



Mount Isa School of the Air

PO Box 1683 137-143 Abel Smith Parade Mount Isa QLD 4825
Phone 07 4744 8333 Fax 07 4744 8300

NEWSLETTER 3 – TERM 3 2017



Inside this Newsletter:

- ❖ **Principal's Comments**
 - Parenting Advice

- ❖ **Term 2 in Review**
 - Camp News
 - Year 4 Camp
 - Year 5 Camp
 - Home Tutor Week Feedback
 - NAPLAN
 - Sports Day
 - Eisteddfod
 - Group Days
 - ICAS Competitions
 - Library News
 - eKindy
 - Western Alliance

- ❖ **Term 3 School Routine**
 - Year 6 Canberra Camp
 - Minischools
 - Activity Day RPM Week
 - School Opinion Survey
 - Strings News

- ❖ **Curriculum Update**
 - Wushka Reading Resource
 - Mid Year Reporting
 - Mailroom News

- ❖ **General Interest**
 - The Computer School
 - ASG Teaching Awards NEITA
 - Bullying Resources
 - P&C Committee
 - ICPA & SFBK

Attachments:

- ❖ Spinifex State College Residential

PRINCIPAL'S COMMENTS

Staff News: Liz Lindenmayer will be taking the first 4 weeks of Term 3 as long service leave to attend her brother's wedding in Ireland. Liz will be replaced by Paul Letts, a former teacher and field officer here at school.

Linda Ryan is also taking the first 4 weeks of Term 3 as long service leave to travel to Europe with her husband Robbie. Linda will be replaced by Jan Letts, also a former teacher and field officer here at school.

Congratulations to Western Alliance teacher Graeme Foster on the safe arrival of his third daughter Evelyn. All are doing well.

Semester One Reports: All students, except Year 6, will receive their Semester One report in the same mailing as this newsletter. Year 6 reports will be issued after the holidays and camp. All 7 SDE's across Queensland have collectively moderated aspects of our student's work to ensure consistency of reporting across the distance education community in Queensland. I invite you to contact your teacher to discuss any aspect of your child's report.

May Week: May is always a special month in our school calendar and this year was no exception. The feedback we have received from activity days, Home Tutor Seminar, Sports Day and camps have shown that these functions were really well received. While these activities are still fresh in your minds please pass any feedback that you may have to me. Thank you for making the effort, in both time and money, to make these events great for the kids.

USB's Arrgh: A good practice to eliminate USB's failing is to download the complete USB to a hard drive. This then allows you to keep the USB as backup insurance. Please contact Luke if you require more information.

School Opinion Surveys: All families will receive an email invitation to participate in the 2017 School Opinion Survey. The survey will be conducted between 31 July to 25 August. This is a great chance for you to have your say on the school. All responses are anonymous and I would encourage you to participate. Keep an eye out for that email.

Nominate A Great Teacher: The 2017 National Excellence in Teaching Awards are open until 3rd July. If you'd like to acknowledge a teacher that has made a significance difference to you and/or your children please go to www.asg.com.au/nominate. This a great way to make a teacher feel special.

Being on Time: It is important for your teacher and other classmates that students are on time for class, reading and PLT. Please encourage your students to be on time and to devise ways of remembering. As teaching staff we are also accountable for being on time so please hold us to account if we are continually late. Being on time demonstrates that we are being organised and thoughtful.

Spinifex State College Residential Campus

Attached to this newsletter is a flyer outlining an opportunity for your students to board in Mount Isa. We have had some SOTA families take advantage of this free boarding option, closer to home, with great success. Included in the attachment are the contact details if you want further information.

Finally, a big congratulations to **Archie Smith**, Year 6, on being selected to the North West Rugby League team. Next stop Cowboys.

I look forward to catching up during Term 3 at minischools.

Tim Moes

PARENTING ADVICE

I recently read an article on parenting that really resonated with experiences I've had with my own children and also classes I have taught. I thought I'd share it with you

Tim

Parenting best practice, synthesised from research and clinical experience - helps parents reshape kids' challenging behaviour, create strong family bonds, and guide children toward becoming happy, kind, and responsible adults.

Effective strategies include :

“Great parents do what they say they are going to do,”

“Great parents see that actions speak louder than words,”

“Great parents are transparent about their decision-making process.”

One easy-to-implement tip is replacing the word 'but' (which can have negative connotations) with 'and,' which sounds more agreeable. For instance, instead of saying, "That was a good job but you missed out an important part," you could say, "You did a great job and you could consider this part too."

Another technique is to pivot. This means to use words that get your point across in a more positive way. Pivoting is the art of saying yes instead of no, and meaning the same thing. For instance, "No, we can't go to the park until after you have a nap," may get a better response if pivoted to, "Yes, we can go to the park as soon as you've finished your nap."

It's best to avoid labels. If your son is reluctant to join an activity, resist commenting to other adults that, "He's just shy." Acting shyly is a behaviour and not always a permanent characteristic. Your child is listening and could come to think of himself in the manner you're describing.

Even a positive label should be avoided. By labelling your child clever, they may internalise this as, "I am smart/creative/good at sports and I want to stay that way," which might lead to a reluctance to try new things for fear of failure and no longer being defined by that label.

Great parents focus near and far. Focusing only on the moment and not the long term can create problems. If your daughter typically whines for something at the store and you usually buy it for her, she'll learn that whining helps her get her way. A short-term solution has created a long-term issue. This is also true of yelling to get your point across. If we habitually yell to get our kids' attention, we are teaching them to ignore us until we yell and we are also teaching them that yelling is the way to get someone's attention.

Three questions to ask:

“Is what I'm doing something I would be happy to see my kids emulate?”

“Is what I'm doing creating a positive family dynamic?”

“Is what I'm doing solving one problem but creating another?”

For parents with older kids, there is one last tip, titled **“Great parents start where they are.”** Rather than fretting over past actions, keep in mind that you can only act on what you know, and most parents have been doing the best they can with what they know so far.

Thankfully, most kids are both resilient and forgiving; they are more like hardy weeds than delicate flowers.

TERM 2 IN REVIEW

Year 4 Magnetic Island Camp



This term the Year 4 students along with Tim Moes, Kelly Murray, Tanya Pollard, Linda Ryan and Alex Stewart travelled to Magnetic Island for a fantastic week of camp. After a long day travelling and sitting in the bus, students were all very excited going over to Magnetic Island on the car ferry. Students had a great time at the beach swimming and making different sandcastles. We hiked to the top of Hawkins Point which had a beautiful view of Magnetic Island and Townsville. We ventured over to Horseshoe Bay where the students were able to get up close to the wildlife at Bungalow Bay Koala Village and even got to hold a snake! Students had a great morning at Reef HQ followed by the museum in Townsville before an afternoon shopping at Castle Town Shopping Centre.

A great time was had by all!

Kelly Murray

Year 5 Adels Grove Camp



This term Year 5 students attended the Year 5 Leadership camp at Adels Grove. They were accompanied by Liz Bailey, Liz Lindenmayer, Chris Kuhne, and David Hunter. From the moment we arrived at camp, the action was non-stop. The week began with some canoeing and water games around the Adels Grove area. This was followed by a fascinating and informative bushwalk through the scenic paradise of Lawn Hill. On the Wednesday we had an action packed day of canoeing, swimming and adventuring through Lawn Hill gorge (and beyond!). Our final day included snorkelling and an engrossing visit to the prehistoric Riversleigh Fossil site. In between all these event, the students plucked up their courage and participated in exciting challenges like the Tower of Terror, Campfire Cook-up, and the Poison River Crossing. Our nights were finished off with hot chocolate and marshmallows; and Mr Hunter serenading the camp with many a questionable 'chicken fried' rendition (even the chef got involved!). It was incredible to watch the Year 5s grow in confidence and character throughout the week, and there were elements of strong leadership in every single pupil. Unsurprisingly, our pupils received many positive comments about their manners and maturity from other campers in the area. It was a truly incredible experience for students and teachers alike.

David Hunter

Home Tutor Week Feedback

Thank you all so much for your recent attendance at the seminar. It was very well patronised and all feedback has been very positive with regard to our two consultants and also the workshops offered by staff and community organisations.

*“Invitational speakers were excellent – easy to listen to, very interactive – great cross section of information.
One of the most relevant cross sections in a while!”*

The reasoning of workshops and invited presenters, is always done after careful consideration of the school's priorities as identified in the Quadrennial School Review, school wide data (A-E reporting, NAPLAN, diagnostic assessment), surveys and feedback from members of the school community. The social and wellbeing sessions from external providers were aimed at providing resources for personal and professional use. Feedback has highlighted how very beneficial this was for our school community –

*“It was an excellent two days to see everyone and discuss ideas for the classroom
and ways to strengthen and develop our students' learning.”*

Our invitation to Marg Buckle from LearningYou was targeted to examine partitioning, and the relationship between numbers. The focus was to raise Home Tutor understanding of these areas with some hands-on activities used to increase awareness of these areas. Once again, participants found the session very worthwhile –

“Brilliant maths instruction. Really great examples!”

“Really enjoyed this session, and made me really think about what I am asking my students to do.”

School staff presentations were generously supported –

*“Learning Connections with Liz Bailey – I LOVED it!! I have already
started implementing some of the movements into our daily routine. “*

“Mat & Kelly did a fine job. You could almost hear the light bulbs going on in peoples' heads. Great Sessions.”

All staff at Mount Isa School of the Air are always shown such kind and generous hospitality while on home visits and at school events. Home Tutor Seminar is our opportunity to respond by personally catering for morning tea. So please know that your morning tea is a combined effort by the many staff - teachers and ancillary - at our school, in return for the wonderful outback hospitality offered by our MISOTA families. Thank you for your acknowledgment on the day, it is sincerely appreciated.

Once again, Linda, Anne, Tim & myself are always open to your feedback and suggestions.

Janeen Fricke & Linda Ryan

NAPLAN

Like all schools nationwide, our Year 3 & 5 completed the National Assessment Program – Literacy & Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests during our recent activity days in Mount Isa. The online trial for NAPLAN was cancelled by the Education Minister and our students participated in the regular paper NAPLAN testing. MISOTA staff thanks families for bringing children in to participate and helping with the preparation of our students for this event. Congratulations go to all the children for their efforts over the three days. Year level teachers commented that all children worked to the best of their ability in a context very different to their usual classroom environment. Year 7 & 9 participated in NAPLAN in a supportive on air environment the week following activity week with the Western Alliance.

Next year we will be a trial school for online NAPLAN. All Queensland schools will do NAPLAN online by 2019. We are keen to trial NAPLAN online early as we have many considerations to ensure it runs smoothly in our context. It may mean that we have to modify our calendar in Term 2 to accommodate this testing. As we know more information we will share it with you.

We expect that all test results will be sent to our school late this year, and an individual NAPLAN report for each student will be sent home. These confidential reports will show your child's results against key national information in each year level. While NAPLAN reports are an important measure of how all students are progressing, it is important to remember that it is only one aspect of the school's assessment and reporting process. It does not replace the more extensive and informed judgements made by our teachers everyday while working with children and families. We use the data at MISOTA to inform curriculum changes and respond to individual needs.

Sports Day – Friday 15th May

We had a wonderful week with Home Tutor Seminar, activity days and NAPLAN and then ending with a fantastic sports day. A huge thanks to the Touch Association for providing the venue and running the tuckshop throughout the day. Congratulations to all students for their participation, great efforts and enthusiasm on the day. A big thank you to teachers, parents and govies for helping out with the events. The day couldn't have run without you. Flynn and O'Sullivan kept everyone's spirits high with their war cries and encouragements throughout the day. Well done to O'Sullivan for taking out the winner's trophy and giving Flynn a run for their money.

Sports Day Age Champions:

	Girls	Boys
Year 1	Jordan Curr	Oran Zammit
Year 2	Rielely Williams	Maverick Hills
Year 3	Emma Locke	Brady Barrett
2008	Emily Towne	Harry Hacon
2007	Maddison Simms	Lachlan Johnson
2006	Annabelle Towne	Lauchlan Bishop
2005	Leila Westwood	Hank Zammit
OPEN	Bridey Cramer	Riley Worlein

And the successful division champions now have their names engraved on the Sports Day shields.

	Girls	Boys
Junior	Emma Locke	Brady Barrett
Intermediate	Emily Towne	Lachlan Johnson
Senior	Annabelle Towne	Lauchlan Bishop & Hank Zammit
Open Champion	Bridey Cramer	Riley Worlein

These were the times for the adult races. Congratulations to our Mums, Dads and Govies.

	1st	2nd	3rd
Mums Race	Jacqui Bishop (Gallipoli) Time: 8.72sec	Jodi Keough (Auckland Downs) Time: 9.03sec	Sarah Acton (Herbert Downs) Time: 9.43sec
Dads Race	Laine Keough (Auckland Downs) Time: 7.96sec	David Woodhouse (Beeantha) Time: 8.46sec	Andrew Hacon Ben Stanger (Cubbaroo) (Cowan Downs) Time: 8.59sec
Govies Race	Amanda Stevens (Auckland Downs) Time: 9.06sec	Bridgett O'Kane (Legune) Time: 9.10sec	Nikki Pullinger (Cameray) Time: 9.50sec

Eisteddfod of the Air - Thursday 25th May & Monday 5th June

We ran another successful Mount Isa School of the Air Eisteddfod thanks to the participation of many students who were encouraged and coached by parents, govies and teachers. This year we welcomed a number of participants who were new to the experience and really enjoyed performing for their audience and the adjudicators. Thank you to the students in both the Poetry and in Music categories for your entertaining presentations. Again this year, we welcomed students from Prairie and Barcaldine State Schools to our music section. The adjudicators of both sections were impressed with the standard of the performers and thoroughly enjoyed their unique experience. This year, Ms Maree Clancy enjoyed listening to our poetry performers from her Brisbane base. While Mrs Ruth and Mr Antoni Bonetti provided encouraging feedback in the music section from our MISOTA studio.

The Year 3 students practised what they had been learning in their English lessons by introducing themselves using impressive formal introductions. Other students felt encouraged to copy their very professional models. I am thinking that next year the Chairperson will only need the participant's name and hand over to students for the rest.

2017 MISOTA Eisteddfod Speech Awards

Year 2 & under Verse Award – Emily Castle
Year 3 & 4 Verse Award – Jordan Abdy
Year 5 & 6 Verse Award – Amy Bellingham
The Adjudicators
Choice Award (poetry) – Joshua Hullock
Prep – (non-competitive) Riley Mourilyan, Ned Power
Set Verse - Year 1 & 2 1 st Emily Castle 2 nd Caitlin Fry
Set Verse – Year 3 & 4 1 st Jordan Abdy 2 nd Emily Towne 3 rd Harry Hacon HC Brodee Remfrey
Set Verse - Year 5 & 6 1 st Amy Bellingham 2 nd Wally Hacon 3 rd Joshua Hullock HC Katie Brock
Australian/humorous verse - Year 2 & under 1 st Matthew Locke
Australian/humorous verse - Year 3 & 4 1 st Hayley Brock 2 nd Emily Towne 3 rd Jordan Abdy HC Emma Locke
Australian/humorous verse - Year 5 & 6 1 st Wally Hacon 2 nd Amy Bellingham 3 rd Annabelle Towne HC Joshua Hullock

2017 MISOTA Eisteddfod Music Results

Special Awards: Encouragement Award (strings) Lucy Kennedy Adjudicators Choice Award (strings) Marthinus Farrell
Recorder Solo – All Ages 1 st Brodee Remfree 2 nd Marney Jones 3 rd Joshua Hullock
Strings – Solo Beginner Players Year 6 and Under (non competitive) Oran Zammit, Emma Locke, Trent Folker, Kate Fenech
Strings – Solo Year 6 & under, Own Choice Year 6 and Under 1 st Marthinus Farrell 2 nd Lucy Kennedy (violin) 3 rd Sean Phayre-Leung HC Josie Muston
Strings – Baroque or Classical composition, Year 6 and Under 1 st Marthinus Farrell 2 nd Sean Phayre-Leung
Strings –solo - Beginner players 20th Century composition (non-competitive) Emma Locke, Trent Folker, Kate Fenech
Strings –solo Year 7 and under 20th Century composition 1 st Marthinus Farrell 2 nd Joshua Hullock 3 rd Lucy Kennedy (cello) HC Sean Phayre-Leung

Thank you ... Our Eisteddfod happens each year with the assistance of many people. Sponsorship is also provided by many of our families who were acknowledged on air. The Mount Isa Eisteddfod Committee provided wonderful support, the adjudicators and all the prizes. This year a number of our staff members reciprocated by assisting the committee and helped out at the local on stage Eisteddfod. Thank you – Leah Allingham, Janeen Fricke, Tiarna Rogers, Deb Bishop, Corlia Pienaar, Tim Moes, Deb Cobden and Yvonne Moore. Each year our teaching staff gives support to their students by phoning in and providing an appreciative audience.

It is a pleasure to provide this cultural experience for our students.

Jo Mills - On behalf of the MISOTA Eisteddfod Co-ordination Team

Group Days

Thank you so much to all who hosted and attended group days in Term 2. A fantastic time was had by all and it was lovely to see students excited about learning new magic tricks and performing in front of an audience. We were extremely impressed with how students worked collaboratively with each other, their ability to follow procedures and create magic inspired writing pieces. The second round of group days will begin in Term 4 and our focus will be swimming. We are planning on hosting these at town pools however if you have a pool suitable and would like to host, please let us know. A list of dates and locations will be sent out to families as soon as possible. As always, group days start at 9am and finish 3:00pm and you are asked to bring along shared smoko and lunch. Please contact Bridoen or Alex if you have any queries.

ICAS & Australian Maths Trust Competitions

Thank you to those families who have been returning their completed Digital Technologies, Science, Writing and Spelling ICAS Competitions. The Australian Maths Competition and ICAS Maths and English papers will be forwarded out to entrants next term. Please continue to return completed competitions ASAP – the sooner all the papers arrive back at school, the sooner the school can submit them for marking and then obtain student results. Results should be received at school late in Term 3 or early Term 4.

Library News

The Library staff have had a fun term putting up displays for the 60th Birthday of the “Cat in the Hat.” Come and see our decorations and have your photo taken as Cat in the Hat when you are visiting the school.

OLIVER is our new Library system which allows families to access the Libraries catalogue to search and reserve library items *from your computer!* All students have been given access to OLIVER using their EQ ID and with the password: library. There is a link to Oliver on eLearn or go to: elearn.eq.edu.au/



Premier's Reading Challenge details have been sent out to those families with students in Prep through to Year 9. All students have been registered - so keep reading! Fill out the student record sheet and when you have completed your allocated challenge you can mail/email/fax your completed sheet back to the Library or rwhit161@eq.edu.au



Book Week takes place in August and this year's theme is *Escape to Everywhere*. We have some great competitions for Prep to Year 6 to enter. All competition entries need to be returned to school by Friday 11th August (Week 5) to allow for selection of level category winners. Entries will be displayed at the school for Book Week (19th-26 August) and then displayed at the Mount Isa City Library.

Book Fairs will be on display at each of the minischools. We hope you enjoy the opportunity to browse through the selection.

Raylene White

Hello everyone!

We have been very busy in eKindy with many face to face opportunities throughout the terms and with most families now up to Unit 4 – My Family, My Friends. This unit explores the eKindy child's family, what different families look like and identifying similarities and difference. In this unit they become aware of their family, their culture, language and heritage. This develops skills for relating to others, their sense of pride in who they are and offers opportunities for developing their social skills. A child learns about themselves and builds their own identity through their relationships with people, places and things. Relationships are the foundations for the construction of identity. As children are developing their sense of identity, they explore its different aspects through play and relationships. When children feel safe, secure and supported their confidence to explore and learn grows.



It has been wonderful getting to know the eKindy families and children, and to be a part of the learning that is taking place in various settings. I have enjoyed seeing all the feedback coming through and the various ways in which eKindy has been embraced in each of your settings.

This term most children were able to participate in two activity days during Home Tutor Week and a School Sports Day. We were very fortunate to have Miss Moniqua join us for these days again this year and really enjoyed her help during this time. Home tutor week was a wonderful opportunity for us to be able to develop our relationships with our peers, practice our social skills and flex our creativity and planning skills!

At home tutor week we introduced our new eKindy friend Connor. Conner has already been out to visit 2 of our eKindy families and I have really enjoyed reading about all the adventures he has had. Conner spends one week with one of our eKindy families before being returned here to Mount Isa, he will continue to visit families for the rest of the year. I can't wait to see the other exciting adventures Connor goes on with his eKindy friends.

Through our individual and group web sessions, we have been building our confidence as learners and practicing our on air routines. During our group web sessions, we are beginning to explore different ways to interact with our peers, building our active listening skills, exploring our creativity and investigating different stories. We created some fearsome dinosaurs and used lots of describing words to tell each other about our artworks. We took great pride in our creations!



Our next semester sees many minischool opportunities. I am aware of which minischools most of our eKindy families will be attending but if you have not yet returned your form please do. I would like to offer up to two days for eKindy sessions; however, this is dependent on numbers at each minischool setting.

The next term sees us continuing our learning and development with the opportunity to add another group session into the mix! We will be working our way up to having three group web sessions a week by Term 4! These web sessions will be exploring music and movement, literacy and numeracy skills and learning through investigation.

The waiting list for eKindy 2018 is now open and can be found on the Brisbane School of Distance Education web page: <https://brisbanesde.eq.edu.au/Curriculum/ekindy/Pages/ekindy.aspx>

If you are interested, or know of anyone interested in registering a child for eKindy in 2018, please feel free to contact myself or Janelle Engel at BSDE. Janelle can be contacted via phone (07) 3727 2860 or email ekindy@brisbanesde.eq.edu.au

I am looking forward to the next two terms and all the exciting things happening in the school as well as eKindy!

Miss Gemma Howe

Western Alliance

Throughout the semester Western Alliance students have been super busy! During first term students eagerly kicked off the year participating in study skills sessions which provided students with strategies to organise school room set up and scaffold positive school room routines. During the semester students had studied a range of subjects including English, Maths, Science and History with the addition of electives including Art, Economics and Business, Agricultural Science, Geography and Digital Design and Technologies.

Revealed feedback from subject teachers when asked what they have been up to in their secondary classrooms they mentioned:

- In Year 7 English the students wrote biographies on courageous individuals and read the novel Red Dog!
- This term in Year 8 Science students mined biscuits and talked to a Palaeontologist and a Geologist. Next term, the classes are going to make a complicated machine to do a simple task (like popping a balloon).
- In Year 7 Geography students studied water in the world and liveability on Turtle Cove Island. They really enjoyed sharing student PowerPoints during on-air.
- In Year 10 Geography, students studied environmental management and human well-being around the world. Students also learnt about the importance of access to clean drinking water.
- Year 7 Science students studied motion, designed and trialled their own balloon powered vehicles.
- Year 8 English presented a persuasive oral task to their peers during on-air. We analysed the effectiveness of visual and audio features throughout multimodal advertisements and how these represent values of groups in society.
- The Year 9 Visual Arts class has been working on researching popular Australian artists who use recycled materials to create life size sculptures. Students created trophy heads using recycled materials from a natural environment.



Multischool was held in Longreach in March. Once again, students travelled from Mount Isa, Longreach and Charleville to attend the first meet and greet of the year. Students had the opportunity to participate in hands on experiences and face to face interactions. Teachers were particularly excited to meet the new students and see familiar faces of returning students and teachers. The next Multischool will be held in Term 3, week 4 in Longreach, we will be going to the Stockman's Hall of Fame, aqua fit participating in a technology shop and lots more!

Mount Isa secondary students participated in activity day, sports day and teachers attended a home visit up to the Gulf country - Burketown and Kurumba. A long road trip, however it was worthwhile to see the faces of our students and meet our new and returning families.

An eager group of students came into school for activity days– they continued with their WA timetabled lessons and had the opportunity to engage socially with the primary department and participate in additional hands on activities.

Sports day was held on the Friday and I must congratulate the attitude and participation from a wonderful group of keen sports people. Not only did the secondary students encourage and strive to do their best, they encouraged participation and demonstrated respect for the abilities of a visiting student during sports day. A true indication of outstanding sportsmanship and team work reflected in our community by these secondary students.

On behalf of the Western Alliance we want to wish you all a safe and happy holiday and looking forward to seeing you all in Term 3!!!

Renee Moore - WA MISOTA



TERM 3 SCHOOL ROUTINE

Year 6 Canberra Camp

The Year 6 Camp to Canberra is not far away now! On Saturday 8th July, the Year 6 students will be jetting off to chilly Canberra for a week, along with Chris Kuhne, Katrina Kuhne, Janeen Fricke and Anne Coleman.

Students will participate in many interesting, educational and fun activities including visits to Parliament House, the National Museum, Australian War Memorial and Questacon. A day at the snow will be the first time that most students will see the snow (outside of their freezers!) and give them an opportunity to experience tobogganing.

The Year 6 Camp is an excellent opportunity to immerse the students in studies related to Civics and Citizenship. Our P&C is very supportive of the camp, funding the cost of the flights to Canberra. 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 on families is reduced significantly and each family contributes to accommodation and the food costs.

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 these essential experiences for our students as, without this support, the costs would be prohibitive to travel so far to study government and our national capital.

To all the Year 6s Don't forget to pack your winter woollies!

Janeen Fricke & Anne Coleman

Minischools

This year's theme is "Minischool.com". Our activities will focus on students getting hands-on with technology from coding, ozobots, 3D pens and so much more. This year we will be having a dress up night where everyone is encouraged to come as something inspired by technology. Our minischool artist this year is Bronte Naylor who is an amazing visual artist. She will teach the students different art techniques using a range of mediums and showcase their skills in an artist book. The final artwork will be a skateboard deck using the skills learnt throughout the week.

Minischool Artist Profile: Brontë Naylor is an artist whose skills span across both gallery, large-scale painting and public work. With dedication and energy, she's been consistently honing her craft since 2010. During 2015 in Far North Queensland she completed her Bachelor degree in Creative Industries, majoring in Visual Art. Naylor has now returned to her creative workspace at Kontraband Studios in Toowoomba to continue developing as an artist.

Miss Gemma will be attending the Julia Creek and Camooweal Minischools this year. She will be there for one to two days, depending on numbers, and will be offering sessions for eKindy children. Outside of these sessions the eKindy children will need to be under the care of their parents or govies.

We will be conducting on air meetings in the coming weeks to discuss each minischool; times are as follows:

- **Bedourie** – Tuesday 11th July – 3.15 pm – Studio 1
- **Julia Creek** – Wednesday 12th July – 3.15pm – Studio 1
- **Normanton** – Thursday 13th July – 3.15pm – Studio 1
- **Cloncurry** – Monday 17th July – 3.15pm – Studio 1
- **Camooweal** – Tuesday 18th July – 3.15pm – Studio 1
- **Gregory** – Wednesday 19th July – 3.15pm – Studio 1

The minischool order and dates are:

- **Bedourie Minischool** July 30th – August 4th... (Alex co-ordinating)
- **Julia Creek Minischool** August 6th – 11th (Bridoen co-ordinating)
- **Normanton Minischool** August 13th – 18th (Bridoen co-ordinating)
- **Cloncurry Minischool** August 20th – 25th (Alex co-ordinating)
- **Camooweal Minischool** August 27th – Sep 1st..... (Bridoen co-ordinating)
- **Gregory Minischool** September 3rd – 8th (Alex co-ordinating)

Please contact Bridoen or Alex if you have any questions or queries.

Over the minischool period years P-6 will directly teach mathematics in week long stand-alone lessons, based on materials in unit 6. When students miss a week of lessons the class teacher will advise what concepts and associated lessons were covered in that week and the home tutor will teach these lessons. Extra time has been embedded in the 5-week timetable to allow for this. For example, no scheduled lessons on a Friday over the 6 week minischool period.

Bridoen Schloss & Alex Stewart - Field Services

Activity Day – RPM Week

There will be an activity day in Mount Isa attached to Rock Pop Mime in Term 4 Week 2, Wednesday October 11th. All are invited to attend but you MUST let Bridoen or Alex know if you are planning on attending. Families are asked to bring a shared smoko and lunch. Children will need a hat and water bottle. The day will commence at 9.00am and conclude at 3.00pm. Please contact Bridoen or Alex if you have any queries

School Opinion Surveys

The School Opinion Survey is undertaken each year during Term 3 by Education Queensland to obtain the opinion of parents, students and school staff about important aspects of schooling. The survey is designed to help schools identify what they do well and what they can improve.

All parents with children enrolled in our school will receive their survey request via email from Education Queensland's central office. Please keep an eye out for it between 31 July and 25 August.

Students in Years 4-10 will also be invited to participate in the student opinion survey. Once we have been informed of the process we will work with the children during class time in administering the survey.

These surveys are a really important measure for the school to ensure that we continue to meet your needs.

Strings News

QMF Celebrates 2017 - Supporting Emerging Female Talent

Songs That Made Me will bring together some of Australia's finest songstresses to discover and nurture local female talent in Mackay, Mount Isa and Gladstone. Deborah Conway, Clare Bowditch and Hannah Macklin will lead the *Songs That Made Me* tour and perform in Mount Isa on Tuesday July 11 at 7:30pm at the Mount Isa Civic Centre. We are proud to have the Mount Isa Community Ensemble – Performance Strings accompanying the band for this one off FREE community show.

Come along and watch your local musicians and string players take part in this truly magnificent evening. Music Director Katie Noonan has selected three finalists singer Cath Purcell, Lenita Woodsbey and Bianca Lugo for the "Songs that Made Me" mentorship program.

You may even spot a few string students/teachers/adults you know playing in MICE Performance Strings, Yvonne Moore, Evelyn Martens, Olivia Fricke, Chloe Barr, Tara Cherian, Karen Ranjit Kumar, Chloe McLean, Chloe Johnston, Monica Larkin, Kate Lavell, Helena Fricke, Jessica Griffin, Naomi Spitner Lewis, Alison Nicholson, Rachel Horwood, Kate Johnson, Stephanie Bithell, Aeryn Larkin, Jade Marinelli and Sophie Moore.

Yvonne Moore – Instrumental Music

CURRICULUM UPDATE

Wushka Reading Resource

Our school is subscribed to an online levelled reading program called WUSHKA. Several multiage families trialled the site for us and it was found to be very beneficial for supplementary reading resources. The resources can be accessed on your computer or mobile device.

Contact your teacher for login details, and visit the site to explore - <http://wushka.com.au/>

Janeen Fricke, Deputy Principal

Mid Year Reporting & Moderation

With report cards being completed for the end of Semester 1, it is worthwhile to remember some important information concerning grades. Our assessment and reporting framework provides that a “C” on the report card means that your child is demonstrating learning at an age/grade appropriate level. Children develop socially, emotionally and academically at different rates. Some children can work at an above year level standard one semester and a lower standard the next. This occurs for a variety of reasons e.g. a developmental growth spurt, the work covered was an area of interest, standard of work has increased in complexity etc.

This year at MISOTA considerable time and resources have been dedicated to aligning the C2C materials and assessment to the National Curriculum, to ensure success for our students and to engage with the continuous improvement agenda of Education Queensland. The new versions of curriculum materials now contain standardised criteria and exemplars to assist us in making professional judgements that are consistent with other schools in Queensland.

As distance education schools and mainstream schools work together for moderation processes, we can be more confident now that a “C” at MISOTA is comparable with a “C” at any other school. This is reassuring for teachers and parents and in the future will create a smoother transition for students moving to other schools within our state and federal systems. Please speak with your class teacher about their involvement in moderation, as it is an important part of our teaching and learning process.

Janeen Fricke, Deputy Principal

Mailroom News

Please ensure all resources are returned to school after the unit is complete. There is a list on the resource bag or science kit to assist with the complete return of these resources. Please ensure all items are included before returning. A list of items to be returned is available from myself in the curriculum room to assist.

When visiting Mount Isa please come into the mailroom to collect your mail. If possible, please let me know that you will be visiting. I can hold sending any mail for a couple of days before to assist you with receiving your mail faster.

If you feel it is taking too long to receive mail from school and I can make a difference by sending out your mail on a different day, please contact me so a solution can be worked on.

There may be times when you don't have a blue bag at home or have too much mail (eg. library books) to fit in a bag. Please place the mail in a postpack or box and use the following Reply Paid address:

The Principal
Mount Isa School of the Air
Reply Paid No 1683
PO Box 1683
MOUNT ISA QLD 4825

If you do not often send mail to school and have three or more blue satchels at home, please keep one and return the rest, some packed inside one satchel. The satchels are easily identifiable by Australia Post and save the cost of tough bag purchases.

Leah Allingham

GENERAL INTEREST



Our school has a subscription to the Computer School. The Computer School has tutorials and information on using any computer program or device, it is a wonderful resource. The field team are demonstrating its use at group days.

There are two ways to access the Computer School:

1. Go to our school website and click on the Computer School link. (Use the password: tmoes2013)
2. Go to www.thecomputerschool.net and log in. Username: mtisaschoolofair (password: tmoes2013)

ASG Inspirational Teaching Awards NEITA

Our school is fortunate to have a quality staff. I know from numerous comments, that many children, govies and parents hold a staff member in high regard. These National Excellence in Teaching Awards are an opportunity to nominate a staff member and give them special recognition for their effort and commitment. If a staff member is nominated, we make a presentation to them at our graduation night at the end of the year. It has an amazingly powerful effect on the staff member and is valuable encouragement for them to continue to do a great job.

I would encourage you to nominate a staff member, prior to the closing date of 3 July 2017, by completing the online nomination form at www.asg.com.au/nominate

Bullying - Resources

Fortunately, in our school, bullying is a rare occurrence. However from time to time it does occur at some of our field events and in online situations. It is important when it does occur for it to be reported and appropriately dealt with. Please report any instances of bullying to the teachers in charge of the field event or, if online, to the principal.

As our children go off to boarding schools, the incidence of encountering bullying is more likely. A wonderful resource for students and families - Bullying. No Way! focuses on bullying between students. This site gives information on how to spot the signs your child is being bullied, tips on dealing with bullying and how to keep your child safe. Other than the website there is a terrific App called Take a Stand Together. Please download this and check this out – user friendly for students and also terrific resources and tips for adults helping their child develop and grow in a complex world. Useful for students in various educational contexts.

<http://bullyingnoway.gov.au/>

P&C Committee

PRESIDENT	Annie Hacon - Cubbaroo Station, Cloncurry 07 4742 5933 cubbaroo@gmail.com
SECRETARY	Deborah Keats - Bow Park, Julia Creek 07 4746 8603 deborah@rqkeats.com
TREASURER	Nic Kennedy - Ardmore Station, Mount Isa 07 4748 4858 candnkennedy@gmail.com
VICE PRESIDENTS	
<i>Souvenirs</i>	<i>Position Vacant</i>
<i>Home Tutor Seminar</i>	Tina Barrett - Avon Downs, Mount Isa 08 8964 5551 tbarrett@aaco.com.au
<i>Fundraising</i>	Sally Towne - Gogo Station, Fitzroy Crossing 08 9191 5185 sallytowne@gmail.com
<i>Bush Kids Calendar & Facebook Admin</i>	Sarah Acton - Herbert Downs Station, Boulia 07 4746 1250 sarah@actonlcc.com.au
WISE	Shelly Hawkins - Herbertvale Station, Mount Isa 07 4748 4910 cshawkins@skymesh.com.au
SODEA REPRESENTATIVE	Shelly Hawkins - Herbertvale Station, Mount Isa 07 4748 4910 cshawkins@skymesh.com.au

ICPA & SFBK

If you're not already a Mount Isa ICPA Branch Of The Air (BOTA) member, you are encouraged to join and attend our monthly teleconference - usually held on the third Tuesday of each month at 3pm.

As the ICPA Australia website explains "ICPA ... is a voluntary, non-profit, apolitical parent body dedicated to ensuring that all rural and remote students have equity of access to a continuing and appropriate education." ICPA are responsible for things such as the recent increase to hardware and software subsidies received by distance education families, and locally, the ICPA BOTA coordinates the annual Sports For Bush Kids (SFBK), sponsors the Mount Isa Eisteddfod of the Air and is involved in various other school related activities.

Whilst we are a local branch, ICPA BOTA has very strong involvement with Federal and State Council; Wendy Hick is Federal President, and associate member Kim Hughes is State President. Kylie Camp – who is our standing Branch Vice- President – is a State Councillor. In addition, some of our branch members have been actively involved in the C2C reference group, advising Education Queensland on the new curriculum content as it is developed.

SFBK is our biggest annual event. SFBK is held in Mount Isa at the end of term four & coincides with school break-up. Coaches provide intense but worthy sports development skills which, because of their geographical isolation to such activities, children might not otherwise learn during their primary school years. Swimming is a huge focus, as well as sports instruction sessions (and games on the last day) for up to nine different sports.

The SFBK dates for 2017 are 27 Nov – 1 Dec.

Please contact the executive listed below if you would like to become involved or have any enquiries.

Executive for 2017

President: Sancia Fegan Kelloshiel Station, Julia Creek
07 4746 8850 sancia_ashley@hotmail.com

Secretary: Jacki Bishop Gallipoli, Mount Isa
08 8964 5560 Jacki.brolga@bigpond.com

Treasurer: Tina Barrett Avon Downs, Mount Isa
08 8964 5551 tbarrett@aaco.com.au

SFBK

Co-ordinators: Shelly Hawkins Herbertvale Station, Mount Isa
07 4748 4998 clintshellyhawkins@westnet.com.au
Sarah Ferriday Soudan Station, Mount Isa



*Spinifex State College
Mount Isa
Residential Campus*

*Enquire Now Phone 07 47454333
Email ResAdmin@spinifexsc.eq.edu.au*



'Sharing Knowledge, Creating our Future'

- A local solution for boarding school requirements serving North West Queensland communities since 2003.
- Co-Educational Boarding Years from 7-12
- Students attend Spinifex Senior or Junior Campus
- A qualified highly experienced teacher on campus
- On campus chef
- Supervised activities by qualified Recreational Officer
- Students Support Workers on site 24/7
- Playing fields and Multi-purpose court
- Single and multiple share rooms with ensuite
- Providing challenging opportunities for students to increase their tolerance, resiliency, respect and participation in community service.
- Developing student's decision making skills to help prepare him/her for the future and to achieve his/her potential.
- Providing a safe and supportive environment where students have the opportunity for social, emotional, cultural and educational growth.