The year is ‘well on the way’ again. Kindergarten have settled really well and some of our little children are showing the signs of the hard work already looking tired from their big, first few weeks at school.

Can I thank those parents for their efforts in making the ‘meet the teacher’ sessions this week. We had around 50 parents attend the Kinder/Year one session on Tuesday afternoon while children attended a school disco in the hall. Parents of children in Year 2-6 are reminded that your session will be held tomorrow afternoon commencing at 4pm.

We have already organised a number of avenues for our more able students to extend their skills outside the classroom.

Mrs Armour will be working with a number of stage 3 children on a gifted and talented program called “Tournament Of The Minds”, Mrs Taylor will be working with children from stage 1 on Literacy and Numeracy extension activities and stage 2 children are taking part in the G&T Century 21 Solution (group problem solving skills). Mrs Scott continues to open our computer lab at lunchtimes for children identified in class on a daily basis as part of our school rewards system, the Library is also open for children while there will also be an opportunity for students to play board games at lunchtime a couple of days each week in the school hall. Mrs King is excited about upcoming dance auditions while the school band and choir are under way with rehearsals. Our sporting teams have also started operations. It’s great to see so many avenues for students with particular skills to extend themselves.

Congratulations to members of the school choir who performed so well last Saturday at Coolangatta as part of the “Friendship Force”. Mrs Armour informs me the children were wonderful and great representatives of our school.

Last Wednesday our Captains and Leaders were presented with their badges at our Induction Ceremony. These children will no doubt do a terrific job as leaders around our school, setting a high standard leading by example. Badges were presented by many parents who were able to join us for this special occasion. We have includ-
ed some great photos in this newsletter. Today we presented our Student Representative Council Members their badges on assembly. This group will be meeting with Mrs King and Mr Power each week to help voice the opinion of all children at our school.

The first P&C meeting for 2014 will be held on Wednesday 26th February. This meeting will be the AGM and will be held in the School Library at 6.30pm. If you are willing and interested in being part of the P&C or would like to have input into school decisions that directly involve your child including performances, excursions and new school initiatives, please come along and join us on the night.

As most parents would now be aware, last week our school photographer was a no show. I was able to organise MSP photography who drove down from the Gold Coast on the same day to take class photos. Please be aware that family and group photos will now be taken on Tuesday 11th March.

Life seems to go from zero to 100 during the first few weeks of school. These parents have pooled their years of experience to bring you some suggestions to make the rest of the year run more smoothly. Good luck!

Back to school checklist:

Learning to read is hard work and can be frustrating at times for parents and their kids. Watch the video to hear what these public school teachers have to say to help, with quick tips on how to make it easier.

Learning to read: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ES0m77mlUK8&feature=share

Student Attendance

The Education Act (1990) requires that parents ensure that children of compulsory school age are enrolled at and regularly attend school. Regular attendance plays a vital role not only in a child’s academic progress but also in their social and emotional development. The Department of Education requires a valid reason from parents and carers when their child is away from school.

These may include:
• an unavoidable medical / dental appointment
• exceptional or urgent family circumstances
• being sick, or having an infectious disease.

If your child has to be absent or is absent the school must be notified within seven school days of the absence occurring. This is usually by way of a doctor’s certificate or absence note but can also be a phone call or visiting the school to inform the class teacher or office.

International research shows there is a strong correlation between regular attendance at school, student learning and improved life outcomes.

Poor patterns of attendance place students at risk of not achieving their educational, social and psychological potential.

Research shows that students who attend school regularly are more likely to have increased career, social and life options.

As A Parent

• Commit to sending children to school each day.
• Make sure they arrive on time.
• Inform the school within seven days of an absence.

Arrival on time

Arriving at school and class on time:
• ensures that students don’t miss out on important learning activities
• helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
• reduces disruption to the class.
• Lateness is recorded as partial absence and must be explained the same way as other forms of absence.

ANAPHYLAXIS AND ALLERGIC REACTIONS

What is anaphylaxis?

Anaphylaxis is a severe and sometimes sudden allergic reaction. It can occur when a susceptible person is exposed to an allergen (such as a food or an insect sting). Reactions usually begin within minutes of exposure and can progress rapidly over a period of up to two hours or more. Anaphylaxis is potentially life threatening and always requires an emergency response.

Part of our responsibility at Murwillumbah School is to ensure that we have identified and reduced the risk of an anaphylaxis reaction occurring. Over the past 12 months we have put in place a range of strategies with this purpose in mind including the eating of lunch and fruit break occurring under the supervision of teaching staff. Staff have also completed mandatory training in emergency care for anaphylaxis.

To further reduce a life threatening situation we ask that food products containing any kind of nut (ie both peanuts and tree nuts) not be brought to school but be saved for home time. For some of our students merely touching the hand of someone who has consumed nut products or a surface where food containing nuts has been placed on can cause an anaphylaxis reaction. We greatly appreciate our school community supporting this request to ensure the risk of a life threatening situation occurring is minimised as much as possible. We thank you for your understanding and support with this issue.

The school student welfare policy can be found on the school website. A hard copy may also be obtained from the front office. It is broken into four sections. School rules, strategies to promote good discipline and effective learning, practices designed to recognise and reinforce student achievement and strategies for dealing with unacceptable behaviour.

At Murwillumbah School, we like to concentrate on promoting the positive work of our children and are proud of their wonderful achievements. However, on occasions there may be a need to suspend a child as per policy. If you consider that correct procedures have not been followed in the case of suspension or that an unfair decision has been made, you may appeal. You may wish to contact the Murwillumbah District Office to discuss the appeal procedures.

A special congratulations to Emyleigh who is our first PSSA North Coast representative for 2014. Emyleigh has been selected in the girls cricket team that will travel down to the Riverina Region to compete at the State Championships. Last weekend Emyleigh spent Saturday and Sunday in camp at Lismore as part of her preparation for this carnival.

Have a great week.

Regards  Les Daley Principal
School News

Bullying Awareness Program
Year 3 to 6 are presently participating in an Anti-Bullying Program, in conjunction with Interrelate family Centres. This involves a 60 minute session for years 3 and 4 and a 90 minutes session for years 5 and 6. The aim of the program is to raise awareness of what bullying is, develop age appropriate strategies to deal with bullying and to focus on ways students can contribute to a bully free school environment. A series of activities, peer group discussions and visual presentations are used to provide information and encourage discussion.

Kindergarten News
Our Kindergarten students are already very settled and happy at school, thanks to our outstanding transition programme and the support of parents. Thank you. On Wednesday 26th of February the students will present themselves to the rest of the school as part of our Wednesday assembly starting at 9:10am. We would like to invite all parents to share this time with their child. Looking forward to seeing you on the 26th of February.

Lynn Lack and Gemma Rawson

Dance Group News
The junior dance group began rehearsals last week in preparation for the Far North Coast Dance Festival in June. Response was overwhelming from students wanting to be involved. I am happy to say I am able to include all students and thank their parents for supporting their child’s involvement.

There were over 50 students who showed up for rehearsal last Thursday. I am also very lucky to have the assistance of Mrs Hayley Scott.

It is very important to attend all rehearsals. Please note the following times and perhaps remind your child in the morning of their rehearsal day. They are every Wednesday at 11.20 to 12.30 and every Thursday at lunch playtime in the new hall.

I will keep you informed of dates, costumes and other important information as they arise. I do have an approximate date for the Kingscliff rehearsal. It will be sometime in Term 2, Week 4.

Simone King
Dance Coordinator

Canteen News

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<tr>
<th>MONDAY</th>
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<td>Feb 17th</td>
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Helper needed
- Wendy Brough
- Monique Rodi
- Emma Cave
- Melissa Darragh

New Salad Option at the Canteen

Valentines Day in the Canteen
Community News

**School News**

www.murwillumb-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

**Community News**

Just a reminder that our AGM and monthly meeting is being held on:

**Wednesday 26th February**

at 6:30pm in the Library

At this meeting all executive positions will become vacant.
The available positions are:

- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Secretary x 3

(Minutes, Correspondence & Social)

Come along and meet other like-minded parents. It is a great chance to learn more about your school community & how you can help in making your child’s time at MPS the best possible.

**Merit Awards**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MERIT AWARD WINNERS FOR WEEK 3 TERM 1:**

- **KL:** Danika, Kaitlyn
- **5/6K:** Shelby, Lilly, Nashua
- **KR:** Finnian, William
- **1SA:** Acer, Tiarna
- **Library:** Skye, Vincent
- **Mr Stowe:** John, Anna

- **CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MERIT AWARD WINNERS FOR WEEK 4 TERM 1:**

- **KL:** Riley, Alyssa
- **3/4H:** Ben, Evie, Jerson, Blake
- **KR:** Lacey-Pearl, Nikita
- **4/5F:** Jade, Zali
- **1SA:** Rory, Sarah
- **5/6K:** Matilda, Jacob
- **1W:** Judd, Molly
- **5/6P:** Kayla, Ella
- **2/3G:** John, Jalow
- **Library:** Blake, Emma
- **2/3K:** Matthew, Josh
- **Computers:** Holly, Rishabh
- **Mr Stowe:** Judd, Dean

**P&C News**

**Crunch & Sip**

Crunch & Sip is a primary school program where children crunch on vegetables and fruit, and sip water with their teacher. At Murwillumbah Public School, we are implementing this program K-6. Crunch & Sip takes place each day. Please send your child to school with some vegetables or fruit and a water bottle, so they can take part in this great program. For more information, please contact your child’s teacher.

PLEASE DO NOT PACK:

- Fruit snacks
- Juice boxes
- Cakes
- Chocolate
- Candy
- Slices of fruit
- Pizzas
- Snack bars

**WHAT TO PACK:**

- Whole fruit
- Whole veg
- Veggie sticks
- Dried fruit
- Fruit leathers
- Veggie chips
- Peanut/Tree nut free

If you can’t buy fresh, buy frozen or canned fruit or vegetables. It is cheaper and it is a healthier option.

*Girls Only Small Sided Football*

For girls 6-16, grab some friends & join a team and receive a free football and scrimmage. Contact the district school officer to find a team nearest you.

www.murwillumb-p.schools.nsw.edu.au
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<td>19th February District Swimming Carnival</td>
<td>20th February Bullying Awareness Program 3-6</td>
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<td>24th February WHS Year 6 Principal Visits</td>
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