Wednesday 1 June 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our new-look newsletter. We are slowly replacing all of our older designed stationery to create a uniform look across everything we send out. It also allows us to squeeze a little bit more in each week as we have a bit more space.

Visit from the ARD

Last week, we had a visit from the Assistant Regional Director, Janelle Reid, who came to observe our reading intervention programs. She was very impressed with the progress that our students are making, which is great feedback on the things we are doing at Monkland.

Reading Certificates

I have enjoyed handing out certificates on Friday to those students who have read consistently and recorded it in their Home Reading Journals. This Friday, we are giving out our first certificates for 75 nights of reading, which is a phenomenal effort. Remember that for each 25 nights recorded, students will get a ticket in the prize draw at the end of term for a book bag. There will be one book bag for P-2 and one for 3-6.

Report Cards

Teachers are currently assessing and getting ready to write report cards. It is important that students attend school regularly so that they can demonstrate their learning. At this stage, report cards will go out in Week 11, in order to give teachers the maximum amount of time to teach and assess students.

Kind regards,

Principal
Prep/1 has been busy reading fairytales. Our favourite thing has been planting magic beans to grow our very own beanstalk, just like Jack. We have been building houses with different materials like The Three Little Pigs. In Maths Rotations we have been sorting The Three Bears chairs, beds and bowls and measuring Rapunzel’s Hair. We have also been giving directions to get Red Riding Hood to Grannies House. Did you know you can also make a castle from 2D Shapes? Fairytales are so much fun!

Year One/Two have been working hard on their maths this week. We have received colourful new MAB blocks and stamps that are helping us with our learning. The Year One’s have been investigating number stories. They have been looking closely at the language used to work out if they need to add or subtract, writing number sentences, using counters and number lines. The Year Two’s have been using the shiny, new MAB blocks to practise two-digit addition and subtraction using the split strategy. Congratulations on your great work in maths Year One/Two!

We have been having an interesting time in Science in the 3/4 classroom this term as we have explored heating and cooling of different materials. Our latest experiment was quite interesting – we had the chance to melt some chocolate!

When we discovered the late autumn afternoon sun was not a very good heat source for melting chocolate, we decided to add more heat. Putting our plastic bags of chocolate on a hot water bottle was a very interesting result. Of course, no eating of the experiment was allowed, however we were lucky to have some leftover chocolate at the end!

In Science, Years 5 and 6 have been looking at the properties of solids, liquids and gases. We have been exploring the everyday uses of gases, as well as the impact of gases on the Greenhouse Effect and global warming.

We have been accumulating a wide range of uniforms, particularly jumpers, in the Lost Property box. Can parents please make sure that all uniform items are labelled to make it easier to find their owners?

We appreciate that sometimes parents are unable to get to school at 3pm to pick up their children. Any students who are waiting for their parents are encouraged to wait at the library area where they can be supervised. If you are going to be later than usual, please phone the school and we can let your children know to wait.

This Friday, the Year 5 and 6s will be attending the Gympie Sports Development Day, where they have the opportunity to learn new sports skills with other schools in Gympie.

Our decoding strategy for this newsletter is **LIPS THE FISH** — use the beginning and ending sounds. Get your lips ready for the first sound.

Decoding Strategy

**Lips the Fish**

Use the beginning AND ending sounds. Get your lips ready for the first sound.

**Reading**

Our comprehension strategy for this newsletter is **MAKING CONNECTIONS**.

Making connections is when we make links between what we already know (our prior knowledge) and the text.

**TEXT TO SELF**

This is when we connect the text to our own experiences.

**TEXT TO TEXT**

Text to text connections are when we compare the text we are reading to other similar texts. These texts could be books or visual texts such as a movie or a TV programme.

**TEXT TO WORLD**

This is when we connect what we are reading to things that really happen in the outside world.

**National Reconciliation Week**

27 May - 3 June