



MOUNT ISA SCHOOL OF THE AIR

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NEWSLETTER 2 – TERM 2 2014

Inside this Newsletter:

- ❖ Greetings
- ❖ Information
 - Staff News
 - Communication
- ❖ Curriculum
 - National Curriculum
 - Unit 3&4
 - eKindy
 - Whole School Reading Program
 - NAPLAN Yr 3,5,7,9 Testing
 - Curriculum Chat
 - L.O.T.E.
 - Mailroom & Curriculum
- ❖ Events
 - Competition News & Extracurricular Events
 - Camp News
 - Home Tutor Seminar Week
 - Field Team
 - Term 2 Group Days
 - Minischool
 - Library News
 - Music News
 - Eisteddfod of the Air
 - Student Council
 - Sports Captains
 - District Sport
 - Sports Day
 - Insurance cover for students undertaking Physical Activity
 - Sports for Bush kids
 - Clean Up Australia Day
 - Colouring In Competition
 - Immunisation Importance
- ❖ P&C Prattle
- ❖ Attachments
 - Wilson
 - Home Tutor Seminar Registration Form
 - Home Tutor Activity Day Attendance Form
 - House Lists
 - War cries
 - Staff Contact List

PRINCIPAL'S GREETING

Welcome to Term 2, a term where our school community gets together for the Home Tutor Seminar, sports day, activity days and camps. I would encourage all of our families to fully participate in all of these activities. There is information in this newsletter about each of the activities. Please contact the school if you require any further information.

I realise that with the dry conditions there may be times on your properties where this impacts on schooling. Our school will be as flexible and understanding as we can be. We do ask that you keep your teachers informed and involved in any considerations you require.

After broad consultation in 2013 many changes were made to the school's operation in 2014. Direct teaching of a KLA, increased on air time, more reliance on iConnect and scheduled personal feedback times were some of the major changes. It was pleasing to note at the activity day meetings with parents and governesses that there has been a high level of satisfaction with these operational changes. I do realise that for some families, depending on their situation, these changes have had some challenges and we will continue to modify and adapt to make this new model work for them. Please continue to provide feedback and suggestions to us so that we continue to improve C2C implementation.

Each teacher has sent you a copy of their personal timetables, we hope that you find them helpful particularly when trying to contact your teacher or planning a visit into the school. Teacher time is now more structured and scheduled and thus teachers (and you) have lost some flexibility in accommodating irregular visits and phone calls.

Normally I don't single out students for special mention but I am making a special case this time as two of our students reached high levels. Katie McDonald was chosen to represent Queensland in the schoolgirls' cricket competition. It's a rare privilege to represent your state and we wish Katie all the very best in Darwin. Well earned Katie. Cody Wockner late last year was invited to Brisbane to receive a medal for the highest score in Queensland in the Year 3 ICAS (International Competitions and Assessment) Science competition. A budding scientist in the making. Well done Cody.

In this newsletter you'll also find a purple sheet dedicated to Peyton Wilson. The school, the family and Kadence have all written a small tribute.

All the best in term 2

Tim Moes

INFORMATION

STAFF NEWS

Kara Thompson and Carly Grubb (nee: Coonan) have both taken maternity leave for the rest of the year. We wish them well as they enter the exciting phase of motherhood. I often say to staff that having a baby is the only reason I happily accept a teacher leaving. I feel confident that at some time in the future we will welcome both Carly and Kara back to School of the Air. Kara's replacement commencing in term 2 is Kylie Juniper.

We have made some changes to teachers and subjects in Year 7 and the Western Alliance. Starting in term 2 Di Knudson will be teaching Year 7 Science and Renee Moore will be the Year 7 History teacher. Michele Ridge will be taking Year 8 Science. All timetable times and codes remain unchanged.

Our thoughts are with Anne Coleman and her family on the unexpected passing of James, their son, on the 26 February. The passing of James has been a difficult time for many on our staff. I know Anne has been comforted by the support shown to her by the school community. Anne is coming back initially in a part time capacity and will slowly build back to full time work.

After quite an absence Deb Bishop re-joined us at the end of the term. Deb has been away being rebuilt as the bionic woman with a new titanium hip, we expect a great performance on Sport's Day

COMMUNICATION

We all know that effective communication is the key to success, particularly at our school. Earlier this term we sent out the "Who to Contact List" and we encourage you to use this list to determine which number to call when wishing to communicate with our staff about a particular issue.

Our teachers have also published their daily timetables so that you can see the best time to make contact with them. During the school day our teachers have on air commitments, reading commitments and also other scheduled appointments and all of these are shown in their timetables which are available on the class EdStudio. However, we realise that prompt return of phone calls and emails is vital for your classroom operation. If your teacher is busy, please leave a detailed message so that he/she can respond in a timely manner with an effective/efficient response.

Daily Notices are our best method of communicating with our Home Tutors and we take this time to detail school news, upcoming events, timetable changes and staff absences. Please endeavour to attend the daily notices at 8.00am each day or if you miss them, please make sure that eLearn is checked each morning. Conference Code: Studio 4 (8145 968 840)

CURRICULUM

AN OVERVIEW OF EDUCATION QUEENSLAND'S NEW CURRICULUM

English

The K-10 curriculum in English will be organised around three interrelated strands -

- *Language*: The Language strand involves the development of a coherent, dynamic and evolving body of knowledge about the English language and how it works.
- *Literature*: Students learn to interpret, appreciate, evaluate and create literary texts such as narrative, poetry, prose, plays, film and multimodal texts, in spoken, print and digital/online contexts.
- *Literacy*: Students apply their English skills and knowledge to read, view, speak, listen to, write and create a growing repertoire of texts.

Mathematics

The National Mathematics curriculum addresses key concept skills and processes for progression in mathematics. It is described in three content strands -

- *Number and Algebra*
- *Statistics and Probability*
- *Measurement and Geometry*

These strands embed the proficiencies of understanding, fluency, reasoning and problem solving. Teachers will make use of available digital technology, including calculators in teaching and learning contexts.

Science

The K-10 Science curriculum is organised around three interrelated strands –

- *Science Understanding*
- *Science Inquiry Skills*
- *Science as a Human Endeavour*

It provides the basis for learning science that engages students in meaningful ways and prepares students to use science for life and active citizenship so that they can function effectively in a scientifically and technologically advanced society.

It provides a foundation for specific learning pathways leading to senior secondary science as well as science and engineering courses at university and technical and vocational education and training.

History

The K-10 History curriculum is organised into two strands across all year levels –

- *Historical Knowledge and Understanding*
- *Historical Skills*

The new curriculum ensures Australian history will be taught within a world history context, and not limited to world history from an Australian perspective. History will commence in Semester 2 this year.

Feedback of the Current C2C Materials

You will note changes to this year's unit materials, due to the extensive feedback given to the writing team by schools and school communities. Many of the improvements have made a significant difference, however we need to continually monitor the accuracy and suitability of the materials as we continue into 2014. If you find something that requires correction, improvement or further thought please forward your ideas to me, jfric1@eq.edu.au as I am always passing on information to the C2C writing team in an endeavour to improve our Distance Education materials.

Janeen Fricke

UNIT 3 AND 4

This term all students from Years 1-7 will be working on Units 3 & 4. The dates and week allocations for Unit 3 & 4 will take into account public holidays, HT Seminar week and Year 4/5 camp. All these adjustments will be evident in your year level timetable and dates for send in tasks, on air requirements and daily tasks are clearly outlined. Prep, operates on a different structure (2 weeks per unit) and will continue with Unit 6 first week back.

eKINDY

We now have 186 children registered for eKindy. The eKindy team fully appreciate the many challenges you face with managing the program around family and work commitments, particularly during this dreadful drought. We thank you for supporting your child to get started with eKindy and for working closely with your child's teacher.

Term 1 progress

Please be assured that 'wherever you are up to' in the program – is the perfect place to be at this stage. Your teacher will continue to help you to manage eKindy around your busy lives as the year continues. We have had many families start at various times during the term, and almost everyone now has the technology 'up and running' for web sessions. It is amazing how quickly the children have become very confident to engage in online learning with their teachers. During Term 1, a large number of children and families have met their teachers at various activity sessions delivered across the state. We know some people travel long distances so their child can engage in these days. They are extremely valuable for enabling the teachers and children to really get to know each other. This helps the teachers to 'personalise' the program for each child.

Feedback on starting eKindy

We would appreciate any feedback on ways to help make the start of the year a little less overwhelming for families. We know some families are very familiar with Distance Education, but we also have many families who are new to Distance Education. Some families have found using the weekly overviews saves them a lot of time. Others have stretched the sessions out over a number of days to fit eKindy around their work and family responsibilities. Please chat to your child's teacher or email me your suggestions. We will use your feedback to refine our approach for 2015. Your ideas will help us to support eKindy families in the future.

Moving into Term 2

There will be no eKindy web sessions during the first week of Term 2 (22-24 April). The twelve eKindy teachers will be in Brisbane engaging in 2 days of professional development. The following week some teachers will be delivering activity days in Roma and Longreach. The Term 2 materials have been mailed to families based on advice from each teacher. These packs should arrive soon, so they will be ready for you to work with from 22 April.

I will be on leave from Thursday 27 March until the first week of Term 2 (Tuesday 22 April). If you have any eKindy queries, please contact your eKindy teacher or Janelle Engel. The Brisbane SDE will be closed for the school holidays from 7 April to 21 April.

The team look forward to continuing to work with you in Term 2 and wish you all a very happy and safe break across the school holiday period.

Liz Kable – eKindy team.

WHOLE SCHOOL READING

The building blocks of reading in Education Queensland P-10 materials and embedded in our reading program, are known as 'The Big Six in Reading'. The big six are –

- **Oral Language** - what students speak is what they read and what they write. Children with a broad vocabulary are advantaged.
- **Phonological Knowledge** – is the ability to identify segments of words by isolating the sounds (rhyming, alliteration, segmentation, blending, isolation, chunks of words & manipulation of sounds).
- **Phonics** - relationship between letter name, letter sounds and word association.
- **Vocabulary Development** - everyday words, words used in text but not so frequently in everyday language & subject specific vocabulary
- **Fluency** - involves not only automatic word identification but also the application of appropriate prosodic features (rhythm, intonation, and phrasing) at the phrase, sentence, and text levels. Automaticity is defined as fast, accurate and effortless word identification at the single word level.
- **Comprehension** – understanding what has been read, monitoring their reading as they are going and determining which strategy/ies to employ e.g. predicting, making connections, questioning, inferring, visualising, summarising, prior knowledge, synthesising, identifying main points and important ideas, evaluating & reflecting.

The focus of our school reading program this year continues to look at children receiving a daily guided reading lesson. One lesson a week will be modelled by the class teacher or teacher aide at the school, with the subsequent 4 lessons being taught by the home tutor or governess. This daily emphasis of reading instruction has seen significant improvement in student progress.

In a lesson, younger students will practise reading known strategies, phrasing, fluency, pace and intonation by reading a book they have read before. Then they practise their new strategy on a new text and also discuss the text focussing on particular comprehension skills. More capable students may only read one text during their lesson with the centre teacher, but will focus on comprehension skills, vocabulary development, phrasing, expression & fluency. Subsequent lessons at home in the following days may also use the same text and will continue to emphasise the teaching focus that the centre teacher introduced.

As we move into Term 2 the teaching focus will continue to respond to student need. The focus of reading lessons will continue to reflect needs of students, complement the English papers and strategies that support the types of questions evident in NAPLAN. As you will have noted we are continuing to do regular assessment each term of student skill and ability to guide the teaching in lessons, and to capture each student's growing repertoire of skills for reporting purposes. We are expanding students' abilities to use comprehension strategies across the curriculum and lesson may reflect focussed lessons using Science, History or Maths materials so that students' can broaden their application of skills.

At the end of Term 2 we do a full review of the reading timetable and it is at this time where your child's groupings, reading teacher and times may change. This is to ensure that students remain in a reading group that best suits their needs. Please speak with your class teacher or myself should you have any concerns.

Janeen Fricke
Deputy Principal

NAPLAN YR. 3,5,7 & 9 TESTING

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. It has been an annual event for schools since 2008. On Tuesday 13th, Wednesday 14th and Thursday 15th May, students in Year 3, 5 & 7 will undertake the 2013 NAPLAN tests. The Year 9 NAPLAN tests will be sent home and administered on air on the 23rd and 24th May by the WA teachers from Charleville.

NAPLAN is made up of tests in the four domains of Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy. NAPLAN assesses skills in literacy and numeracy that are developed over time, through the school curriculum. NAPLAN is not a pass or fail type test, but rather shows how individual students are progressing in numeracy and literacy skills against national standards for all Australian children. All students are encouraged to participate in the tests. Students with a disability may qualify for special provisions that reflect the support normally provided to them in the classroom. An individual student NAPLAN report will be issued by the school later this year. Parents can use this information to monitor how their child is progressing and to identify any areas of concern. Parents may also wish to use their child's results to discuss progress with teachers. More information is available at www.naplan.edu.au NAPLAN informational resources

Year 3, 5 & 7 students are to meet at The Outstation at MISOTA on the morning of Tuesday 13th May at 8:30am for a 9:10am commencement of the assessments. Assessments on this day will be finalised by 11:30am. Morning Tea will be provided for students.

On Wednesday 14th May and Thursday 15th May all students will meet at the activity day venue – The Outstation MISOTA – for registration from 8:30am. Assessments will be completed by 11:30am each day and students will then continue to work with their teachers for the remainder of each day. Students will be collected from this venue by parents/ guardians at the end of the day, 2:45pm. Morning tea and lunch will be provided with activity day.

Test schedule-

- Tuesday 13th May – Language conventions & writing
- Wednesday 14th May – Reading
- Thursday 15th May - Numeracy

Teachers will be providing students with access to practice tests and ideas for comprehending questions. NAPLAN year levels will also be using our resilience program to teach/share ideas to cope with new situations. Teachers will also give home tutors more year level specific information as the time draws closer. If you have any questions could you please contact your teachers or Janeen Fricke.

CURRICULUM CHAT

eKindy

eKindy is now a reality to many isolated families of MISOTA. Children who have participated in kindergarten programs more easily adapt to the school room environment, and it helps their transition to Prep with greater confidence, a love of learning with early literacy, numeracy and social foundations established. Our eKindy teacher, Georgia Plant, has been out and about at Activity Days meeting students and families. Make sure if you are coming to town, that you arrange to meet Georgia if you haven't had the opportunity through our field events.

Handwriting

Schools throughout Queensland have typically developed comprehensive handwriting programs that are contextualised for their own school environment. *Curriculum into the classroom (C2C)* lesson plans outline a suggested approach for the teaching of handwriting to students in Years Prep–3. Handwriting is an important functional skill.

Handwriting in Prep should be guided by the Australian Curriculum Foundation Year Content descriptions — Literacy: Creating texts. Produce some lower case and upper case letters using learned letter formations:

- adopting correct posture and pencil grip
- following clear demonstrations of how to construct each letter (for example where to start; which direction to write)
- learning to construct lower case letters and to combine these into words
- learning to construct some upper case letters.

By the end of Year 3, students should be able to form letters in the Beginners Alphabet and Queensland Modern Cursive scripts, and to use these scripts to write legibly at reasonable speed. During the subsequent years of schooling, students should learn to adapt the basic scripts for use in a wide range of contexts. The ability to write legibly like the abilities to spell correctly and using grammar appropriately is a skill which develops only through use. We need to do this proficiently throughout our lives for things like, note taking, recording measurements, mapping, making signs, writing reports, form filling, taking messages etc.. Skills to be developed are :

- style & legibility
- speed
- spacing
- pressure
- slope
- parallelism
- letter size
- setting out

While learning these skills, teachers need to observe and model the correct posture, pen hold, paper position and control of the writing instruments (pressure, grip etc). Directions for these are in the materials for handwriting (back cover of the commercial handwriting books or in the C2C materials).

Touch Typing

In-case you're new to this touch typing buzz, touch typing for kids is actually a method of typing without using our sight to look for the keys on the keyboard. Instead, touch typing utilizes "muscle memory" to locate the keys using the specific positioning of our eight fingers along the middle of the keyboard, term as home row. The raised bars on the F and J keys helps touch typists to position their fingertips correctly over the home row. Touch typing has been known as the fastest way to type. Once used correctly, you'd be surprised that you'd be able to touch type faster than you could possibly write with pen and paper! Think of the time you'd potentially save in the future with this skill. Not only your speed would improve, you'd actually be typing at a higher accuracy, with much less mistakes than before.

MISOTA believe this is a very important skill for children to learn particularly due to the introduction of direct teaching lessons, where children are being asked to write/type their responses for English. To help develop this skill, we have introduced families to three options, dependent on age of children and also preference –

- a free website <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/typing/>
- a disc from the MISOTA school library **Phonics Alive 6**
- a school funded website The Computer School Login to the site with the following password **tmoes2013**
http://www.thecomputerschool.net/smartcart/scart_skillsindex.php?logname=tmoes3&logtype=2
Computer Basics – Learn to Type (drop down menu on right hand side)

Reading - developing a vocabulary.

A vital component of effective reading lessons is a focus on vocabulary that is new or unknown to children. It is through this exploration children are more efficient in development their own language skills. Last year we introduced WOW words, a concept where children were encouraged to notice unusual or 'sophisticated' words and to use them in their everyday spoken words and written work. This is still a great idea for every classroom and we have heard many an entertaining story of the Thesaurus making its way into stock camps and being central to the evening chat around the campfire.

To continue this focus on growing a vocabulary, ask children to identify a new or unusual word in their reading. Before sharing their word, they need to give their definition of what the word may mean by looking within the text and by reading the sentences around the word for clues – sometimes it may mean rereading the whole paragraph. Are there any clues within the word itself - have them analyse the word – does it contain anything they are familiar with (prefixes, Latin roots, little words, similarity to known words etc.). Then they can check a dictionary and discuss with you how close their definition was, what gave them clues, or what could have given them clues. Encourage them to add these words to a word wall or book and challenge them to use this word throughout their day. Make a competition, and if they can use it at least 5 times accurately, they get a reward from your positive behaviour consequences list.

Building Noun Groups:

As you will have noticed in the English Unit papers across all grade levels, nouns and noun groups have been very prominent in the lessons. The students are asked to identify them, write them and use them constructively in character profiles and analysis.

Here are a few little pointers to help your teaching of noun and noun groups.

1. Identify the noun. (What is the object/person/place in this sentence?)
2. Build on the noun. (You can do this by getting your student to close their eyes and describe the noun to you).

Prompt with questions like:

- What size is it?
- What type is it?
- What colour is it?
- Does it have anything on it?

By asking these questions, something as simple as 'a cat' can become very descriptive and paint a picture for the reader as shown below.

- The cat
- The little cat
- The little Persian cat
- The little Persian cat with blue eyes
- The little Persian cat with blue eyes and a bell on its collar

Liz Bailey

Support Teacher: Literacy & Numeracy

The Importance of Number Facts

The experts agree that the ability to recall basic math facts fluently is necessary for students to attain higher-order maths skills. This means that basic facts need to be developed to the point that they are done automatically. If this fluent retrieval does not develop then the development of higher-order mathematics skills – such as multiple-digit addition and subtraction, long division and fractions – may be impaired.

If a student constantly has to compute the answers to basic facts, less of that student's thinking capacity can be devoted to higher level concepts than a student who can effortlessly recall the answers to basic facts. For example, a child who is performing multiple-digit division must monitor constantly where he/she is in that procedure. If the child must use time consuming counting strategies to subtract or multiply during the division process, the attention and memory resources devoted to these procedures reduce the student's ability to monitor and attend to the larger division problem. The result is that the student often fails to grasp the concepts involved in multiple-digit division.

Just 5 – 10 minutes practise each school day will make a difference!

Apps: PopMath, Bubble Math Pro, Balloon Pop, Math Bingo, Bubblex Times Tables (this one has the top half of a tiger's head showing with $9 \times 2 = ?$ above it on a green background) & Sling Math

Websites: http://www.transum.org/Tables/Times_Tables.asp Tables in 5 days!!!

http://www.mad4maths.com/multiplication_table_math_games/ quite user friendly
<http://www.what2learn.com/home/examgames/maths/subtraction/> quite user friendly
Once again, **Just 5 – 10 minutes practise each school day** will make a difference!

LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH (LOTE)

This year our Year 6, Year 7 and 8 students have access to the LOTE (Languages Other Than English) program as part of the mandatory curriculum. We are offering five languages - Indonesian, French, Italian, German, Chinese and Japanese. Students are learning the language and about the cultures of their chosen country.

What does studying a language mean for students?

By studying another language, students:

- gain access to other peoples, ideas and ways of thinking
- become interested in and respectful of other cultures
- develop social and cognitive skills that will help them in other areas of the curriculum
- improve future employment and economic opportunities

Our LOTE teachers – Jody Johnson, Jayne Phillips, Giuliano Alberti, Pauline Settle, Selina Kudo, Motomi Shibata, Sabina Fernandez, Simone Daniels and Itin Hadijah are based at Cairns School of Distance Education and work closely with our school to ensure the best for our students. Please contact Tim or Janeen if you have any feedback in relation to LOTE and its delivery.

MAILROOM AND CURRICULUM

The unit papers are, so far, coming in much earlier than previous years. They will be sent to your students as they come in. With this in mind, please check that you have what you need for the next unit to start two weeks before the start date. If you do not have what you need, please let your teachers know. Papers, resource packs and discs are sometimes sent separately because having something in case of wet weather is better than having nothing.

If you receive an item in the mail that you believe belongs to another family, please let me know immediately. I can then fix the situation early. 4744 8309 lalli12@eq.edu.au

Leah Allingham
Mailroom/Curriculum Room

EVENTS

COMPETITION NEWS

Thank you for returning your competition entry forms promptly. All of the competitions have been set for later in the year due to the National Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 Tests being conducted in May.

Each competition will be sent out prior to the competition date. Your papers will be in a sealed envelope with instructions inside. Please do not open these prior to the competition date. These need to be completed and returned to the school as soon as possible.

We will wait one month after the competition date before sending off our school entry. Any individual competitions not returned by this deadline will not be sent away for marking.

Below are the competition dates:

ICAS Computer	Tues 20 May
ICAS Science	Wed 4 June
ICAS Writing	Mon 16- Fri 20 June
ICAS Spelling	Tues 17 June
ICAS English	Wed 29 July
Aust. Math Comp	Thurs 7 August
ICAS Math Comp	Tues 12 August

If you have any questions, contact Michele Ridge Ph 4744 8347 or email mridg12@eq.edu.au

CAMP NEWS

YEAR 4/5 CAMP – MAGNETIC ISLAND

This year the Year 4/5's will be travelling by Campbell's Coaches to Townsville for their camp on Magnetic Island. We will depart SOTA at 4.45 am on Sunday 18th May and return 10pm on Friday 23rd May. We will do pick ups and drop offs along the Flinder's Highway.

All of the camp information and invoices have been sent to families, please contact the school if you are yet to receive this information. We aim to get 100% attendance on camp, please contact Tim if you require any information to make you feel more comfortable sending your child. The school can also arrange alternative payment plans if the cost of the camp is a barrier to participation. Please contact Anne Coleman if you would like to arrange a payment plan.

We will muster at SOTA by 4:30 am on Sunday 18th May and the children will need a packed smoko, water and lunch for the trip to Townsville. The approximate pick-up and drop-off times for the bus are:

Pick – up Sunday 18 th May		On Return Trip – Drop offs Friday 23 rd May	
Mount Isa	04:45 am (dep)	Leave Townsville	10:00 am
Cloncurry	06:15 am	Lunch Charter's Towers	12 noon
Julia Creek	07:45 am	Dinner Richmond	5-6.00 pm
Neila	8:30 am	Nelia	6:45 pm
Richmond	9:30 am	Julia Creek	7:15 pm
Arrive Magnetic Island Ferry	5:00 pm	Cloncurry	8:45 pm
		Mount Isa	10:00 pm

An on air session will be held early in term 2 to give families more information and to answer any questions that families may have.

YEAR 6 & 7 CAMP – CANBERRA - SNOWFIELDS

The start of this school year has been a busy time in planning and organising the Year 6 & 7 Camp. This year students from Year 6 & 7, along with their teachers, will travel to our Nation's capital to experience and participate in a variety of educational (and fun filled) programs focussed on Australia's history, culture, heritage and democracy. At this stage the camp will be held from Monday 14th July to Saturday 19th July, 2013. These dates are subject to change by a day either side pending confirmation of our flights from QANTAS.

Our P & C is very supportive of the camp, funding the cost of the travel for the camp. The Commonwealth Government through the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate (PACER) program funds each student to allow them to experience government in action first hand. With these significant contributions the cost to families is reduced significantly and each family contributes to accommodation and the food costs. The approximate cost to families is \$350 per student, the exact amount will be confirmed with families prior to the camp.

Mount Isa School of the Air wishes to acknowledge the support of the school's P & C and the Commonwealth Government for their invaluable financial support of this essential experience for our students, as without this support the costs would be prohibitive to travel so far to study government and our national capital.

SECONDARY MULTISCHOOL – WESTERN ALLIANCE - LONGREACH

Throughout Western Alliance in 2014, we are privileged to be providing more variety and gatherings for students and staff. The first multischool of the year will be held at Longreach from 5th- 9th May. This year, being the second year of amalgamation for the Western corridor schools of distance education, we are excited to be holding a second multischool event on 24-29th August and a secondary camp during 19th – 24th October at Currimundi.

Western Alliance associates, highly recommend all students throughout the secondary cohort to attend the multischools and camp. A fantastic social and curriculum based program is delivered throughout the week. This is the first meet and greet opportunity for teachers and students which is considered to play a vital part in building relationships between teachers, families and peers. Information about the stipulated events will be emailed to families, if you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact Renee Moore – 07 47448346 or rmoor151@eq.edu.au

Another Term has disappeared and Home Tutor Seminar is just around the corner. The venue will once again be the Function Room, Overlander Hotel, Mount Isa on Marian Street. The theme for this year is “**Shining Minds, Strong Children**” and the two day seminar will see us further developing our skills and knowledge in the areas of neuroscience and mindfulness, an Occupational Therapist, the RFDS, Planning and the Power of Graphic Organisers, Outside and Active Games, Grammar and Best of Boost.

Keynote Speaker: On the opening day Wednesday 14th May, James Ryan, Training Manager for the Pathways to Resilience Trust will introduce us to Mindfulness for Wellbeing, and how to apply this in ours and children’s daily lives. He will then present another workshop that builds upon this on Day 2.

Helping Kids Build a Better Brain – James Ryan will follow the opening keynote with workshops around the latest neuroscience of helping kids build a better brain.

Managing Relationships/Learning Styles - Tim Moes will present to Home Tutors some practical tips to cope with all the changes in children’s development, exploring the words to wield wonderful relationships, building upon who they are.

Best of Boost - Nikki Barlow will present the success of her literacy boost lessons, identifying what makes these so successful for students, tips to help you in the classroom.

Getting a Grip on Grammar - Examining the basics of grammar, while looking at activities that can build upon children’s written word.

The Big 6 - revisiting the essential components on learning to read and reading to learn.

Helping Children Think – preparing for the next task; where to start and what next. How to teach children to scaffold their own learning through the use of Graphic Organisers.

Occupational Therapy - what is Occupational Therapy? Jen O’Neil a local specialist, will explore how can it help children with attention & memory, planning & organisation, fine motor skills, handwriting, emotional regulation, sensory processing, social & play skills and self-care.

Active At School - Shane Froling our North Queensland representative with Active After School, has sessions on the Thursday, with hands-on ideas to get your children active and having fun.

Royal Flying Doctor Service - Dr Don will present with a few of his staff on the Wednesday, some basic First Aid and essential skills for living in remote areas. This is back due to feedback from the 2013 Seminar.

For the Home Tutor Seminar, parents, home tutors and carers may park in the main car park of the Overlander Hotel and then proceed to the foyer for registration (left hand entrance across from motel rooms). The Seminar is scheduled to finish at 2:45pm with collection of the students from the Outstation between 2:45-3:00pm on Wednesday. Formal proceedings will finish at 12:30 (followed by lunch) on Thursday, however between 1:30-2:45pm time has been left for group meetings for Sports for Bush Kids, Govie Group and the P & C Association. Tim and Janeen are also available at this time.

The ancillary staff will once again provide a sumptuous smoko each day; however the Overlander Hotel will be catering for our lunch. If you have any special dietary requirements please complete details on registration forms. Cost for each day of the seminar is \$25.00 which is payable with registration forms.

Both days will commence at 9:00am sharp (registration 8:45am) and registration for the students at activity day will commence at 8:30am at the Outstation at MISOTA. As you are dropping children off at the school be mindful that children will be present in our very busy car park. Try and secure a car park outside the school grounds and walk in with your student so that we can minimize the traffic in this area.

Students will be provided with morning tea and lunch. Catering costs for the children will be \$7.50 per child or \$15 per family per day. If any child has a food allergy and requires a special plate, please contact your class teacher.

The P & C are also organizing stalls for all the talented artisans in our school community. If you are interested in participating, Bernadette Lyttle (President) or Linda Ryan will be pleased to canvas any enquiries.

We are looking forward to these two days where relationships are formed or further enhanced and every home tutor can feel that they have taken away a valuable tool or bit of information to make their job easier and even more successful.

RSVP for HT Seminar by 28th April, 2014. Form attached

ACCOMMODATION

Most families come to Mount Isa for NAPLAN, HT Seminar and Sports Day & Camp drop-off, so book early (accommodation list for Mount Isa is on eLearn - Home Tutor Seminar). Alternatively and as a last resort you can camp (camper trailer or gooseneck etc.) behind the Outstation (a cost involved to cover utilities). If you need to take up this option, please contact Tim or Janeen for the correct forms.

RAFS

Remote Area Field Services provides child care facilities at our Home Tutor Seminars. However due to staffing restraints this year, RAFS may not be able to accommodate the number of childcare positions as they have done in the past. If you are able to make other arrangements for childcare for the 14th & 15th May this will ensure you have alternative care for your young children. We will keep families posted re this topic via the Daily Notices.

FAMILY BBQ

The BBQ will occur on the Wednesday evening from 6:00pm – 9:00pm at the Outstation building at the school. Rotary will be catering, with meat supplied by the P & C. Families are encouraged to make a gold coin donation per head to cover costs.

STUDENT DISCO

We will be running the disco on the Wednesday night at the Outstation in conjunction with the family BBQ. 6:30 - 7:30pm. Entry for the disco is \$2.00 per child.

NAPLAN

Tuesday: Year 3, 5 & 7 NAPLAN students delivered to MISOTA at 8:30am. Collection 11:30am. Morning tea provided.

Wednesday/Thursday: All students dropped at The Outstation at MISOTA. Students participating in NAPLAN will work with their teachers and sit the tests and then continue with activity day events.

Registration 8:30am Collection and sign out 2:45-3:00pm

ACTIVITY DAY

Wednesday & Thursday - Registration 8:30am Collection & Sign Out: 2:45-3:00pm morning tea & lunch provided (\$7:50/child or \$15:00/family).

FIELD TEAM

This year has seen a new era in Field Services and has started with a bang! It was terrific to see some rain around and we really appreciated everyone's patience and understanding with the changes and moving of activity day dates in Term 1. They were wonderful days. It's always so special to see the kid's happy faces and hear their laughter. The new teachers had a terrific time meeting the majority of their kids and spending time getting to know them.

It's wonderful to have some new families to the school! We look forward to getting to know them all more throughout the semester.

Ash and Mandy

TERM 2 GROUP DAYS – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!

Where possible, group days are held on stations and include some sport or physical activity and multi-age group work. Group days give older students the opportunity to interact with and lead little ones in the group. They are also a great opportunity for mums and govies to share stories, inspire and support each other.

This semester Ash and Mandy have grouped the days into regions. Families are welcome to attend whichever group day suits them, not necessarily in their region. So once a family has decided on a group day, contact your host, confirm attendance/numbers, and get directions to the station. Plan to bring a share plate for smoko and lunch and remember hats and water bottles!

This semester we will be exploring the notion of 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle' during our group days and making it relevant for bush kids. We started our group days in term 1 with 'Barkly Downs' and we would like to extend a huge thank to the Imeson family for hosting our first group day! The Term 2 group day schedule will be sent out soon.

Ash and Mandy

MINISCHOOLS

Initial preparations for minischools are currently underway. Our wonderful musician, Nicole, from last year has jumped at the chance of coming back again and sharing more of her creative talents. We're sure the Thursday evening presentation will be an exciting one!

Minischool forms will be sent out to families in the coming weeks. Prompt replies would be most appreciated to enable us to prepare materials and allocate staff to each minischool. We have also requested that families who will not be attending a minischool this year to let us know by returning the tear off slip at the bottom of the form.

Below is the minischool timeline.

WHERE	WHEN
Normanton	10 th – 15 th August
Bedourie	17 th – 22 nd August
Cloncurry	24 th – 29 th August
Camooweal	31 st Aug – 5 th September
Gregory	7 th – 12 th September
Julia Creek	19 th – 24 th October

On air meetings will be organised in the weeks leading up to each minischool. Please contact field services if you have any questions or require further information.

Ash and Mandy

LIBRARY NEWS

STAFFING

Raylene White is available from 8:30am – 4:00pm every day. Please remember that Katrina Kuhne is employed in two roles - Year 4 Class Teacher and Teacher-Librarian. She works between the two roles from 8:00am – 2:00pm Monday to Friday. The contact details are: Raylene – Ph: 4744 8352 or Email: rwhit161@eq.edu.au.

Katrina – Ph: 4744 8358 or Email: kkuhn5@eq.edu.au ;

BORROWING

Thanks to all who have been returning library books within loan periods. Just a reminder that when returning library books they must be sent in a library bag as this protects the books and makes it easier for Leah and the library when allocating them to a pigeon-hole. Library bags are available from the library for \$6.00. If your child has overdue books, DVDs etc. and you are unable to find them please contact us at the library as your child will be unable to borrow until these resources are returned.

READING YOUR LIBRARY RECORDS

Sometimes items may remain as overdue on your borrowing list even though you have notified us of having returned them. Please don't concern yourself with this as unless we leave the item on the system we have no record of the fact that it is missing. This is in no way a reflection on you - simply a manageable accounting process for us. These items often magically appear and are then removed from your list. If you have noticed this happening on any of your lists and you haven't yet spoken to us please contact us so that we can start the search process.

SPORTS KITS

Our specialty sport kits are available for a 6 week borrowing period. Please note that the number of kits is limited and returning these by the due date really helps ensure that everybody can access them.

These items are best picked up and physically returned to school rather than delivered through the post. Field Team, activity days, group days and town visits are the best way to access these kits. Please contact Raylene or Katrina in the library for borrowing requests or questions.

Raylene White & Katrina Kuhne

MUSIC NEWS

Mount Isa School of the Air has string places available for students wishing to play the violin or viola in 2014. Lessons commence when you are available to come to the school and have your child sized for an instrument. All equipment is supplied for their first year of learning and lessons are held each Friday.

Term 2 is Eisteddfod in Mount Isa May 17-20 and On Air Eisteddfod Friday 30 May. All string students are invited to perform a song on the On Air Eisteddfod. If you have any questions please contact Yvonne on [ymoor2@eq.edu.au](mailto:y Moor2@eq.edu.au) .

Yvonne Moore

EISTEDDFOD OF THE AIR

Nominations for our 2014 Eisteddfod close Monday 5. May as stated on the Entry Form and Schedule. You will receive an email confirming your students' nominations. Jo Mills will co-ordinate the on air segments of the 2014 Mount Isa Irish Club Eisteddfod.

Dates for the Poetry and Music sections:	
<i>Poetry</i>	<i>An afternoon after 24th May</i>
<i>Music -Strings, Recorder and other instruments</i>	<i>Friday 30th May, 10am Studio 3</i>

It is very important that a NAMED copy of the own choice poems and music pieces are sent to Jo Mills at SOTA by Wednesday 14th May. Without these copies your child cannot participate.

All members of the school community are invited to listen in to this celebration of our cultural talents. Conf Code : Studio 3. Please direct any queries to Jo Ph: 4744 8328 or Email: jmill158@eq.edu.au

STUDENT COUNCIL 2014

The following students have been selected by their classes to be representatives on the student council:

Year 4: Cody Wockner, Tom Doyle, Marleina Salter-Miller, Breanna Curr, Ben Hawkins.

Year 5: Sarah Hughes, Tillie Kersh, Molly Thieme

Year 6: Haydn Low Mow, Kate Lyttle, Clinton Bridges, Emily Curr

Year 7: Kimberley Brown, Nakita Corlis

Secondary: Taylor Daniell

Congratulations to all the students who nominated to be on the student council.

The first Student Council meeting will be in Week 1 of Term 2, Wednesday 23rd April 2.30pm Conf Code: Studio 4.

SPORTS CAPTAINS

This year we have four captains per house to give both year 6 and 7 students the option of being house captains as we approach year 7 to secondary transition in 2015.

Congratulations to the following House Captains:

FLYNN

Katie McDonald, Ben Hughes, Chloe Curr and Darcy Wockner

O'SULLIVAN

Meg Price, Carina Zlotkowski, Laura Dixon and Clinton Bridges

DISTRICT SPORT

We encourage children to try out for district sport and to have the opportunity to try and represent North West Region in state trials. As our school covers many sports districts it is often unclear how our children navigate this process. The North West region has issued the following guideline to all schools in the North West about SOTA participation. Our district sports coordinator at school this year is Lisa Ward.

Any Mt Isa SOTA student who wishes to participate in school sport needs to nominate through MISOTA. SOTA will then contact the respective District Convenor to determine the pathway and process for their students to trial.

For example –

- A SOTA student wants to trial for Netball in Mount Isa (contact is made with Convenor to determine how this occurs – ie may just slot them into a team at the trials)*
- A SOTA student wants to trial for Swimming in Mid West (contact is made with Convenor to determine how this occurs – ie. Nominate with the cluster closest to student – McKISSA, Flinders etc)*

It is understood that each District has different processes for different sports and age groups (ie sometimes it is a trial, sometimes it is individual nominations). We are trying to establish a process whereby (a) SOTA students have an opportunity and (b) the pathway for how this occurs is clarified.

By the SOTA students nominating directly through SOTA they are aware of what activities the students are participating in and also ensuring there is no "double dipping" occurring (ie trying out for Mount Isa and also Mid West for example in the same sport).

District calendars are on the NW website and parents will be aware of trial dates and locations.

Swimming Term 1

Taylor Daniell, Molly Lyttle, Kate Lyttle and Laura McDonald represented MISOTA at the Mid-West trials in Richmond early in February. All swam very well against some good competition.

Taylor, Molly and Kate were selected for the Mid West Swimming Team for various strokes. The Regional carnival was held in Mount Isa at the end of February. Although the girls didn't make the times for selection for the state team, they all swam good races and set some good times. It is a credit to the girls to make it to this level with minimal training and instruction especially swimming against children who have easy access to coaching and training lessons. MISOTA swimming carnival will be held in 4th term this year. More information will be posted closer to the time.

Bernadette Lyttle

Term 2

In Term 2, nominations will be called for the following sports and are open to boys and girls born in 2002, 2003 and 2004 and must be submitted by nomination deadlines. Sports include –

- boys softball (individual nominations accepted ASAP)
- soccer
- cross country (trials held in Mount Isa, May 16th)
- touch football
- athletics

Information about trials will be in the daily notices a week or two before trials. Please contact me at lward68@eq.edu.au or 4744 8341 if you would like to find out about district sport trials. Dates can change and there is often little time between notification of trials and when they are held in town, so let me know early what you might be interested in and I can fill you in on dates and venues as soon as I am informed.

Lisa Ward

SPORTS DAY

The school sports day will be held on Friday 16th May at Kruttschnitt Oval. The house lists and war cries are attached to this newsletter and it would be great if children learn their war cry before the day. Please check the attached house lists to see if your children are in Flynn or O'Sullivan and please contact the school if your child's name is not on the list

High jump events for students born 2004, 2003, 2002, 2001 and all secondary students will be run during the activity days leading up to sports day. These events will be held on the oval behind the Outstation. Teachers will let students know when their event will be held closer to the activity days.

Name tags with Name, House Name and Year of Birth will be provided by the school and will be issued to students first thing on Friday morning and will be pinned to the students' sports shirts.

Class Photographs: Group photos of classes, music groups, Scouts and Good News groups will be taken from 8.15am on the Friday morning at Kruttschnitt Oval.

Sports Day events: Once all group photos have been taken, the sports day will commence with a march past.

9am-Morning Tea – Rotation activities

- **P-3 Rotations**
Accuracy Throw (throw bean bags at a target), Kick it! (kick a soccer ball at 3 different goals), Vortex (children throw a vortex and distance is measured), Go, Go, Go (Timed Obstacle course)
2 govies on each rotation for a boy group and a girl group from each age group
(8 Volunteers to be allocated to a rotation)
- **4-7 groups**
Shot Put, Javelin, 200m, 800m/400m
3 Govies to volunteer for shotput, javelin, starting marshall for sprints

11am – Races

- Sprints – start from Toddlers and work up to Open (Students will be looking out for teachers as their marshalls to help them know where to go)
- Govies, Mums and Dads races – 100m
- Relays
- MISOTA Gift – fastest male and female from each sprint from each age group from Prep to Y10

1pm – finish

- Ball Games
- Tug-O-Wars
- Clean up
- Presentation

INSURANCE COVER FOR STUDENTS UNDERTAKING PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Physical activity and physical education, particularly contact sports, carry inherent risks of injury. Parents are advised that the Department of Education & Training does not have Personal Accident Insurance cover for students. Education Queensland has Public Liability cover for all approved school activities and provides compensation for students injured at school only when the Department is negligent. If this is not the case, then all costs associated with the injury are the responsibility of the parent or caregiver.

SPORTS FOR BUSHKIDS

Sports for Bush Kids (SFBK) is an initiative of the ICPA. Mount Isa Branch of the Air. It commenced in 1999 when two mothers felt isolated children were missing out on important sporting skills. This was indeed evident when many went to boarding school, especially regarding team sports. Swimming has always been a major focus, as due to their location, many children don't have the facilities to learn to swim.

Sports for Bush Kids continues to grow and improve with each year. It now consists of four days of sports instruction in 5-9 sports with a game/competition being played in each sport on the last day. The children are broken up into different age levels to work with the coaches. We have had coaches come in to work with the children from various sporting bodies including: Queensland Cricket, Queensland Football Association, Mount Isa Softball Association, Copper City Tennis Club, Mirage Aquatics, PCYC Gymnastics, Mount Isa Dance Club, North Queensland Cowboys and the Brisbane Broncos as well as help from Queensland Sports and Recreation and other sporting groups.

SFBK is held in Mount Isa and is run to coincide with the SOTA break-up when many families are in town. The dates for 2014 are 1st - 5th December.

SFBK is funded through ICPA, RREAP and fundraising from other quarters. Connellan Airways Trust Fund has been very supportive with accommodation allowance for those families.

If you have any questions or comments about Sports for Bush Kids, please contact Wendy Wockner, Vanessa Restall or any ICPA Branch of the Air member. We're just gearing up for this year's event and more information will be passed onto families regarding sign-up etc. in the near future, so please listen to notices and watch your mailbags.

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY COLOURING IN COMPETITION

Early in Term 1 the Mount Isa City Council Clean Up Australia committee ran a popular colouring in competition. Many MISOTA students entered beautiful examples of careful colouring in – which made for very difficult decisions for the judges. Congratulations go to: Senior section: 1st Marleina Salter-Miller, 2nd Jackson Donovan, 3rd, Kimberley Brown. Junior section: 1st Emma Woods, 2nd Annabelle Towne, 3rd Quinn Dalton. All entrants received a letter of thanks from the committee and the place getters received a reusable bag with stationery and novelty items. Well done to all entrants.

IMMUNISATION IMPORTANCE

MISOTA and the Central and North West Queensland Medicare Local are reminding parents to check that all children are up to date with their immunisations. Schools, preschools, kindergartens and child care centres are places where children interact very closely and it is vital that they are fully protected against vaccine preventable diseases.

The National Immunisation Program provides immunization protections for children against: *Measles, Pertussis or whooping cough, Hepatitis B, Meningococcal C, Diphtheria, Polio, Hib and Invasive Pneumococcal disease*. There have been cases of measles in most states and territories already this summer. Measles is very infectious and often causes very severe illness resulting in hospitalisations, long term complications and sometimes death. Immunisations are vital to protect children against a whole range of very severe vaccine preventable diseases. Protecting your children now with funded vaccines will in most cases protect them for life. If parents would like more information about immunization, they are advised to speak to their GP.

P&C PRATTLE

Hello Everyone,

How time flies– it is nearly the end of Term 1 already.

We held our AGM in March and we have a new executive for the 2014 year. The committee would like to thank the outgoing executive. Michelle Low Mow, Sarah Cooke and Annie Hacon have continued on with roles and their past experience will help guide the new committee.

P & C Executive 2014

PRESIDENT	Bernadette Lyttle – Cannington Station, McKinlay 4823 Ph: 47468693 canningtonstation@bigpond.com
SECRETARY	TBA
TREASURER	Annie Hacon – Cubbaroo Station, Cloncurry 4824 Ph: 47425933 cubbaroschool@hotmail.com

VICE PRESIDENTS

Sancia Fegan, Kelloshiels Station 47468485, sancia_ashley@hotmail.com - Souvenirs
Sarah Cook- Oban Station,, ,47484818 cpcook74@bigpond.com – Home Tutor Seminar
Michelle Low Mow, Adels Grove, 47485502, michelle64@activ8.net.au - Fundraising
Kirsty Sullivan, Calton Hills Station, 47483008, caltonhills.schoolroom@gmail.com - Bush Kids Calendar

SODEA REPRESENTATIVE	Sarah Cook- Oban Station, Mount Isa 4825 Ph: 0747484818 cpcook74@bigpond.com
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At this stage, we have not been filled the secretary position, which is disappointing, but I am sure in the next few weeks we will find someone. Rosemary Newton once again has been picking up the pieces for the P & C and has been filling in for the position.

Sarah Cook has been working tirelessly with her SODEA role and I for one have learnt heaps about the curriculum and how it all works from corresponding with Sarah. Sarah keeps the P & C informed about the SODEA outcomes and this information is distributed to the school community.

The P& C Facebook page seems to be working well keeping everyone up to date with what is happening.

Thanks to Tina Barrett for organizing the Footy Tipping competition that is underway.

Once again the Cadbury Fundraiser is a favourite at Easter time and has been popular.

With a big year for the Canberra camp, the P & C will be working hard to fundraise to help cover the costs, so all support will be appreciated. Michelle Low Mow has been working with the year 6 & 7 teachers to coordinate the fundraising efforts from the students and spread them out over the year.

Home Tutor Week is almost here. The week is a good opportunity not only for the children but also for the parents and govies to share stories and learn from each other.

P & C are currently looking for members of our school community to be the contact/resource person in their local area for new families. If you wish to be available to make contact with new families that enrol in our school please contact me. Areas that we need are Normanton, Boulia/Birdsville, Cloncurry, Northern Territory and a representative for the travelling families.

Remember, the P&C is a valuable mode of communication between the families and the school. If you have any issues or concerns please feel free to ring me on 0427 161693 or email canningtonstation@bigpond.com P & C Meetings are held once a month, so please listen in and get involved.

Bernadette Lyttle
P & C President