MONKLAND STATE SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

2 February 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our first newsletter for the 2016 school year. It has been a busy start to the year, but the students have jumped in and begun on the right foot, especially considering the hot weather we have been suffering over the last few days. The school is investigating air conditioning for the classrooms in order to help create a more comfortable learning environment for our students.

Reading and Attendance

Our two biggest priorities for Monkland State School in 2016 are reading and attendance. The school is investing over $70,000 in support for reading, including new resources and programs to help students become more effective readers. All of this extra support will be ineffective however if students are not at school to learn. Parents and carers are reminded that it is your responsibility to inform the school of any absence within three days. When the rolls have been marked, the school will follow up any absences, but often we only get people’s messages bank.

Day 4 and Day 8

This week we have our two most important data collection days. Our current enrolments are 79 students. On Friday, the numbers we submit determine our staffing for the 2016 school year. If we fall below 78 students, we lose our entitlement to four classroom teachers. Hopefully, it does not come to that, but we need to ensure that every student who is enrolled attends school regularly to prevent this.

Kind regards,

Craig Barrett
Principal
BE SAFE

Monkland State School now has a Facebook page to keep you up-to-date on everything that is happening. Before we can post pictures of students we need to make sure that parents and carers have updated their media permission forms to include Facebook. These have been sent home today with the students.

To find us, just search for Monkland State School on Facebook and look for our school logo.

Permission and Medical Forms

Today we have sent home new permission and medical forms for signing and updating. These need to be done annually to make sure we have all the appropriate information available.

Specialist Lessons

The following staff will be teaching specialist lessons this year:

Music - Mrs Desly Meads - Monday
PE - Mr Jordan Boyd - Wednesday
LOTE - Mr Tom Lloyd - Tuesday/Wednesday (5/6)
Library - Mrs Rachel Corbet - Wednesday

Tuckshop

We are seeking volunteers who may be able to help out run our tuckshop. This is a vital fundraising service for the P and C to support our school. If you can spare any time, can you please contact the school and we will pass on your details to the P and C.

Strings

Welcome back for 2016. Lessons will be beginning next Monday 8th February in the music room.

BE RESPECTFUL

There are still available places for Years 3 - 6 on violin, viola and cello - please contact the office if your child is interested.

The music levy of $20 is now due (this covers the cost of music, photocopying and workshops) and is payable to the school office. In addition if you are hiring an instrument a $40 fee applies and a loan agreement form must be completed before an instrument can go home.

I look forward to an enjoyable year of music.
Candice Patrick - Strings

Religious Instruction

Religious Instruction will begin next Tuesday at 9am in the library. Only students whose parents or carers have given permission will be attending. Please also note that Preps cannot attend Religious Instruction under Education Guidelines.

Morning Routine

Because the school does not provide supervision for students who arrive before 8:30 am, any students who do so are to sit under the building in the Parade area until released by the staff member on duty.

Computers

At the end of last term, the computers in the 5/6 and 1/2 room were upgraded. This term we are hoping to upgrade the computers in the 3/4 classroom in order to provide students with up-to-date access to the latest technology.

Coding

One of Education Queensland’s new initiatives is the introduction of coding into all state schools. Monkland has identified a coding program that we are going to introduce over the next years to support students in learning coding.

BE RESPONSIBLE

School Banking

School banking will resume this week on Thursday. If you would like to start school banking with your child, please collect an application form from the School Office.

This year, every student who makes 15 or more School Banking deposits by the end of Term 3, 2016 will automatically go into the draw to win a family trip for two adults and three children to meet the Irwins at Australia Zoo.

Community Notices

Gympie Girl Guides

Empowering girls and young women to grow into confident self-respecting, responsible, community members

Guides is about having fun, making friends, learning skills, and being part of the wider community. We have vacancies for all age groups, including 18-30 year olds. We are also on the lookout for women who like the idea of helping girls achieve all the above. We will train you and help with all aspects of becoming a leader, including getting a blue card. Call ASAP to get started early this term.

Gympie District Guides meet at 19 Shanks Street, Gympie at the following times:-

Monday 4-5.30pm 5-7 year olds Jenny 0433 385 777 gympiegumnuts@hotmail.com
Tuesday 3.30-6pm 13-17 years Leonora 0425 850 360 leonoracox@gmail.com
Wednesday 4.30-6.30 7-9 year olds Heather 0413 674 457 brownies101@bigpond.com

And the fantastic news is that we have a new unit starting at Tin Can Bay!! Please contact Heather 0413 674 457, or enquire at Tin Can Bay State School.

2016 is going to be an exciting year with lots of outdoor activities, community involvement, leadership development, arts and crafts, camping, music, cooking, and lots, lots more. In fact, any ideas the girls have, the leaders try to implement. There are badges to earn too if that’s what you want to do.

Come and try during week 2 and 3 and you will find there’s a lot more to guides than you realise.