Dear Parents/Carers,
Principal’s report – Week 6

Crossing Safety
The safety of our students is of the highest importance and this week I have reminded students about the importance of the safe usage of our pedestrian crossing on Shakespeare Street. Our crossing supervisors have reported a number of students and parents regularly crossing Shakespeare Street at unsafe places and putting themselves at risk of being struck by a car. The frustrating aspect of these incidents is that they are taking place in close proximity to the school pedestrian crossing that is fully supervised every morning and afternoon. Please help us by ensuring that students and parents use our crossing and keep our community safe.

Community Benefit Funds Unit Grant
We have recently learned that our school has been successful in applying for a $16 500 grant from The Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation Community Benefit Funds Unit. This department distributes revenue from gaming taxes to various not-for-profit community groups throughout Queensland.

The grant will go towards the full installation of an industrial sized fan to our school hall. We are hoping that the installation process will begin in 4 – 5 weeks. I would like to thank Mrs Tammy Wanstall for her hard work in preparing the grant application.

Change of classes
Thank you for your patience and flexibility as we recently re-aligned the Year 1 & 2 classes and transferred a small number of students between classes. This means that we can have smaller class sizes and less composite classes.

Southern Suburbs Sport
Congratulations to John Nicdao (Year 6) who has been successful in making the Southern Suburbs Basketball team. John will compete today in the Mackay District trials and we wish him well in his endeavours.

Every Day Counts
Most classes are off to a great start with attendance rates in 2016. Our school average is currently sitting at 93.6%.
This Week’s winners of our attendance mascot Ernie the Emu (for the second week in a row) are our wonderful Prep class with over 97% of students being at school every day.
**PREP BEDS FOR SALE**
We have a number of beds that were used in our Preschool unit for student rest time that we are selling for $20 each. They were purchased for $60 each and are still in very good condition and are ideal for camping/sleep overs. Contact our Prep teacher Mrs Burns if you are interested in purchasing a bed or two.

**CHAPPY CHAP**
Help your child establish a good homework routine
Help your child with their homework – but don’t do their homework for them!
Most children start getting homework from the first year of school – practising reading, spelling, writing and arithmetic initially, but evolving into larger, more complex research projects later on. Help your child by encouraging them, testing their spelling, listening to their reading, and guiding them if they can’t see the solution to a problem or don’t know where to look for information.

- Don’t simply answer their questions – guide them as to how to find the answer for themselves
- Take an interest in what they are learning about – you might learn something too!
- Establish set times for play time and homework time after school so the children have a routine

Thanks
Chappy Cam

**STUDENT ABSENCES.**
In line with the Education Act regarding compulsory attendance, it is necessary for Parents/Caregivers to provide a letter of explanation, or phone the school, regarding their child's absence from school. To date this term, we already have a large number of unexplained absences which Education Queensland will require us to report on. If your child is absent for any reason, please advise with a note on their return to school, or phone call to the office.

Our new phone system is set up to record your student’s absence. When you ring the school number, just press 1 on the keypad and record student’s absence details. If you wish to use this option, this will save you forwarding notes to the Class Teacher.

**MARCH**
◆ Jack Hingston
◆ Clark Real
◆ George Samson
◆ Mac Jiro Cheng
◆ Krystal Cahill
◆ Marsha Elpa
◆ Neyshan Hall
◆ James Attard
◆ Madison Hearne
◆ Jaylm Peepe
◆ Lockie Turner
◆ Joshua Bustillo
◆ Lain Doyle
◆ Joseph Penola
◆ Cory Samson
◆ Martchie Clemente
◆ Anuksha Everest

**STUDENT OF THE WEEK**
**WEEK BEGINNING 22/02/2016**
PREP: Jesse Coomber
Jesse has been listening carefully and working to the best of his ability at prep.

YEAR 1/2L: Lovely Callos
Lovely you really are lovely. Thank you for always being kind to your classmates.

YEAR 1/2C: Kaiden Astridge
For writing clear and descriptive recipe titles and goals.

YEAR 1/2C: Breath Canete
For writing clear and descriptive recipe titles and goals.

YEAR 3: Xavier Whitehouse
An outstanding effort in Persuasive Writing! Well done Xavier!

YEAR 4/5: Alex Doyle
Great week all round! Behaviour fantastic and working enthusiastically!

YEAR 5: Troy Bentley
Congratulations on a fantastically focussed week in Year 5 - full of participation, fun and responsible choices.
YEAR 6: Ethan Douglas
For excellent participation in class and being a responsible class member. Well done Ethan!

STUDENT OF THE WEEK
WEEK BEGINNING 29/02/2016
PREP: Jack Hingston
Jack is always eager to learn and is a happy, well-mannered student. Keep up the great work!

YEAR 1/2L: Altamash Alam
Yippee! What a super student you are! Always trying your BEST :)

YEAR 1/2L: Mikaylah Black
Yippee! What a super student you are! Always trying your BEST :)

YEAR 1/2L: Megan Daniel-Anau
Yippee! What a super student you are! Always trying your BEST :)

YEAR 1/2C: Amos Grigg
For enthusiastically assisting in jointly writing a procedure.

YEAR 3: Josiah Da Silva
Outstanding ideas during Persuasive Writing lesson! Well done Josiah!

YEAR 4/5: Denise Cotter
Great attitude towards everything she does at school.

YEAR 5: Sia Chuenjaidee
For consistently displaying responsible choices - thank you for your dedicated and enthusiastic attitude!

YEAR 6: Meg Dimaandal
For demonstrating an outstanding attitude towards her learning and being a role model in class. Well done Meg!

COMMUNITY NEWS

SCHOOL BUS ASSISTANCE FOR LOWER INCOME FAMILIES
The Safety Net Scheme was developed by the State Government to assist students who do not receive other forms of School Transport Assistance and are members of lower income families.

Who may be eligible?
To be eligible for assistance under the Safety Net Scheme, students must be in one of the following categories:

- Students of families eligible for a Health Care Card
- Students eligible for a Health Care Card
- Students of families eligible for a Pensioner Concession Card
- Students of families receiving Veterans Affairs Pension
- Students placed under a Care and Protection Order.

Application forms with further details are available by calling into the Translink Division of the Department of Transport and Main Roads in Nelson Street, Mackay or by telephoning 4951 8673.

CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE ASSISTANCE
Conveyance Allowance is an assistance provided by the Department Transport and Main Roads to eligible parents/guardians who drive their students to school or to the route of the school bus.

There are several types of Conveyance Allowance available. These are determined by the type of school attended, distance driven to school or bus route and the type of school bus service (if any) provided in your area.

Application forms with further details are available by calling into the Translink Division of the Department of Transport and Main Roads in Nelson Street, Mackay or by telephoning 4951 8673.