**From the Principal**

**HELLO!**

As you may already know we have been placing a huge amount of focus on student reading this year but some may ask the question ‘Why is reading so important?’

Reading is a significant part of learning. It is a fundamental requirement in any field or subject – from language to science and math. If you think about it, almost our entire education system is based on our children’s ability to understand, interpret and analyse written texts.

Our kids need to be capable, confident readers in order to make sense of the huge amount of information they are exposed to. They also need to be able to create written work that gets a particular message across in a coherent way and this requires the ability to read well.

Reading immerses kids in language, exposing them to new words and to ideas and experiences outside their own day-to-day lives. Reading is about interpreting what the author has written, making meaning from what is said and from what is left unsaid and the more a child reads the better he gets at doing this. In a nutshell, reading is the foundation stone of all education.

**How you can help your child with reading**

To get your child interested in reading, it’s important to vary the books you read together and to talk about the types of material you read each day.

Our school encourages parents to work with us to develop children’s reading skills. Here are a few tips to get you started:

- play number plate games in the car by looking at different number plates and making sentences starting with the same letters
- encourage children to re-tell stories they have read and to share these stories with other family members
- when reading to your child, stop and ask “what do you think will happen next?” and occasionally ask “why do you think the author included that part in the story?” to ensure they understand what they are reading
- if your child makes a mistake when they read aloud, give them time to correct the mistake themselves.
- congratulating your child on their reading – this will encourage them to enjoy the reading experience
- pointing out words as you read them, especially long or interesting words – this will create a word bank or a spelling list which will help your child with their writing
- making a message board or space at home and encouraging your child to read and leave messages for other family members – this will also give them an important job in the household.

Let’s all work together to make our children the best readers they can be!

**Miss Campbell**
From the Principal

Our ‘Everyday Counts’ Program
Each student will receive $1.00 each week for 100% attendance. The students will collect their paper dollars in their paper piggy-banks. At the end of the year they will receive their earnings in vouchers for Toyworld, Charter Towers. As part of our break up day we will bus the students into Charters Towers to use their vouchers. There are 10 weeks in each term and 4 terms in a year which means each student has the potential to earn up to $40.00. This program is designed to cut down on the unexplained absences and I would like to stress that if your child is ill the best place for them is at home. Due to the fact that this program is starting mid-year the students will be awarded their dollars for Semester 1 on weeks they achieved 100% attendance.

Attendance
This week’s attendance is 91.71%. This is predominantly due to illness. Remember, if your child is sick, the best place for them to be is at home resting. There have been no unexplained absences this week.

School Mobile
The school mobile is now up and running—you can contact the Principal directly on 0459 380 945.

Student Awards
The following students received awards -
Week 4—Hayley and Billy, for being respectful of others’ learning
Week 5—James, for caring for school property, the property of others and the environment

Footy Colours Fundraiser
The school is currently raising funds in support of the Footy Colours Fundraiser to fight cancer. Donation boxes are available at the shop, the mine and the school—please support our fundraiser with a gold coin donation.

The school will hold a Footy Colours Day on Friday 5th September. For a gold coin donation, you can wear your favourite team’s footy colours to school! Footy colour clothing must comply with the school’s sun safety policy (no singlets or tank tops, broad-brimmed hat) and shoes must be closed in with socks.

To try and do all that we can for this great cause we have also sent each student home with an envelope to collect voluntary donations from friends and family.

NQ Sports Foundation Sports Day
Students were visited by members of the NQ Sports Foundation on Tuesday afternoon. The NQ Sports Foundation members spent the afternoon coaching students on tennis and soccer skills with the students before putting their skills into practice with team games of soccer and tennis. Turn to the back page for photos.

Homework Reading Logs
Congratulations to those students who have achieved the next level of reading nights in their homework reading log. Students need to ensure that they and their parents are completing the logs correctly—if logs are not completed correctly from now to the end of the year, students will not be eligible for the $5 Scholastic voucher for reaching the next level of completed reading nights. The log must be completed fully each night the student reads—reading logs which do not have the date, book title and a comment from the student or parent will need to be completed fully before the student can receive their voucher.

P-2 students can ask an older sibling or grownup to scribe the book title and the date. They can also help the P-2 student to scribe the comments for each book.

3-7 students should be completing the reading log on their own—write the date you read the book, the book title, the page number you read up to and what you think of the book—remember to write about any inferences, connections or predictions you made about the book.

RAFS Playgroup
Last Wednesday the school was visited by the RAFS ladies who hosted a playgroup and morning tea for the local playgroup aged children. Turn to the back page for photos of the children participating in and enjoying activities such as painting, puzzles and group activities.

Catch it, Bin it, Kill it!
Although the weather has begun to warm up, there are still a lot of colds and sniffles being shared among the community. Remember to be cold and flu aware—catch the germs in a tissue, bin the tissue and then thoroughly wash your hands with soap and then dry them. Students who are genuinely sick should also be kept home to allow them to recover and to minimise the spread of illness.

We provide a learning environment which supports students in their achievement, facilitated by skilled, professional and compassionate staff.
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