



MOUNT ISA SCHOOL OF THE AIR

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NEWSLETTER 4 – TERM 4 2014

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- ❖ What's Happening in the Last Week of 2014
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- ❖ C2C Level 4 Feedback 2014 form

PRINCIPAL'S GREETING

It has been a pleasure visiting the “Let’s Celebrate Science” minischools this term. It is great to see so many happy and engaged students. A big thanks to Nicole, our travelling artist for coming back this year and doing some wonderful work with the students. I’d also like to thank Mandy and Ash for coordinating this year, they have done the same number of minischools without the support of a second field team. It is a credit to everyone in our school community that we can transform racetracks and sports halls into a residential place of learning for a week. Thanks for your contribution to make these weeks special for kids.

A print version of our curriculum will always be available to families but some families are happy to receive the curriculum digitally and only receive the miStick and unit resources. If you would prefer to receive your curriculum digitally only for 2015 please contact Leah in the mailroom on 4744 8309.

Staff from Longreach, Charleville and our school met recently to reflect on our readiness for Year 7’s entering the Secondary Western Alliance in 2015. We believe we are ready and that Year 7’s students will have more subject choices, longer and more instructional lessons, access to more specialist teachers and a bigger group of students to interact with on a daily basis. We look forward to welcoming Year 7’s to the Alliance next year.

One of the common frustrations home tutors feel is the software knowledge required for the new curriculum. Could I encourage you to use, ‘The Computer School’ resource. The tutorials in this resource cover every version of software and operating system. It also covers many of the business packages that you may use, it even covers Facebook! To access the resource go to the MISOTA Home Tutor Blackboard site, Computer School button and enter the password (shown on screen) and away you go.

Another site worth visiting is the Home Tutor Support site that has been developed collectively by the 7 SDE’s across Queensland. The site has only started but will continue to be developed and improved. Please let Janeen or me know if you have ideas for improving the site. The site is <http://www.elearningbank.net/>, there is also a link to this site from our school’s website.

As families and students increasingly engage in the cyber world, children’s safety, health and well-being are important to consider. In this newsletter I have put forward some ideas and strategies, that I use with my own children, to minimise some of the risks. If you use great strategies I’d love to hear them to add to the collection.

Thanks to all the home tutors and students who completed our survey to review our curriculum delivery model. Overall families’ satisfaction with the new model is high. We have made some minor changes to the delivery model for next year in response to the surveys. One of the major changes is that there will be only 6 units of English to complete rather than eight, this will certainly ease pressure. All of the Queensland SDEs will adopt this model for 2015. Things that won’t change are smaller class sizes, reading and feedback sessions and the use of iConnect, these were all valued very highly. The minor changes will be communicated with you next term.

Our thoughts and best wishes go to the whole McConachy family, but in particular to Chris, Fiona, Zara, Dylan and Ingrid, during this difficult period of Chris’ illness.

Tim Moos

TERM 4 SCHOOL ROUTINE

READING TERM 4

There will be no reading lessons during term 4 for students from years 2 -7. The preps and year 1's will continue with reading but on a slightly different timetable. If you haven't yet been notified of the changes to your year 1 or prep reading times please contact your teacher.

This change is necessary for us to adequately plan for all the new curriculum units in 2015 and as a result, make for a smoother, better year for our students.

CLASSES 2015

There will be some staff changes next year. In term 4 we will be allocating your children to classes for 2015. If there are factors that you would like us to consider for class placements please let Tim know prior to the end of October. As is often said, it is easier considering requests during planning than it is to make modifications at the start of the year. Contact Tim on 4744 8333 or tmoes3@eq.edu.au.

Staff leaving at the time of writing are:

- Mandy Hamilton
- Kylie Juniper
- Wendy Gunningham

Continuing staff, in all likelihood, will be teaching the same year level in 2015 as in 2014.

LAST WEEK OF TERM DATES

GRADUATION AND FAREWELL CEREMONY – 7:30 pm Tuesday 2nd December at MISOTA Outstation

CHRISTMAS BBQ – 6:30 pm Wednesday 3rd December at MISOTA Outstation

CHRISTMAS ACTIVITY DAY – Wednesday 3rd December. 8.30am- 2.30pm. Sign in students at front gate of MISOTA

SFBK (SPORTS FOR BUSH KIDS) – Monday 1st to Friday 5th December

YEAR SIX and SEVEN/SECONDARY FAREWELL LUNCHEON – Wednesday 3rd December – times to be advised

ON AIR LESSONS CONCLUDE – Thursday 27th November

ON AIR CONCERT – Friday 28th November

NEW HOME TUTOR/GOVERNESS IN-SERVICE

This year in August we held a second round New Home Tutor/ Governess In-Service. 14 Govies attended this in-service. It was a packed day and a half with workshops on ICT, PowerPoint, Neuroscience and Mindfulness, Classroom routines, Marvellous Maths and much more. We all had fun learning about Book Creator and Movie Maker. Feedback was positive with most who attended feeling well supported and confident to manage expectations of their property classroom. Any questions relating to the Govie In-Service please contact Linda Ryan lryan48@eq.edu.au or Janeen Fricke jfrie1@eq.edu.au.

GRADUATION NIGHT

Graduation night for Year 10, Year 7 and also Year 6 will be held at 7:30pm on Tuesday 2nd December 2014. It will be held in the 'Outstation'. All friends, family and the broader school community are welcome to attend. It is a special night to farewell our graduating Year 10, Year 7 and Year 6 students.

SPORTS FOR BUSH KIDS

Sports for Bush Kids (SFBK) is an initiative of the **ICPA Mt Isa Branch of the Air**. It is a split four day (Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri) intensive sport coaching programme focussing on team sports and swimming coaching. The event coincides with MISOTA breakup activities held on the Wednesday. The daily programme starts from 7am and goes through to 5:30pm for the juniors and seniors. For minis and toddlers the sessions run from 8:30 am through to lunchtime. Parents/guardians are required to sign in/out their children from each session. Swimming sessions attract a fee.

Children may participate in as many or as few sports in their age group as they wish and can nominate which days they will be attending. We have included a tentative timetable that may help you decide what sports and times suit you and your children that week. Families can work together supervising each other's children but details of group preferences need to be given to participant coordinator at time of submitting sign-up sheet.

2014 SFBK is funded through Southport School, St Hilda's College, Stanbroke, BHP Billiton Cannington, Rabobank, MDH, Paraway, Kidman, AACo, NAPCO, RREAP, MISOTA, parent contribution and ICPA Mount Isa BOTA. Connellan Airway Trust has been very supportive with accommodation funding. Applications for funding needs to be done before the event.

SFBK complements the MISOTA Wednesday Activity Day when many families are in town.

Due to increasing numbers participating in SFBK, preference will be given to geographically isolated children. Inclusion of children who do not meet the geographically isolated criteria will be at the discretion of the committee and fees may be charged

Rose-marie Newton

C2C FEEDBACK

The school is always keen for feedback about the units to continue, particularly from distance education users, so that we can continue to make changes to the units of work and or give feedback to the Department of Education Training & Employment. The teachers are currently seeking specific feedback about Geography, and I thank Year 3 families particularly for being very specific and active with their feedback for this subject, as it is very useful for future implementation of these units. Feedback continues to be valuable and we encourage the broader school community to continue their input to the C2C unit papers for distance education.

Janeen Fricke

NAPLAN

The Individual Student NAPLAN reports have been sent to families; please contact your teacher if you haven't received it. Please ensure that you make the time to discuss these reports with your class teacher. Next year NAPLAN tests will be administered on the Tuesday 12th, Wednesday 13th and Thursday 14th May during Home Tutor week. For families with year 3 & 5 students, this will involve coming into town one day earlier. Year 7 and 9 may sit these with the Western Alliance Schools at another date on air, and this will be confirmed in Term 1 2015. This is advanced warning for families so that when bookings are made for accommodation next year this arrangement is considered.

END OF YEAR GIFTS

Each year some families want to, or feel obligated to present staff with end of year gifts. As a staff we have discussed this and ask that parents and govies simply give a card or note in appreciation if they feel the need.

Why? We are simply doing our jobs. You have enough to do and enough expense at the end of the year. Some families feel embarrassed and ill at ease if they do not have the funds or time to make a selection. We'd prefer this didn't occur. If you still feel compelled to present a gift we ask that you consider making a gift in the staff member's name to a charity of your choice or one that many staff support each year - TEAR Australia <http://www.usefulgifts.org/>.

Throughout the year the staff have participated in fundraising activities. The staff have decided to use the money raised to present each child a reading book for Christmas.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR eKINDY IN 2015

If you would like more information about the eKindy program or for enrolment forms, please visit the Brisbane SDE website and follow the links <http://brisbanesde.eq.edu.au/wcms/index.php/ekindy>

PREP YEAR 2015

Children who are born between 1 July 2009 and 30 June 2010 are eligible for Prep in 2015. Please fill in enrolment forms for 2015 prep children as soon as possible, as this will assist 2015 planning.

Please encourage people in your community who will have Prep aged children in 2015 to contact the school to enrol. Enrolment information is available from the school or at www.mtisasde.eq.edu.au.

Prep teachers will provide a 'Welcome to Prep' pack which will be mailed at the end of 2014. Home Tutor Information Sessions are held on air during the first week of the school year.

We invite any 2015 Prep families to call into the school sometime during Term 4 for an introduction to the school and a personal information session. Please contact the school prior to these visits so that arrangements can be made to have teachers available and resources organised for the session.

If you have any queries regarding Prep you are welcome to contact Jo Mills: jmill158@eq.edu.au 4744 8328

Getting your child "Prep" ready

<i>Doing Family Activities at Home</i>	<p>You can help your child's progress at school by doing family activities including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - reading aloud (develops concentration and awareness of language patterns) and writing with them—e.g. shopping lists and letters - stimulating their imagination and natural curiosity—e.g. visiting a zoo, park or airport - playing sports, and card or board games—helps develop mathematical, problem solving, language and social skills - shopping, walking or gardening together - singing their songs and nursery rhymes together
<i>Improving their independence</i>	<p><i>Before your child starts school, you should encourage them to be independent by helping them practice:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - putting on their shoes - eating and drinking without help - going to the toilet on their own - using tissues to blow their nose - recognising their belongings.
<i>Having a Daily Routine</i>	<p><i>Daily routines can help children understand what they need to do, when to do it each day and why it's important. Before your child starts school, make sure you talk to them about what to expect. Remember to be flexible, as it may take them some time to understand their new routine and adjust socially.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - going to bed early - waking up at a certain time—leave plenty of time to get ready - having a healthy breakfast—needed for energy and concentration - making time for physical activities.

YEAR 7 TO SECONDARY SCHOOL 2015

EDUCATION HISTORY EDGING CLOSER

As term three clicks over, we are edging closer to the historic move of Year 7 to high school in Queensland. In fact, there are less than 50 school days remaining before Year 7 becomes the first year of high school. When Year 7 students move into state high schools, they will be considered a part of Junior Secondary.

The move of Year 7 to high school was announced in 2011 and follows on from earlier reforms to introduce a Prep year in 2007 and raising the entry age for Year 1 by six months in 2008. By 2015, almost half the students in Year 7 will be turning 13 and in their eighth year of school. Delivering Year 7 in high school will also bring Queensland into line with the majority of other states and territories, which will benefit families moving interstate while their child is still in secondary school.

From 2015, our Year 7 students will join the **Western Alliance**. For families new to our school the **Western Alliance** was formed in 2013. The secondary teachers and classes from Mount Isa, Charleville and Longreach Schools of Distance Education work together as one to deliver our secondary program. By working together we can offer more subjects, students have more same-age peers in their class and teachers are working in their specialist areas. All subjects are taught on-air and thus students have more on-air lessons each week. Field services differ slightly to the primary year levels.

Our three schools have been working behind the scenes this year to review the **Western Alliance's** operations and structures to strengthen the distance education learning environment to better cater for our young adolescent students and support their transition from primary to secondary. We have been using the guiding principles of Distinct Identity, Quality Teaching, Student Wellbeing and Leadership to guide our planning for 2015.

ABC READING EGGS/EGGSPRESS GOES SCHOOL-WIDE

Through the generous support of the P & C and the Govie Network, the school purchases a yearly subscription to this wonderful classroom resource and learning device. That means every student enrolled at our school has access to this resource free of charge. So, what is ABC Reading Eggs/Eggspress?

It is an online learning environment that makes learning to read engaging, fun & purposeful.

- Age 3 & 4: The playroom is perfect for getting this age group started and engages them with stories, letters & words through games & activities.
- Age 5: Hundreds of resources available that build upon what children have already met in their school based curriculum, including a library of digital books.
- Ages 6 & 7: More attractive online resources, however initially students sit a small test to ensure targeting of resources is appropriate.
- Ages 7 - 13: Again, hundreds of online activities and games that supplement school reading programs targeting essential reading and comprehension strategies.

Each child has an individual account with their own login and password to access the site 24/7. To supplement student learning, the school also has access to additional resources that can add value to current reading programs and specific student needs. This resource is an invaluable asset to any home based learning environment and MISOTA teacher. A huge thankyou to the P & C and Govie Network for their support in this endeavour!

This resource is available for all students enrolled at MISOTA.

Peruse the following link to find out more. http://readingeggs.com.au/info/about_readingeggs

Janeen Fricke
Deputy Principal

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

ACTIVITY DAYS

There will be an activity day in Mount Isa in week 2 of term 4, on the Wednesday the 15th October, attached to Rock Pop Mime. All students are welcome to attend but you **MUST** tell your class teacher, Mandy or Ash if you plan on attending. It will be held in the Outstation at school from 9am to 3pm. Please bring a plate of food to share for morning tea and lunch. Please contact Mandy (4744 8354) or Ash (4744 8360) should you have any questions regarding this activity day.

GROUP DAYS

The second round of group days began in Term 3 and will continue in Term 4. A list of the group day locations for Term 4 will be emailed shortly. This list as well as dates and all information will be posted on eLearn. A big thank you to those who have hosted or offered to host a group day this semester. Your hospitality is greatly appreciated. Please contact Ash (4744 8360) should you have any questions regarding group days.

Term 4 Group Days

Week 5	Bedourie region	Tuesday November 4 th
Week 5	Cloncurry region	Thursday November 6 th
Week 6	Northern Territory region	Tuesday-Wednesday November 11 th and 12 th
Week 7	Normanton region	Tuesday November 18 th
Week 7	Julia Creek region	Wednesday November 19 th
Week 7	Julia Creek region	Thursday November 20 th

MINISCHOOLS “Let’s Celebrate Science”

Our Minischool theme this year has given students opportunities to explore the exciting elements of science including the science of music, fire and ecosystem. The children made amazing discoveries about the human body, different types of scientists and had a go at what they do, rockets, planes, domino effect and electrical circuit systems. Thank you to everyone who made such positive contributions to the success of our Minischools. A special thank you goes out to the generosity of Fire Brigades who travelled far and wide to visit us at every Minischool.

Our Normanton, Bedourie, Cloncurry, Camooweal and Gregory Minischools have shown the amazing opportunities these events provide for our students to work and play together. We look forward to the Julia Creek Minischool next term.

Mandy Hamilton, Ash Quedsted

I would also like to extend an enormous thank you to all families for their generosity, hospitality and support over the past 2 years. I have loved every minute of time at Mount Isa School of the Air and will look back at this experience as being the best years of my life. It has been so very special to come back to the school that inspired me to become a teacher and work with the amazing, talented and welcoming staff. I feel I have formed another family! Cairns will be a new exciting adventure that I am really looking forward to diving into. Good luck with your futures and I hope to keep up to date with goings-on from Tim!

Mandy Hamilton ☺

Is it a Bird is it a Plane? No, it’s Mr Bug Man!!

Mick Brady (or ‘Mr Bug Man’ as some people call him) from Southern Gulf Catchments Limited (SGC) held water bug catching, drawing and identifying activities with all students attending Mini Schools in Mount Isa, Cloncurry and Camooweal. Mick will also attend the Julia Creek Minischool in October.

Water bugs (really called macroinvertebrates) are a great way to teach kids about science and the environment. These bugs are an important part of the ecosystem and can be used as a way to discuss subjects from habitats, food webs and animal adaptations to water quality and catchments. They can also be used to develop an interest in science.

Feedback from students and teachers has been very positive. The look on a few children’s faces when they were shown a Giant Water Bug was one of pure disgust, but most of the students were very keen to explore these amazing creatures. The knowledge about the variety of animals found in waterways and the artistic talents of the students was at a very high level.

Mandy Hamilton, Field Services Teacher MISOTA said, “*Thanks again for coming to our activity day, the kids had a terrific time.*”

To find out more about Southern Gulf Catchments Limited (SGC) contact us on: Ph 1800 676 242 or visit www.southerngulf.com.au

Facebook Southern Gulf Catchments Limited or Twitter @southerngulf

EXTRA-CURRICULAR EVENTS

ROCK POP MIME

The theme for Rock Pop Mime this year is “*Living and Learning on the Land.*” This year’s performance is aimed to be a fun and exciting performance for all. With participation from students in years 4, 5, 6 and 7, we hope to make the audience aware of how unique our school really is and that with a little imagination you can do or be anything! Weekly on air meetings have already commenced and will continue in term 4 until the final performance which is on Friday the 17th October. It’s awesome to see so much enthusiasm from students involved in this memorable event and everyone’s input is valued immensely. The countdown is on

Rachel Tutauha, Mat Whitney, Di Knudson, Kylie Juniper & Claire Goodall

Rock Pop Team

TERM 3 IN REVIEW

MISOTA MODERATION

Several times during the year, teachers at MISOTA meet with other distance education teachers from around the state to perform an online moderation of student work across various subjects P-10. For this professional development opportunity, blind copies (i.e. no student names on work) of Unit Assessment tasks are shared across groups of teachers to discuss and confirm state standards of student work.

Moderation presents a valuable opportunity for teachers to share in professional discussions about standards and assessment. Professional conversations between teachers are key to ensuring that the standards descriptors are interpreted in the same way. For example, the standards descriptor might state that the work should be ‘insightful and well-justified’. Teachers need to be able to ‘see’ what this looks like in student work. It is through discussion and comparison of student responses that teachers begin to develop a common understanding of what ‘insightful and well-justified’ looks like.

Generally, the purpose of moderation is to:

- develop consistency of teacher judgments
- develop a common understanding of what students’ achievements look like
- support teachers in developing confidence in making judgments
- and, to ensure comparability of reported results across our education system.

Please speak with our teachers about their participation, and you will realise how beneficial this is to teacher professional development and student learning.

Janeen Fricke

Deputy Principal

ICAS COMPETITION RESULTS

Congratulations to all students who participated in the ICAS Science and Computer competitions in term 2. The results from these challenging tests can be found below. The Writing, Spelling, English and Maths competition results have not yet come through.

ICAS SCIENCE COMPETITION RESULTS

High Distinction:

Jack Barrett (Year 2)
James Geeves (Year 2)
Kathryn Fisher (Year 5)

Distinction:

Charlee Low Mow (Year 3)
Marleina Salter-Miller (Year 4)

Credit:

Harrison Doyle (Year 2)
Annabelle Towne (Year 2)
James Brown (Year 4)
Chloe Towne (Year 4)
Cody Wockner (Year 4)
Darcy Wockner (Year 6)
Carina Zlotkowski (Year 7)

Merit:

Amy Bellingham (Year 2)
Lucy Folker (Year 3)

ICAS COMPUTER COMPETITION RESULTS

High Distinction:

William White (Yr 3)

Credit:

Charlee Low Mow (Yr 3)
Marleina Salter-Miller (Yr 4)
Clinton Bridges (Yr 6)

Merit:

Lucy Folker (Yr 3)
James Brown (Yr 4)

SPORTS NEWS

The Mount Isa District Athletics Carnival was held on Thursday the 31st of July. Kathryn Fisher in Year 5 competed on the day. Events offered included the 100m, 200m, 800m, high jump, long jump, shot put and discus. It was fantastic to have Kathryn representing our school. I hope to see Kathryn return and others join her in 2015.

Please contact me at lward68@eq.edu.au or 4744 8341 if you would like to find out about district sport trials. 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

YEAR 7 CAMP NEWS

In Term 3, twenty-five Year 7 and 6 students were accompanied by Lisa Ward, Chris Kuhne, Chris Macintosh and Tim Moes to brave the freezing Canberra temperatures and participate in the school camp. Our kids (and teachers) now know what real cold is: -3°C with 85 kilometre winds put icicles on our eyebrows. All the students should be congratulated for an extremely successful camp thanks to their energy, enthusiasm and brilliant behaviour throughout the week.

The camp focus was to immerse the students in studies related to civics and citizenship, with the overall aim of developing student knowledge of Australia's history, heritage and democracy. We spent the week involved in various trips to attractions such as Old and New Parliament House, the Australian War Memorial, Questacon and Government House. Other highlights included the day at the snow, ice skating and witnessing the life of outstanding athletes at the Australian Institute of Sports. A great time was had by all. Special thanks go to the P&C, the TIM Fairfax Foundation and PACER for financially supporting the camp.

WESTERN ALLIANCE

The Western Alliance Multischool was held on the 25th to the 29th of August at the Longreach SDE. 31 students from years 8 to 10, teachers and a handful of home tutors attended from all three schools (MISOTA, Longreach SDE and Charleville SDE). It's always a wonderful experience for all involved and students get to participate in face to face class lessons as well as a variety of extra-curricular activities. Some highlights of the week included the dissection of goat's organs, cooking lessons, a CPR course and an incredible three course meal for the year 10 graduation dinner, followed by a disco. Mount Isa students did a wonderful job of representing our school and they demonstrated maturity, a positive attitude and consideration of others so a big thank you to students!

For secondary camp, the year 8 to 10 students from the Western Alliance are off to Currimundi on the Sunshine Coast in week 3 of Term 4. The objective of the camp is personal leadership and team building. Students will be given lots of opportunities to experience these objectives whilst participating in activities including stand up paddle boarding, canoeing, fishing and fencing.

Di Knudson, Michelle Ridge & Renee Moore

CURRICULUM UPDATE

KEEPING KIDS SAFE IN A CYBER WORLD

We have previously given to you these seven key messages that form the basis of an online safety strategy for kids. They should be taught to kids so they become second nature, just as the messages about stranger danger were absorbed by an earlier generation.

1. **Respect others.** Make kids aware that what they send can offend. Discuss with kids the types of messages and images that can cause harm to others when sent. Teenagers often walk a fine line what they do and say to each other offline, yet it's relatively harmless. The same type of behavior online however can be a different story.
2. **Think before you send.** Remind kids cyberspace is a very public and permanent forum. A text message or image sent to just one person can be passed to a potentially unlimited number. Once they are sent they're almost impossible to erase and take back. Do not forward or post an image of someone without their consent.
3. **Treat online passwords like your house key.** Teach kids to keep passwords guarded at all times. Young people can be incredibly trusting of each other, which is to be encouraged. However, there are some things, such as online passwords that they don't share, not even with their best friend.
4. **Block bullies.** Teach kids to block bullying messages. They can filter out messages and addresses online. Similarly, they can block text messages from bullies as well.
5. **Don't reply to harassment.** Bullies can retain proof of your response, which can further be spread around. Besides responding to bullying behavior often simply encourages the bully to continue.
6. **Save the evidence.** If kids are bullies they should keep the pictures and offending messages. These can be used as proof if the bullies are brought to justice.
7. **Tell someone.** The insidious part of bullying is that kids on the receiving end often don't seek help, as they think there's something wrong with them. Talk with kids about going to a trusted adult, when they feel their rights or safety have been violated. They should with your help report online bullying to the appropriate service provider.

Sticking the proverbial head in the sand regarding kids' use of communications technology is no longer an option for parents. Savvy parents need to learn as much as they can about children's and young people's online lives so they can respond to situations appropriately.

TIM'S TIPS ON CYBER SAFETY, INCLUDING MOBILE DEVICES

- Never let children go to bed with mobile devices, physically remove and keep in your room.
- Never allow children to deny you access to their device through password protection.
- Never allow children to delete history (of internet sites visited) or messages/emails. If they are deleted assume the child is guilty. Discuss this rule before implementing it. Parents should be the only ones deleting items.
- Do not allow children to have their own iTunes account, or, if you do make sure that purchasing email receipts come to your email address. This allows you to monitor what they are purchasing.
- Take time to sit with your child and randomly go through apps and content on their devices, show an interest and you'll be amazed at what you can discover.
- Talk to children about their digital reputation and how important it is to remember that once it's online it can't be deleted.
- Impress upon children that once something has been sent, you can never be sure of where it will end up and who may read it. The rule, "If mum was looking over your shoulder would you send it?" is a good one and should be discussed often with children.
- It is currently illegal for children under thirteen to have a Facebook account. If there is a need to have a Facebook account so children can get information for local sports, pony club, staying in touch with family etc., this can be done through an adult's account.
- Never allow any personal information to be given online without your knowledge.
- Don't allow children to use the Internet in the privacy of their room, always make sure they use it in the public places of your home.
- Think about having a daily screen limit. Screen includes TV's, computers, iPads, console games etc. It may be appropriate to have a weekday limit and a more generous weekend limit. Children work really well within limits and it actually forces them to make better decisions.
- Don't be afraid to take a device off them.

Please contact Ash on 4744 8360 or Tim 4744 8333 if you require more information or if you have a great rule to add.

Maths Problem Solving Strategies

There are a number of strategies that may be used in solving math problems. Teaching students how to use the different strategies when they work in mathematics will provide them with the greater ability to deal with the variety of math problems that they will encounter. Some strategies to try with your student....

Find a pattern: All students want to know how things are connected and how things work and this is made easier if we can find patterns. Patterns make things easier because they tell us how a group of objects acts in the same way. Once we see a pattern we have much more control over what we are doing.

Make a list or table: Most students start off recording their problem solving efforts in a very disorganized way. Often there is a little calculation or whatever in this corner, and another one over there, and another one just here. It helps students to bring a logical and systematic development to their mathematics if they begin to organize things systematically as they go. Tables can also be an efficient way of finding number patterns.

Guess and check: Anyone can guess an answer. If they can also check that the guess fits the conditions of the problem, then they have grasped guess and check. As problems get more challenging, other strategies become more important and more effective. However, sometimes when children are completely stuck, guessing and checking will provide a useful way to start and explore a problem. Teaching students key vocabulary for the terms addition, subtraction, multiplication and division can help students determine the operation needed to solve the problem. Hopefully exploration of guess and check will lead to more efficient strategies and then to a solution.

Draw a picture: This strategy is all about providing a visual prompt to allow students to better *see* the problem. But the picture need not be too elaborate. It should only contain enough detail to solve the problem. Hence a rough circle with two marks is quite sufficient for chickens and a blob plus four marks will do for pigs.

Act it out: Young students especially, enjoy using *Act it Out*. Students themselves take the role of *things* in the problem. It could be a useful strategy when students have had trouble coming to grips with a problem, provided the numbers involved are not high.

Use a known fact to help: The trick here is to see which skills that you know can be applied to the problem.

Substitute Simple Numbers or Making a Simpler Problem: Using simple numbers to make an easier problem can sometimes solve problems. Taking simple numbers and using them for the given numbers can give you a clearer picture. You can then use the same idea for the larger numbers.

Remember that students often use a combination of strategies in order to solve problems. It is important that they have exposure and awareness of a range of strategies so that they can be independent problem solvers. The See Plan Do Check model can also be taught to your student. Students first analyse the information so that they understand what they need to do. Students then choose a strategy to help them solve it. The students then solve the problem using the strategy and lastly check their answer. Encouraging students to read the problem again and judge/ critique if their answer makes sense, this helps students to be self-directed in their learning.

Learning Support Team

LIBRARY NEWS

BOOK WEEK COMPETITION WINNERS

Thanks to all those who entered. The entries will make a great display at school.

Winners in the **School Competition** are as follows:

Competition 1

Where do you connect to reading?

E-Kindy - Prep:

1st – Lucy Sedon

Year 1 – Year 2

1st - Lachlan Sedon

2nd – Cooper Sedon

3rd –Annabelle Towne / Emily Towne

Year 3 - Year 4

1st – Skyla Corlis

2nd – Chloe Towne / Jack Towne

Year 5 – Year 7

1st – Nakita Corlis

2nd – Kathryn Fisher

3rd – Molly Thieme

Competition 2

Why do you connect to reading?

Year 3 - Year 4

1st – James Brown

2nd – Skyla Corlis

Year 5 – Year 7

1st – Nakita Corlis

2nd – Kathryn Fisher

3rd – Kimberley Brown

Competition 3

Interesting Connections

Year 2 - Year 4

1st – Amy Bellingham

2nd – Skyla Corlis

Year 5 – Year 7

1st – Nakita Corlis

2nd – Kathryn Fisher

The display at the Town Library was really impressive. We took out a number of places in the **Mount Isa District:**

Competition 1

Where do you connect to reading?

E-Kindy - Prep:

1st – Lucy Sedon

Year 2 – Year 3

1st - Skyla Corlis

2nd – Lachlan Sedon

Year 4 - Year 5

1st – Kathryn Fisher

Year 6 – Year 7

2nd – Nakita Corlis

Competition 2

Why do you connect to reading?

Year 3 - Year 5

1st – Skyla Corlis

2nd – James Brown

Competition 3

Interesting Connections

Year 2 - Year 3

1st – Amy Bellingham

2nd – Skyla Corlis

Year 4 – Year 5

2nd – Kathryn Fisher

Year 7 – Year 7

2nd – Nakita Corlis

Congratulations to all our winners and thank you to everyone who entered. Hope you are all enjoying your prizes!!

TEXT HIRE RETURN AND HIRE FOR 2015

To allow for texts to be issued to students at the end of this year so as to be ready for the 2015 school year **ALL** Text Hire resources need to be returned to school by Monday **17 November**. All texts must come back as required editions change for different year levels and we have a limited number of each title and edition. We realise that some families have their own copies of the appropriate edition of the required text. A form will come out at the beginning of next term to fill in and return listing your requirements for 2015. Our intention is to have your texts ready for collection or mailing in the last week. Looking forward to your co-operation so that yours and other families have access to what is needed.

There will be no renewing of texts and no transference from one sibling to another. All texts must arrive at school by Monday 17 November.

The only items to keep are:

Electronic Violin Tuner if continuing violin, your school phone and your Basic Sports Kit. If you have a child that will be in Year 1, 2 and/or 3 you will also need to keep your Music Box.

CHRISTMAS BORROWING

If you require Christmas borrowing please email the library at kkuhn5@eq.edu.au or rwhit161@eq.edu.au to notify us of what you would like by Week 7 of Term 4 (17 – 21 November). We will endeavour to meet your requests as best as possible. Christmas borrowing will be ready to be collected during Sports for Bush Kids. We **do not** mail out Christmas borrowing.

Thanks,

Raylene & Katrina

MAILROOM

Please return all unit resources as soon as you have finished the associated unit. It helps with the preparation of resources for the 2015 school year. I would like to have all resources ready for collection during Sports for Bush Kids week.

Maths Box Returns

Year 1 Students – keep the Year 1-2 box for next year

Year 2 Students – return the Year 1-2 box to school unless you have a sibling going into Year 1 or 2.

Year 3 Students – return the Year 3 box to school unless you have a sibling going into Year 3.

Year 6 & 7 – if you are not returning to MISOTA next year or have a sibling entering Years 4 to 7, please return the Year 4-7 box.

Families leaving MISOTA for another school, please return all resources. If you are leaving your current address, please advise Linda of your new address. This helps us follow-up any missed items.

Kind regards,

Leah Allingham

Mailroom & Curriculum

MUSIC

The Bi-annual Mount Isa and District Gala Concert will be held on Saturday 1st November at the Mount Isa Civic Centre. All instrumental music students in our district are invited to participate. Our Mount Isa School of the Air students will be participating in the Combined Beginner Ensemble and the Mount Isa String Orchestra. Music has been allocated to these groups and sent in the mail. Our highlight for Gala 2014 is having the Queensland Symphony Orchestra Ensemble here in Mount Isa to perform with our music ensembles.

Mount Isa was proud to host Opera Queensland here in Mount Isa from 2nd - 4th September. During this time the Professional Company performed Puccini's Opera La Boheme at the Civic Centre. Our senior music students were invited to participate in an Orchestra Workshop with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra with conductor Guy Noble. This is the same group joining us for the 2014 Gala Concert. Mount Isa Mines proudly supported a school show of the Opera for our Instrumental and Music students of the district and Professional Development for teachers.

If you would like your child to join the instrumental music program for 2015, please contact Ms Moore prior to Sports for Bush Kids, to make a time to be sized and allocated your instrument during this week.

Yvonne Moore

Instrumental Music – Strings Teacher

GENERAL INTEREST

ICT NEWS

Microsoft Office

Geographically isolated families entitled to the ICT grant and enrolled in Mount Isa School of the Air can access Microsoft Office 2010 licenses from the School at no cost. When you purchase a new computer, it is best not to add in this software as it can add substantially to the cost. Just order the computer and then call George and the licenses will be sent out. The only obligation is that you sign the agreement and when the student is no longer enrolled at school, the software should be uninstalled and the disks returned to the school.

Helpline

The Technical Officer (T.O.) (4744 8306) and Ash (4744 8360) are available for any assistance you might need. If you would like a home visit to sort out any ICT issues, you just need to contact the school and this can be arranged. When you have an ICT problem, the T.O. is the first contact for anything non-curriculum related e.g. Microsoft Office, networking, and hardware problems. The T.O. can also help if you are having problems with your Internet Service Provider or want to change to a different provider. Ash is the first contact for curriculum issues. However both are able to help depending on availability.

Can I get a NBN Satellite Broadband Plan?

NBN Co's Interim Satellite Service is available to eligible individuals and small businesses (up to 20 employees), with the first priority being given to those who currently have no alternate access to broadband services.

You will need to check eligibility and register for a service through NBN Co by phoning 1800 881 816 or online at <https://bcoms.dbcde.gov.au/NBNBSL>. Please note, NBN Co determines eligibility and the priority of premises to be connected. If eligible, installation of equipment will be provided by and remain the property of NBN Co. Additional charges apply for non-standard installations. In such cases you will receive a quotation to accept/decline and there will be no obligation to proceed.

If you are trying to decide whether to change your internet provider or change your plan, these are the questions you need answers to when you call your internet provider.

1. What is my download allocation per month? This could be broken into a peak time allocation and non-peak time allocation.
2. If I go over this limit is my excess download charged or does my internet just slow down (SHAPED)? (I think it is preferable to select a plan that slows down, which takes away the chance of any unexpected bills.)
3. What is the speed of this plan?

SCOUTS OF THE AIR

All welcome to join.

- Ages: 7 years (turning 7 the year you join) to 14 years.
- We meet every Wednesday afternoon between 3.30pm and 4.45pm.
- We do singing, games, cooking, craft, science and have lots of FUN.
- We meet each other during Home Tutor week for an evening meeting of two hours and then a weekend camp.

Looking forward to meeting current and new members in the New Year.

CHIL

Jenny Staddon

RAKSHA

Noela McConachy

GOVIE GROUP NEWS

The governess group have been getting out and about in various communities lately fundraising to provide some great items for the school. We were able to provide all the students with access to Spelling City for 2014, a resource that we feel has helped our students enjoy spelling lessons. As well as Spelling City, we have also purchased new readers to be added to reading packs. We have just begun a major fundraiser for the end of year, a wine fundraiser! If you would like to help support us please visit

<http://www.oakroomwines.com.au/govie>

Kind regards,

Hannah Kobienia

Govie Group President

WISE TUTORS FOR 2015

Dear Families

We are aware that some of you have not been able to get tutors. The reason for this is that we are a limited resource. Around 200 of our tutors are available each year and once they are booked we cannot offer more assistance. We do have 500 volunteers on our database but they do not all go on placement each year.

If you want a tutor for 2015 it is essential you let your local Coordinator know NOW. Some areas are very good at planning ahead and have their placements organized by the end of November.

If you ask for a tutor at the last minute the Coordinator will have big problems filling it.

I have listed the Coordinators below so if you will need help next year email your Local Coordinator and ask for a "Request for Assistance Form". Return this on line and your Coordinator will do the rest.

Regards "Travel," it is hoped that families can cover the first \$500 of travel. VISE has some subsidy funds, so if you need help tell your Coordinator. Do not feel embarrassed doing this as your request for help is confidential.

WISE Coordinators' Contacts:

Charters Towers LAC	Robyn Brown	bogunda@skymesh.com.au
Mount Isa LAC	Jodie Grant	mannerscreekschool@gmail.com
Mount Isa LAC	Sarah Cook	cpcooki74@bigpond.com
Longreach LAC	Kerry Lloyd	lloydrome@bigpond.com
Charleville LAC	Sally Campbell	abc_campbell@harboursat.com.au
Capricornia	Maureen Stumer	capricornia@vise.org.au
NT	Ruth Woerle	nt@vise.org.au
NSW LAC	Norma Colclough	nsw@vise.org.au

VISE is there to assist our valuable rural families.

Cheers

Mike Stock A.M

CEO VISE

P & C PRATTLE

P & C Progress - Term 3 Meetings & Activities

Hello to all, we are nearly there for the year! It has been a good year; our meetings have been well attended & informative, always providing good discussion on school issues. The Executive have been working hard in their portfolios, achieving some excellent outcomes, such as;

- Applying for & receiving over \$15,000 from the Tim Fairfax Foundation to cover the additional costs to send year 6 on the Canberra Camp
- Designing & printing mini school shirts which have been a big hit, not only for the students & school community, but also in the funds it has raised for P&C
- Running the Footy Tipping Competition

Other interesting items discussed this term include:

- The current teaching model
- Providing First Aid for children at mini schools
- Computer training for Home tutors
- Ideas to improve attendance over both days of Home Tutor Seminar
- MISOTA's internet policy, including download & upload data conservation using webcam, YouTube, email large documents etc.
- Internal school audit
- Work by SODEA, including;
 - Coordinating home tutors to participate in a review of materials for years' 1-3. In brief, this review looked at plain language, readability, complexity of words & reducing unnecessary content; and involved in five property visits by C2C team.
 - Letters & communication with the Education Minister, P&Cs QLD and the Rural and Remote Education Reference Group
 - Providing feedback for delegates to use at the Education Accord Seminar & P&CsQLD State Conference.

Parents, Governesses and the school community are encouraged to attend the monthly meetings, where you can raise your ideas & add your own dimension to our discussions. Alternatively, you can always contact any member of our Executive, or someone else you know who regularly attends the meetings, for more information.

President Bernadette Lyttle

Treasurer Annie Hacon

Secretary Tiarna O'Brien

V/President **BK Calendar** Kirsty Sullivan

V/President **Souvenirs** Sancia Fegan

V/President **Fundraising** Michelle Low Mow

V/President **HT Seminar** Sarah Cook

WISE coordinator Jodie Grant

SODEA Rep Sarah Cook

canningtonstation@bigpond.com

cubbaroschool@hotmail.com

rocklandssota@hotmail.com

k_sully@outlook.com

sancia_ashley@hotmail.com

michelle@adelsgrove.com.au

cpcook74@bigpond.com

jodie.nicole1983@gmail.com

cpcook74@bigpond.com

Bernadette Lyttle

What's Happening in the Last Week of School 2014

GRADUATION AND FAREWELL CEREMONY

7:30pm Tuesday 2nd December

MISOTA Outstation

- **7.00pm** - Students, families, staff, and friends gather at MISOTA
- **7.30 pm** - Graduation and farewell ceremony commences
- **9.00 pm** - Cutting of the Graduation Cake and refreshments

Dress: Smart Casual

CHRISTMAS BBQ

Venue – MISOTA Outstation

6:30 pm Wednesday 3rd December.

The P&C will provide meat and Rotary will provide salads, bread rolls, and tea/coffee.

A gold coin donation for the BBQ is appreciated.

Ice creams for children are provided free. Soft drinks will be provided for a charge of \$1 to avoid wastage. There is a bar available for the purchase of drinks for the adults.

Please bring gift; wrapped and labelled with name and year level (in large print) for your child. (Value – no more than \$15)

CHRISTMAS ACTIVITY DAY

Wednesday 3rd December. 8.30 – 9am. Mount Isa School of the Air

- 8.30 – 9.00** Sign in students at front gate of MISOTA
- 9.00 – 3.00** Welcome by Tim Moes, followed by activities at the Outstation and Spinifex College
- 3.00pm** Collect students from MISOTA

\$7.50 p/child or \$15.00 p/family covers morning tea & lunch. Invoices will be distributed for this cost.

SPORTS FOR BUSH KIDS

Monday 1st to Friday 5th December

Information packs have been sent.

Further info call:

Vanessa Restall 4748 5599 or Wendy Wockner 4745 3488

ON AIR LESSONS CONCLUDE: - Thursday 27th November

ON AIR CONCERT - Friday 28th November - begins with Prep at 8.30am

YEAR SIX/SEVEN FAREWELL LUNCHEON - Wednesday 3rd December (time to be advised).
Teachers will provide information to students involved.

SECONDARY LUNCHEON - Wednesday 3rd December (time to be advised).
Teacher will provide information to students involved.



Mount Isa School of the Air

"Excellence in Education

in the Outback"

RETURNING 2015

Could you please fill out the form and return it to Linda (lryan48.eq.edu.au) ASAP.

FAMILY NAME: -----

PROPERTY NAME: -----

I will / will not be returning in 2015:

If students are not returning to our school in 2015 please indicate your intentions

- Attending a different school:

Name of students:
.....
.....

Name of new School

- Completed schooling Yes/No

Name of students:

Signature

Date

