Tuesday, 17th February 2015

FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

School Key Priorities
In 2015 we aim to reach new heights regarding school performance. Over the past four years it has been our endeavour not only to increase the academic performance of our students but also further develop the whole child emotionally and socially. This year we have set some very clear goals and targets to measure our success. They all hinge around three major areas:-

1. Engagement
   • 93% and higher attendance rate for 2015

2. Achievement
   • 80% and higher of student achieving C or better in English, Mathematics and Science.
   • 95% of students at and above National Minimum Standards in two thirds of NAPLAN (year 3 & 5)
   • 45% of students well above year level standard (upper two band scales) in two thirds of NAPLAN

3. Quality and Satisfaction
   • Maintain 90% and higher Parent, staff and student satisfaction in School Opinion Surveys.

P & C
With our first P&C meeting last Tuesday it was clearly discussed the need to grow our numbers and parental support. Tuesday the 10th of March at 3:30pm in the Library will be the Annual General Meeting with all official positions open. I encourage all parents to get involved as each year the P&C help fund and support through a variety of ways quality learning at Monkland.

Improving Literacy
Since the beginning of school we have had the services of Kimberley Bachman. Kimberley is working closely with our teaching staff and students in the delivery of Reading strategies to further help and improve in reading comprehension. The past fortnight students have been using strategies such as:

- Predicting: making predictions
- Prior Knowledge: accessing prior knowledge
- Clues: checking for words that give clues to what happens next in the story.

Attendance
Monkland State School cannot stress enough how important it is to have your children at school. If by any chance your child/ren are not at school please contact the office explaining their absence on 07 5489 8888

Yours truly,

Mr Ashley Lawless
Principal
17th February, 2015

SCHOOL NEWS:

Please note the newsletter is published fortnightly. If you miss a newsletter or want to refer to a back copy, Monkland State School newsletters are available on our website: www.monklannds.eq.edu.au

SCHOOL WEEKLY ROUTINE:

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SCHOOL PARKING AND VEHICLE SAFETY REMINDER
At Monkland SS we are very lucky as we are one of the very few schools in Gympie where parents can drive on the school campus to collect their children. Therefore, it is vital that this is done safely and sensibly. Please remember that the speed bumps are there to slow people down - not to use as a slalom course, the speed limit is 10 KMS PER HOUR and the roundabout is a Stop-Drop-Go zone only and parents are not to park there as it causes traffic congestion and confusion. Also, please remind your child to always cross at the designated crossing.

SPEEDING ON SCHOOL GROUNDS ENDANGERS THE LIVES OF CHILDREN

GYMPIE TIMES CLASSROOM MAKEOVER COMPETITION
The Gympie Times is running a competition to win a school classroom makeover valued at $5000. All that you have to do, is collect the tokens from the Gympie Times (starting from Saturday the 14th of February) and drop them into the school office. The school with the most tokens per student wins the makeover. The competition is running until the end of March so send in your papers and tokens. See the insert in today’s newsletter for more info.

PRIMARY SCHOOL 7-A-SIDE HOCKEY COMPETITION
Well done to those students who represented Monkland at the Primary School Hockey competition on Friday. The competition goes for another three weeks, so any students interested in joining can see Mr H.

Monkland Hockey Team: Jasmine, Kasey, Halle and Elsi
(Izak also played, but absent for photo)

AWARDS ON PARADE:

Awards on Parade Friday, 6th February: Back row – Billy, Shakeeifie, Gemma, Jessica. Front – Tyler, Jayah, Makayla, Ruby


Gotcha Awards Monday, 16th February: Keanu and Leon
Congratulations award recipients - keep up the good work!
Tennis Saturday Junior Tennis Hot Shots
The Gympie and District Junior Tennis Association Coaches Brett Cottrill and Matt Watkins will be commencing Saturday morning tennis for juniors from beginners to advanced levels at The Reg English memorial Tennis Centre from Saturday 14th Feb for term 1. This program will be based on the Hot Shots program of game play and skill development. Juniors that have also played in the school holiday fun tournaments or participated in school tennis coaching programs will be suited to this program. Times will be from 8.30am to 10.00am each Saturday. Cost will be $12/week per child and $18/week for two children in the same family. For bookings or more information please call Brett Cottrill on 0417746795. Note: Free Junior Membership to The Gympie And District Tennis Assoc for 2015.

Primary School Challenges
The first Primary School Challenge for 2015 will take place on Wednesday 25th February at The Reg English Memorial Tennis Centre on Cartwright Rd from 3.30 pm until 5.30 pm. Cost will be $10/Child or $15 for 2 children in the same family or $20 for 3 or more players in the same family. Primary School challenge 2 will be held on Wednesday 25th March.
Free sausage sizzle for all participants. For more details contact Brett Cottrill 0417746795.

THANK YOU TO PETSTOCK GYMPIE!
In week two, we introduced the Prep/1 class to their names class pets - a pair of beautiful budgies. The class is going to be observing, and discussing their new pets’ needs (and our own) in Science activities on Tuesday mornings with Mrs Bond. We wish to thank Petstock Gympie for kindly donating the beautiful cage the budgies now call home. The birds have already settled in and appreciate it’s wonderful size. Watch this space for further budgie news!! Mrs Bond

281 Brisbane Road Gympie
Please support the businesses that support our school.

P & C MEETING
Being involved with the P & C is a great way to contribute to your child’s educational environment. Monkland State School has a very active and supportive P & C. Why not come along to a meeting – it is a great way to meet other families and be involved with your child’s school. The next P & C meeting and Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, 10th March at 3.30pm in the library. All are welcome. All P & C positions will be declared open. Training and support is provided for anyone taking on an executive role.

UNIFORM SHOP
The Uniform Shop is open on Thursdays from 8.30 – 9am. Please note the Uniform Shop will not be open on the 19th and 26th of February as Bec is away – please see Madonna in the office if you require uniforms on those days.

TUCKSHOP NEWS
TUCKSHOP HOME BAKERS REQUIRED - If you are able to assist with Home Baking to sell at the Tuck Shop, please fill out and return the form below to the office.

☐ Yes I can assist with Home Baking for Monkland Tuck Shop
Name: ...........................................................................................................
Contact Number: ......................................................................................

TUCKSHOP CONVENOR POSITION STILL VACANT
Volunteer Position - 1 day per week (Convenor’s choice)
$40/month Fuel Allowance. If you are interested please submit a letter of interest to the office.

GYMPIE DEVILS RUGBY LEAGUE
Sign-ons every Thursday 4.30 – 5.30pm
(Birth Certificate required)
Free Gala Day – Thursday 26th February
Jack Stokes Oval, Smith Road, Monkland
Further enquiries please call Darren Burns - 0412 809108

P & C NEWS:

STRING NEWS
Just a reminder that instrumental music fees are due. $20 own instrument and $60 if borrowing an instrument. Every student must have a display folder and beginner students need the book ‘Sound Innovations’ available from Gympie Musicland. Please contact me via the school office if you have any questions. Candice Patrick - Strings Teacher

TERM DATES 2015
The information listed below is current and sourced from the Education Queensland website. For more information on school holidays and Pupil Free Days go to www.education.qld.gov.au

Term 1 2015: Tue 27th January – Thu 2nd April
Term 2 2015: Mon 20th April – Fri 26th June
Term 3 2015: Mon 13th July – Fri 18th September
Term 4 2015: Tue 6th October – Fri 11th December
1. POSTULATE: – To claim, demand or assert something as truth (verb)
2. HYPERBOLE – Exaggerated statements or claims not meant to be taken literally (noun)