my opportunity to be the principal of MWPS and will take away very special memories of an outstanding school community. Our students are exceptionally well behaved and beautifully mannered. The staff are very professional and work hard to provide a stimulating academic program at the same time as fostering a caring warm and friendly social and emotional environment for our students. Our P & C and parent community are also very supportive of the programs on offer at the school and help generate a friendly positive and nurturing atmosphere.

Staff Changes

I would like to acknowledge the great work Mrs Aimy Baxter has done throughout Term One in Kindy. She has provided a very friendly and warm educational environment for our Kindy students and ensured they have had an excellent introduction to their formal education. However, we will not be losing Mrs Baxter altogether as she will be resuming her role as a teacher in Pre-Primary for one day per week. We will be welcoming back the ever popular Ms Kellie Vidler to teach our Kindy classes in Term Two. Ms Vidler has been on long service leave, even though she has spent considerable time at school throughout her leave.

Term Dates

Please note that next Friday 8th April students will commence school holidays and second term will commence on Wednesday 27th April. The reason for students having additional days is due to staff being engaged in Professional Learning on Friday 8th and Tuesday 26th April. Monday 25th April is the ANZAC Day Public Holiday.

Congratulations to Eloise Kratochvill

Eloise did all of us proud when she was runner- up in the recent SDERA (School Drug Education and Road Awareness) road safety poster competition. Eloise was recognised as being one of the best posters in the Karratha network of schools in her age group and she received a bike helmet for her efforts.
MiniLit and MultiLit
This year the school has embarked on a comprehensive program to screen our students in literacy and provide assistance for students who require support. Miss Wendy Gore has been overseeing this initiative throughout the school. She has included a more comprehensive outline of these programs and details for parents to find out more in this newsletter.

Car Park and Traffic Flow
Whilst the parking and traffic flow around the school appears to have improved around the school, we are still experiencing a few issues. The main ones include:

1. Double parking in car parks and blocking in parked cars
2. Parents using the staff car park
3. The “2 Minute” Bays being utilised for extended periods of time.

During the peak times of drop off and pick up, we expect congestion, however, please note the guidelines I outlined in the last newsletter below, in order to ensure a safe, smooth and trouble-free car park environment.

- Encourage students to participate in active forms of transport to and from school e.g. walk, scoot and cycle (with emphasis on safety).
- Adhere to two minute parking or less in designated zones in western car park.
- Try not to park for any length of time if you are just dropping off children.
- Use additional parking at the rear of the RSL building off Petries Street. This has 71 bays and is less than a 100m walk for students to walk to school. This area is underutilised.
- Park a few hundred meters from school and walk the last part of the journey.
- Please try to leave the western car parks for the pre-primary and kindy students.

Please ensure you don’t:

- Park in the staff car park
- Double park in any of the car parks
- Leave children unattended in vehicles. This would become a police matter.
- Allow students to be transported in vehicles without wearing a seat belt.

Being patient, polite and courteous is always appreciated by everyone in the school community and will assist us to uphold traffic around the school.

Leadership Course
Our Year Six Leaders were treated to a special leadership course which provided opportunities for student leaders from various Karratha primary schools to demonstrate initiative, work collaboratively as a team and speak publicly in front of an audience. Our students excelled and were a real credit to themselves and Millars Well PS. Many thanks to Miss Pearson and Mrs Arnott for coordinating this superb opportunity.

Harmony Day
This special day was coordinated by our student leaders to promote and celebrate the broad range of cultures we have at Millars Well PS. Students were asked to dress in traditional cultural outfits on Monday 21st March or alternatively wear orange which symbolizes “Harmony Day”. Students dressing up were asked to contribute a gold coin donation and our leaders raised a sum of $171 which will go towards. Many thanks to everyone who supported this special occasion.

ANZAC Day Assembly
Next Wednesday 6th April we will be conducting an “ANZAC Day” Assembly. This will be commencing at 8.30am and will be held on the grassed area in front of the Pre-Primary classrooms. Captain Sean Sutherland from the Pilbara Regiment will be our special guest and he will address this solemn occasion. This is always a very moving and special occasion where we pay our respects to all our past and present service men and women.

Dockers Cup
Next Thursday 7th April our senior interschool girls and boys AFL teams will be participating in a lightning carnival at Baynton West. The students will be playing for the “Dockers Cup” which is always a very exciting carnival with emphasis on skills, fun and participation. We wish our students a great day and I would like to thank Mrs Fazzolari for all her work behind the scenes to coordinate this special day. Fixtures get under way at 8.45am and the carnival will conclude by 1.00pm. In the event of extreme weather, the carnival will be postponed until Term Two. Parents are warmly invited to join in the fun and support our teams.
Easter Hat Parade
This year’s traditional Easter Hat Parade did not disappoint with students from K-6 dressing up for this occasion. Some very creative and colourful hats and bonnets were on display for our special assembly and some students from each class were rewarded with some Easter treats to acknowledge their efforts. Many thanks also to the P & C and the school community for coordinating the Easter Egg Raffle raising $1135 for our school and generating lots of excitement amongst the school community.

Congratulations to the Easter Hat Winners
Kin - S Lonnie, PP1 - H Bayliss, PP2 - Lily McKay, TA9 - R Bradley, TA10 - Malakai Parker, TA11 - C Brown, TA13 - A Hancock, TA14 - B McKay, TA4 - A Siddiqui, TA5 - C Hancock and TA7- M Botes

Front Verge
The front verge of our school received a massive facelift recently with the construction of a magnificently sculptured snake that is approximately 40m in length. This is nestled amongst some beautiful native shrubs and white stone to make a most aesthetic feature out the front of the school. Many thanks to the “Turf Guru” for his creative work to engineer such a work of art!

Happy Holidays
May I take this opportunity to wish everyone a very happy and safe holiday. Thank you once again for making me so welcome and being an amazing school community. I wish you all health, happiness and prosperity for the future.

Warm regards
Daryl Mansfield
Principal

P&C News
Our Online canteen
Did you know you can do your lunch orders online, and days in advance? And if you’re having trouble making it into our Uniform Shop on Wednesday mornings, then you can simply order them online too? Just go to ouronlinecanteen.com.au

Canteen
The canteen is open on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Volunteers are now only needed for assembly mornings and don’t forget we have a fantastic coffee machine for Parents and Teachers. All lunch orders must be in by 9am and online orders can be done at ouronlinecanteen.com by 8:45am. You can also keep an eye out for canteen specials on our Facebook page Milars Well Primary School Parents and Citizens Association. The amazing Rebecca and Tracey are always whipping up delicious and secretly healthy lunches for our kids

Uniform Shop
The uniform shop has run into further delays with orders and are hoping to see stock arrive by Week Two of Term Two. The shop will not be open until Week Two and will continue to run every Wednesday morning from 8:30am-9am. Pre-order forms will go home Week One of Term Two for winter stock and you can also order online at ouronlinecanteen.com. Please come into the uniform shop to try on our sample winter sizes as due to limited storage space there can be no exchanges on winter stock.

Fundraising
The fundraising committee has been busy making plans for the year ahead. First up is the Mother’s Day stall to be held on Friday 6th of May. A letter with will be sent home with your child in the first week back to school in term two with information regarding the fundraiser. Children will be able to purchase items valued between .50c and $5. We are seeking donations for the stall of unwanted items in good condition or new items valued at no more than $10. Secondly we are seeking assistance with a bake sale in Karratha City shopping centre on Saturday 28th may. We will need lots of home baked goodies and volunteers to help run the stall. Further information will be supplied soon.

Class Representatives
Earlier this term we asked for parents to sign up to be class representatives. If you have done so, then we thank you and will be pleased to see you at the next meeting. If you would like to sign on as a representative then please ask your child’s teacher if one is still needed. We are asking for two representatives for each class and hope that one form each class will be able to attend.

Easter Raffle
Once again this year the Easter Raffle was a huge success with a total of $1135 raised!!! Congratulations to all 36 winners! Thank you to all who participated and helped with organising the raffle. It was certainly a team effort and we could not have done so well without you. A special thank you to parents for your kind donations of chocolates and to Karratha City Shopping Centre for donating 40 Easter bags.

The P&C are seeking a Secretary. If you are interested, please advise the front office and a P&C representative will contact you
Native Garden
Last year a grant was obtained from the City of Karratha for the verge in front of the parent’s car park to be beautified. The job has now been completed with a native water wise garden. The work was done by the Turf Guru and it looks fantastic! Thank you so much, to all who made this possible.

MiniLit and Reading Tutor Program – 2 new programs introduced at Millars Well!

Recently four of our staff (Leesa Butler, Roslyn Randall, Breigh Pearson and I) attended three days of intensive training in the application of the Minilit Program and Reading Tutor Program.

Minilit stands for Meeting Initial Needs In Literacy and is an evidence-based and effective early literacy program. It is a practical, systematic, explicit and effective model for teaching reading skills to a small group of students through an intensive program. Students spend one hour a day, four days a week with Leesa Butler. MiniLit is an integrated and balanced program of 80 carefully structured lessons that teach the basics of letter/sound knowledge and decoding skills for CVC words before extending word attack knowledge by teaching commonly used digraphs and longer words. Each lesson comprises three main components:

1. Sounds and Words Activities
2. Text Reading
3. Story Book Reading

The MultiLit Reading Tutor Program (RTP) caters for students who have not acquired the basic skills needed to become functional readers. Children who have failed to learn to read in the first few years of schooling need intensive, systematic reading instruction if they are not to fall further behind, or even become complete non-readers. Research shows that the most effective programs of reading instruction for low-progress readers involve intensive, systematic and explicit instruction in three main areas:

1. ‘Phonics’ (or word attack skills); focusing on accuracy, fluency and spelling.
2. Sight words recognition; and

The Reading Tutor Program incorporates all three key features. The word attack skills and sight word recognition programs are provided in a 1-on-1 setting for 20 minutes, 3 times a week. The supported book reading will be conducted in small group sessions of 20 minutes, three times a week.

The two programs are being implemented from this term and will continue throughout the year. An information note will be sent home to those students involved in the program.

An information session outlining the programs in more detail will be provided for all interested parents on Thursday the 28th of April in the library. At 8:30 I will outline the Minilit program (Years 1-2) and will follow this at 8:50am with an introduction to the MultiLit program (years 3-6).

Wendy Gore
Literacy Coach

Next Meeting
Our last P & C meeting was held on Wednesday 16th March. Unfortunately we had a poor turnout but we were extremely happy to see some new faces. The next P & C meeting is scheduled for 7pm on Wednesday 4th May. It’s just $1 to join in. If you have any thoughts on what the school needs and how we can help, then we want to hear about it.

J Mitchell
P&C President

Certificates of Merit
Congratulations to the following children in being recognised recently for their hard work and endeavour:

PP 1  T Killeen, S Rosenqvist
PP 2  K Bung, C Kelly
TA 9  G Bryne, D Smith
TA 10 S Mackinnon, M Parker
TA 11 J Tait, Y Ali
TA 13 D Makur, K Cooper-Gibson, A Bayliss
TA 14 Z Kratochvill, E Chudziak
TA 4  A Eversden, J Bonney
TA 5  C Bryce, C Mitchell
Ta 7  R Neeson, M Riegel, T Peck
LOTE T Kelly, G Montalvo
PE  C Bryce, K Mowarin
News from TA11
We have had a great time in TA11 this term. The wonderful students in our class have been completing a range of different activities across the learning areas.

Mrs Stott has been working with the students to complete some different art projects. Students completed a persistence butterfly earlier in the term. Students had to draw a butterfly and then after listening to feedback from their peers went on to modify their drawing to complete their final creation. The student’s demonstrated persistence and their final butterflies looked fantastic.

Our writing focus this term has been recounts. Students have been writing about their personal experiences and have begun writing recounts after completing some fun craft. Students have created expanded notation monsters, double bugs and an Easter egg basket for some Easter treats. Some students have visited the office and received merit certificates for their excellent writing and it is wonderful to see all of the student’s skills are improving.

Students in TA11 enjoyed performing at the school assembly in week 6 and all students did a wonderful job dressed in their super hero outfits. Students spoke clearly into the microphone and we were both very proud of the students in our class. We look forward to a productive Term Two.

Mrs Stott and Mrs Byrne

Leadership Day
By Ebony Bradley and Ruairi Neeson

On Wednesday the 16th of March we were lucky enough to be chosen to attend Leadership Day at the Leisureplex. We met Mrs Arnott in the function room as well as our peers from other schools. In the morning we learnt about the other peers, made a and then we played a game with a hoop. By the time that finished it was recess. After recess we did a puzzle that took ages, finished off our posters, played silent ball in our group and then it was lunch. In the afternoon we played really fun games!!! The first one involved a messy floor. We had to walk on it without touching an object while being blindfolded, get oreos off our foreheads and we had to transfer smarties from one bowl to the other with a straw. By the time that finished it was time to go home. We said thank you to all the teachers and left. We learnt that being in a team can be easier than being an individual because you can rely on each other and ask for help when you need it and you can get a job done quicker because everyone gets a part and it’s not just you doing all the work.
Volleyball is back for 2016 in Karratha!!
6v6 competition, Wednesday night games.
Indoor Courts, Karratha Leisureplex
Season commences: 27th April 2016

Team and Individual registrations can be submitted via email NWVA@outlook.com or come along to either of our registration events listed below.

Dates to Remember
26th March – Karratha Centro Registration Day
30th March – Karratha Leisureplex Final Registration Night

If you would like any further information on our competition or to be involved with our wonderful committee please contact Association President, Kane Otto (0409 135 799) or visit our Facebook page http://www.facebook.com/#!/NorthWestVolleyball

BULGARRA GLORY SOCCER CLUB
We are in need of more player’s age 8 years to 14 years for the upcoming soccer season.
If you would like to play soccer please register at www.myfootballclub.com.au
For further information about registration please contact our Club Registrar: Julie Eardley maju@westnet.com.au

Junior Hockey
* Thursdays 3:30pm-4:15pm at the Bulgarra Tennis Courts.
* Only $50 for 8 week season.
* Starts Term 2 (May 5.)
* Register at first session on May 5!

Enquiries contact Steve Cook
9144 4423
Facebook Page = Nickol Bay Hockey Club