



# Newsletter

## BE THE BEST YOU



13 MAY 2024

### From the Principal

Term 2 has started well, despite many public holidays.

Our students have been busy entertaining us with jokes of the week on assembly, and so far, we have focussed on the **values**: Be safe, Be respectful and Be responsible. Being a learner will become important in the next week or so, as students start to do mid-term assessment.

We have also settled in to the new **Administration building**, and those that have visited have been very impressed with the changes and the excellent space we now have access to work in and serve our school community. Remember, please enter the school via the green gates.

The **student council** has done a wonderful job creating gifts for our Mother's Day. I hope all mothers, Aunties, Grandmother's, Caregivers etc had a wonderful Mother's Day.

The **P&C meeting** will be held this Wednesday night at **7PM**. Please note the change of time from 6pm. It will be held in the Staffroom, see you all there.

**Afternoon School activities** have begun, with Sporting schools-Athletics on a Monday afternoon with Mr Harris & Mrs King, and on Wednesday afternoons there is Cooking Club with Mrs De Luca and Mrs McCulloch, and the Creative Generation Dance group will start next Wednesday for those successful in auditioning. Please ensure if your children are attending these that all permission forms are handed in, otherwise they may not be able to attend. I would like to thank those staff who give up their time to ensure our students are enriched with cocurricular activities.

The **Manual Arts room** has recently been reviewed and has had a bit of a makeover, with some machinery being deemed out of date or not meeting safety standards for schools. These items have been removed. Some of these items will go out for tender in the coming weeks. I would like to thank Mr Edwards, Mr Harris, and Mrs Ball for their assistance with ensuring our Technologies room is compliant for our students. Their efforts have been greatly appreciated.

For such a small school, there is never a dull moment, our students are very fortunate to have so many opportunities to be a part of.

Mrs Kirby

Principal

### Celebrate



#### Tuckshop in Week 6

TUESDAY 20<sup>th</sup> May

Hamburger

Brenda, Trudy & Leanne

## From the Head of Department – Curriculum

### End of Semester Rewards Trip

We're nearly at the half way point of Term 2, so it's a good time to check in to see how your student/s are progressing towards their eligibility for the end of semester rewards trip to Area 51 in Brisbane. Remember to be eligible for this trip students must meet a number of criteria as outlined below:

The criteria include:

<b>Attendance</b>	The student's semester attendance rate must be at or above 85% for them to meet these criteria.																																										
<b>Hi5's</b>	Students will need to obtain at least 200 Hi 5s in the Semester.																																										
<b>Effort in class</b>  (Term 1 & Term 2 Report Cards)	A grade point average score will be calculated using the information obtained from term 1 & 2 report cards for effort for each learning area. The grade- point average needs to be above a 3 to meet this criterion. Below are the scores awarded to each category on the report card.  Excellent – 5, Very Good – 4, Satisfactory – 3, Needs Attention -4 & Unsatisfactory - 5																																										
<b>Behaviour in class</b>  (Term 1 & Term 2 Report Cards)	A grade point average score will be calculated using the information obtained from term 1 & 2 report cards for Behaviour for each learning area. The grade-point average needs to be above a 3 to meet these criteria. Below are the scores awarded to each category on the report card.  Excellent – 5, Very Good – 4, Satisfactory – 3, Needs Attention -4 & Unsatisfactory - 5																																										
Example of how the grade point average is calculated for effort and behaviour	<b>Behaviour:                    Very Good 4</b> <b>Parent Interview:        Interview welcomed but not requested</b>																																										
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<b>Grade Point Average</b>	Effort = $5+3+5+5+4+4+5+3+5 = 34/9 = 3.7$ ✓  Behaviour – $4/1 = 4$ ✓																																										

Our Primary and Junior Secondary Coordinators Mrs Riley and Mrs King will be collating student data to send home so that parents/carers and students are aware of their current attendance percentage and number of Hi 5s. Report card data will be calculated in Week 10 of this Term and only eligible students will be given permission notes to attend the Rewards Trip.

## Student Council

It's been a busy week for our dedicated Student Council members. Our students have worked hard to make and decorate cupcakes and special mugs for Mother's Day, supported by a number of staff – thanks to Mrs Redding, Mr Harris, Ms Smith, Ms De Luca and Mrs Kirby for all your extra help. Students also spent their break times on Friday making special biscuits to take home for Mum (though they of course had to have a taste test first.) Thanks to Mr Harris and Ms Smith for helping us learn to use the new Cricut design tool.



Our Student Council didn't forget our staff either – preparing a special sweet little treat for our School "Mumma and Pappa Bears."



Farewell Mrs Gibbs



On Thursday we farewelled the wonderful Mrs Gibbs as she returns to her substantive position at Millmerran P-10 SS. Thank you for your valuable contributions to our school – and we wish you the very best. Thank you to Mrs De Luca who will be taking on Mrs Gibb's classes.



## Junior Secondary Mayoral Morning Tea



Congratulations to our Junior Secondary Leaders Mylee Ball and Grace Whitby for representing our school at the annual Mayoral Morning Tea. This important event focuses on the importance of student leadership across our region and we listened to a range of student speakers from diverse schools across our region tell us what "leadership" means to them. Our students may be some of the youngest Junior Secondary leaders in our region, but they presented our school with pride. Well done!

😊 Mrs Amy McCulloch

A/HOD Curriculum

## Prep – 1 Classroom News

This semester we have been flying through our Initialit work. Initialit is the literacy program that we use to focus on reading, writing and spelling every day. Having the support of a terrific teacher aide and a small class size means the prep and year one students can work separately and at their own pace to progress through the program.

The prep children focus on two letters and their corresponding sounds per week, as well as sight words and are beginning to read short texts such as sentences and simple readers such as those that are sent home for home reading. The year one children focus on more difficult sounds such as digraphs (two letters joined together to make a new sound), sight words, and grammar (nouns, adjectives, verbs and suffixes). It has been great seeing the progress that every student has made with their literacy skills in such a short time.

### Prep/1 science

In our Prep/1 science lessons, planted zucchini seeds. They are amazed at how fast they are going. We have been discussing how we use water including to water our plants.



## 2/3 Classroom News

Hello 2/3 families!

In class this term, we have been continuing on with our Initialit reading and literacy program. This program focuses on explicitly teaching the skills of reading, including spelling choices, grammar, and comprehension skills. Students have been engaging in this program to learn about adjectives and noun groups, and how to use these in their writing.

Reading at home is a vital part of ensuring success in school. Reading for pleasure helps students put together the skills that they are learning in the classroom. Students also have homework tasks linking to learnt subjects. These homework tasks go home at the beginning of the week and are due back at the end of the week. Four home readers are also sent home at the beginning of the week to give your student a variety of reading. Once your student has recorded enough reading time in their reading log, they are able to visit Mrs Kirby for a reading reward. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me!

Regards,

Miss Sagan Long

## 4 /5 Classroom News

Congratulations to **Daniel** and **Matthew**, our stars of the week! They have been working hard on their independence and resilience when doing tasks. Well done!

We're starting to do some assessments in class. In English, we are starting the first assessment for our poetry unit, which is analysing poetry. Students pick a poem, comprehend it, interpret it, analyse it, and write an essay analysis. Then we will be moving onto transforming a narrative poem into a story focusing on Banjo Patterson's poetry.

In Maths, students have also completed their Maps & Symmetry assessment moving onto algebra for the rest of the term.

In Art, students are to start their Art assessment. Students pick a poem or short story that is appropriate to create an artwork using any mediums we have looked at during the semester.

In HASS, we are working towards learning about North America and Europe. Students have started to pick their two countries (one from North America and one from Europe) to research and as we delve further into their countries, they will write a brief essay on which place they would prefer to live.

In Design Tech, we are starting to create our stuffed toys. Students are coming up with some wonderful creations. They have a couple of weeks to make their toy by sewing, stuffing and decorating before evaluating it as a success.

For homework, with all the public holidays it's been a rough start to get homework up and running again. Most weeks homework is a list of spelling words and a times table which they are to write out every night (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday) before being checked on Friday. Some weeks there may not be spelling so your child may bring home some worksheets such as comprehension to complete. Please check with your child that they are completing their homework. Reading is also a must! Reading logs can be found in their green folders or Student diaries. Some students have home readers to read to aid their decoding and fluency. Students with home readers will have their books changed each Monday so please sit with your child and listen to them read. It shouldn't take more than 5 minutes. If your child doesn't come home with home readers, please encourage them to read their own books that they have at home or borrowed from either the school or town library. Don't forget to record their reading as it will lead to rewards both from the Principal and boost their Hi5s showing responsibility and being a learner.

Finally, Typing Club forms should have arrived home. This is to aid their typing skills by allowing them to have a profile they can save their process and work towards a goal and get faster at typing which is a key part of digital literacy.

Amy Watson

Year 4/5 Teacher

## 6 Classroom News

Welcome to week 5!

Halfway through the term already. WOW. We have been busy, busy, busy in year 6 over the past few weeks. From picnic shelter designing to fake news to all things angles and shapes we have been having the time of our lives learning away. Here is a little recap of our last 2 weeks.

In English, students have been exploring the difference between what is real and what is fake in the media. We have looked at bias opinions and examined news reports assessing if they are factual (real news) or expressing an opinion (fake news). We have explored how subjective language is used when expressing an opinion and objective language

and high modality can be used to state factual information. Next week will see students exploring more language features and how they are used in factual news and fake news reports in the lead up to our analytical response assessment in week 6.

In maths our measurement and space unit is coming to a close. Students have intensively explored angles on straight lines as well as around a point. They have used this knowledge to complete this section of their assessment booklet as well as to include angle types and prisms or pyramids in their picnic shelter design. Next week we will explore cartesian planes and transformation of objects.



In visual art students have done an outstanding job in completing their picnic shelter designs for Australia Zoo. I have added some pictures down below. Students next step is to create a mood board outlining all their design choices and to justify them in a written



design pitch speech. Watch this space for more information as I would love to invite

you all to attend their design pitch presentations.



In health students have been tasked with the challenge to create an inclusive physical activity for their peers. This has seen students adapt games to suit a diverse range of needs as well as use minimal resources. I look forward to seeing the students' final ideas. We have also been discussing how it is great for our wellbeing to express out our emotion and let out anything that we may be holding onto that might affect the way we feel. Students have each been given a private diary. This diary is for no one's eyes but their own. Each week we spend some time writing in our diaries about anything that has happened. This may be something that made us feel good, or maybe something that may not have made us feel good. This exercise is all about expressing our emotions and reflecting on how things make us feel in a private way other than speaking.

Just some friendly reminders for our class:

### Homework

- Due every Friday (we did have a week off due to Mondays public holiday)
- 10-15 minutes home reading each night, logging minutes read in their reading log of their student diary
- Maths's worksheet
- Timetables
- Spelling words
- 1 minute reading fluency

### Design technology

- Bring work boots/leather closed in shoes every Wednesday to participate in workshop activities

### HPE

- Russell shirts Friday!!!

Hannah Budde Year 6 Teacher

## Year 6

The students explored cyclones and how they form. Using a glass tank and coloured water as a model, they observed the phenomenon of convection currents which is the basis of cyclone forming over water.



## Junior Secondary News 7/8/9

### Stars of the Week

#### Term 2 Week 3

Mylee for Leading the CPSS Anzac Day Ceremony and participating in the Cecil Plains Town Anzac Day Ceremony.

#### Term 2 Week 4

Mylee, Grace, Daniel and Queen for fantastic effort at Work Experience and wonderful positive feedback from their employers!

### Year 7-8-9 Maths

In the past few weeks, the year 7-8-9 students have been investigating the unknown, working with algebra. On Friday, they completed their first examination and they will begin looking at Cartesian Planes, Linear and non-linear equations and Parabolas for the rest of the term.

### Science Year 8



The year 8 students observed the reaction when acid is added to rocks – they saw lots of bubbling and fizzing on the calcium carbonate marble chips – but not all rocks in the same way.

### Science Year 9

Year 9 students compared various types of tectonic plate boundaries and the associated events that occur at these boundaries through modelling using Oreo biscuits.



## 7-8-9 DAT



I am thoroughly impressed by the incredible work being done by your Year 7-8 and 9 DAT class in their production of their chopping boards. The level of detail and craftsmanship displayed is truly amazing. From the precision of cutting the wood to length and then sanding the rough edges all the way through to skilfully measuring where the biscuits will be located for joining the boards together, your students are showcasing their patience and dedication. It's clear that they're putting in a tremendous amount of effort and care into their work. I'm sure these chopping boards will turn out to be not only functional but also beautiful pieces. Well done to the entire class for their exceptional progress keep up the good work.



Mr Harris – 7-8-9 DAT Teacher



# Special Events/ Information

## Feel Good Friday's

This Term our Student Council have created a range of Wellbeing Activities for students and staff. Each Friday we will be celebrating "Feel Good Friday" with a particular theme with the aim of fostering a strong and supportive school culture.

Week 5	Marshmallow Day (Wear pink and white and bring \$ to buy marshmallows)
Week 6	Grandparents Day (Bring along a Grandparent/ Aunt or Uncle for the afternoon session)
Week 7	Country and Western Theme
Week 8	Wear Blue or something related to the Ocean (World Oceans Day)
Week 9	PJ Day
Week 10	Rewards Day (for those eligible)

## Cooking Club on Wednesdays



# Listen. *Just* listen.

## Signs your child needs you to listen



While younger children often approach their parents/caregivers to voice concerns about their emotional wellbeing, parents/caregivers don't always listen.

The following signs may suggest you need to check in with your child and really listen, so that the concerns or emotions they raise are validated.

- Difficulty concentrating
- Changes in appetite
- Mood swings
- Changes in sleep
- Irritability
- Changes in behaviour
- Seeming unhappy or sad
- Difficulty sleeping
- Getting in fights
- High risk-taking behaviour to self, others and/or property
- Aggressive behaviour
- Avoiding friends and social activities
- Changes at school
- Constant worry or anxiety
- Frequent headaches or stomach aches
- Isolating from family and friends (e.g. spending time in their bedroom and not with their family)
- Sudden reduction in school performance
- Decreased interest in or withdrawal from activities
- Feeling guilty or worthless
- Talking about death

It's important to note that these signs on their own may not be cause for concern. If several of these concerns present and persist over time, you may need to seek the advice of a Mental Health Professional. Your GP can support referrals.

### Useful conversation starters

1. I've noticed \_\_\_\_\_ (e.g. you have big black bags under your eyes/you seem tired/quiet/you're not eating much at the moment). Can you tell me what's up?
2. Do you want to talk about what's going on?
3. How can I help with \_\_\_\_\_?
4. Is there anything I can do with \_\_\_\_\_?
5. How can I support you?
6. What's the biggest problem you had today?

Remember to reflect back what you're observing and ask for your child's perspective.

Sometimes your child will say they don't want to talk. That is ok, let them talk when they are ready. You could say 'let me know when you're ready and I'll be here'.

# Mental Health Services and Support

## Beyond Blue

24/7 mental health support service

1300 22 4636  
beyondblue.org.au

## headspace

Online support and counselling to young people aged 12 to 25

1800 650 890  
(9am to 1am daily)  
headspace.org.au/eheadspace

## Kids Helpline

24/7 crisis support and suicide prevention services for children and young people aged 5 to 25

1800 55 1800  
kidshelpline.com.au

## 1800 RESPECT

24/7 support for people impacted by sexual assault, domestic violence and abuse

1800 737 732  
1800respect.org.au

## QLife

LGBTI peer support and referral

1800 184 527  
qlife.org.au

## Lifeline

24/7 crisis support and suicide prevention services

13 11 14  
lifeline.org.au

## Suicide Call Back

24/7 crisis support and counselling service for people affected by suicide

1300 659 467  
suicidecallbackservice.org.au



## Mensline

24/7 counselling service for men

1300 78 99 78  
mensline.org.au

## 13YARN

24/7 crisis support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

13 92 76  
13yarn.org.au

If you are concerned about someone at risk of immediate harm, call 000 or go to your nearest hospital emergency department.



With delivery partners

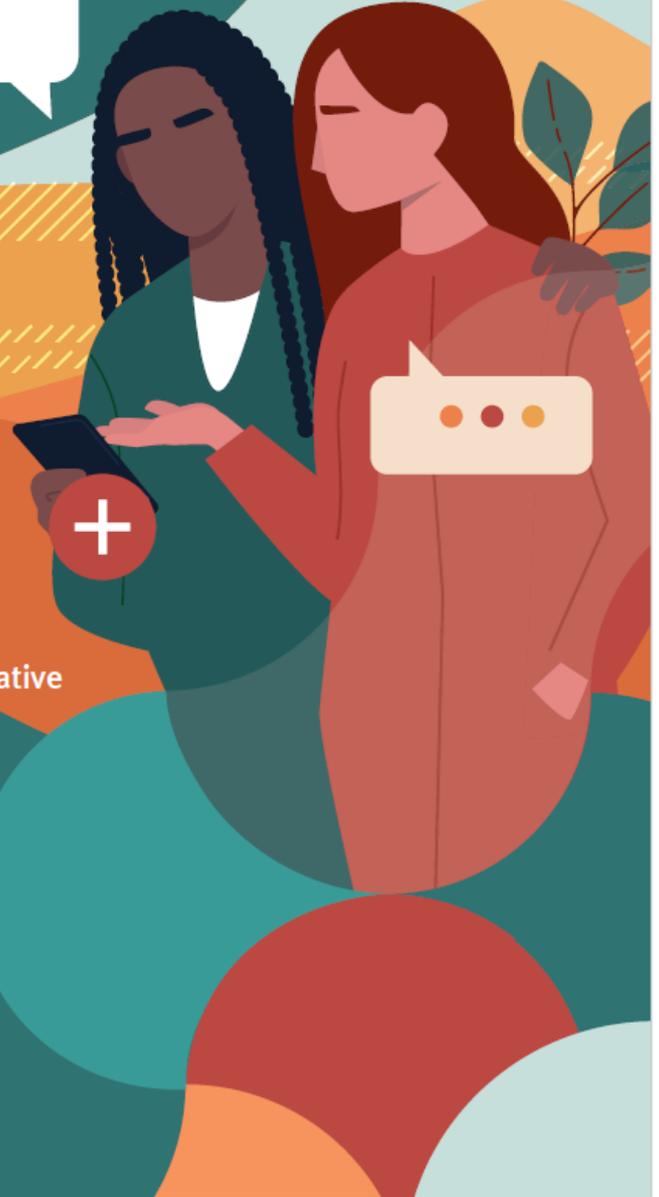


Funded by



## WELLBEING SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS AT CECIL PLAINS SS

- Guidance Officer
- Social Worker
- Classroom Teacher & Teacher Aides
- Health Syllabus – including Respectful Relationships Education
- Brain Break
- Girl Wise and Wise Guys Groups



# Mobile Women's Health Service

Providing women living in regional, rural, and remote Darling Downs access to holistic preventative healthcare including:

- » Cervical screening
- » Breast awareness
- » Contraception and family planning
- » Relationship concerns, including domestic violence and sexual assault
- » Healthy lifestyles
- » Sexual health screening and referral
- » LGBTQI+
- » Quit smoking
- » Menopause and hormone replacement.

## *Western Downs* Upcoming clinics will be held at the following locations

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| » <b>3 &amp; 6* June</b> (*tentative)<br>Texas Multipurpose Health Service<br>phone 07 4653 3203 | » <b>10 June</b><br>Tara Hospital<br>phone 07 4678 7900  | » <b>17 June</b><br>Wandoan Outpatients Clinic<br>phone 07 4672 4444           |
| » <b>4 June</b><br>Goondiwindi Hospital<br>phone 07 4578 2400                                    | » <b>11 June</b><br>Dalby Hospital<br>phone 07 4669 0512 | » <b>19 June</b><br>Chinchilla Hospital<br>phone 07 4662 8888                  |
| » <b>5 June</b><br>Chinchilla Hospital<br>phone 07 4662 8888                                     | » <b>12 June</b><br>Miles Hospital<br>phone 07 4628 5600 | » <b>20 June</b><br>Jandowae Multipurpose Health Service<br>phone 07 4663 4555 |
| » <b>6 June</b><br>Inglewood Multipurpose Health Service<br>phone 07 4652 0777                   |  |  |

