This week is the first week that we will not be sending home our newsletter to all students as a hard copy. As recently advised in previous newsletters, parents will be able to download the newsletter from downloading a free app on your smart phone—School Stream school app or viewing the newsletter on the school website www.murwillumb-p.schools.nsw.edu.au. Only those parents who filled out the request attached to our last newsletter will continue to receive a hard copy. I want to thank parents for your support with our new method of communicating our school newsletter.

By the time this newsletter hits the press, we would have held our Senior Citizens music concert. I will give a full report in our next newsletter but I do want to thank all our parents and community members for supporting this concert. I want to thank all those parents who sent in a plate for morning tea, your support is greatly appreciated. I know the children were really looking forward to performing and were most excited about having someone come along and watch their performance.

In the near future, all students in Years 3 and 5 will receive a letter outlining the dates and procedures for this year’s National Assessment Program in Literacy & Numeracy (NAPLAN). I recommend parents of students in Years 3 & 5 read the letter and phone the school if you have any specific questions.

Last week information was sent home to students in Year 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 who are now able to enter the annual UNSW ICAS tests. Year 2 are able to enter the English, Maths & Science Tests and Years 3-6 are able to enter English, Maths, Science, Computer Skills, Spelling & Writing tests. All permissions notes and money need to be returned to the school by the cut-off date as mentioned on the green form. If students miss the test there will be no opportunity to sit the test at a later time or date and unfortunately, no refunds.

The School Easter Hat Parade will be taking place on Thursday, 2nd April at 11.30am. The P&C will be coordinating the very popular Easter Egg Raffle. This year the P&C and school will
also be working together to hold a disco, a number of fun Easter activities including stalls, games and a sausage sizzle. This will take place after the parade. Parents are very welcome to join in the fun. The P&C are sending home further information today.

This week and next week our focus is on DO YOUR BEST. We can all demonstrate this in a number of ways, including:

- Setting goals and striving to achieve them
- Being a positive role model in and around the school
- Being an active learner
- Concentrating hard on all set tasks in the classroom

Early next term we will be holding our new interview process with parents. This will involve a 3 way interview process with the teacher, parent and the student present during the interview. During discussion of your child’s progress, teachers will be asking parents and students to set individual learning goals for the student for the remainder of the year. A follow up interview will be held early in Term 4 to discuss the progress on these targets. Further information around interview times for Term 2 will be sent home in the near future. As mentioned, this is a new process and we are looking forward to having input not only from parents but also students.

On Monday this week I had the pleasure of taking our boys cricket team to Centaur Public School to play in the second round of the NSWPSA Knock Out. The boys won the toss and decided to field first. After bowling our 25 overs, we had Centaur 7 for 94. Some early big hitting by Adam (19, including 2 sixes) saw us get off to a great start. Joe batted exceptionally well and retired not out 45! Noah came in down the order and also contributed with a neat 12 not out. Our team passed the Centaur score after just 12 overs! It was a very impressive win by all the boys. The team will now play the third round sometime in April. The staff from Centaur told me how well-mannered our boys were and what great representatives they were for Murwillumbah School. Well done Boys!!

Fathers/uncles/grandfathers can make a difference in getting boys to read. Engaging boys in reading can be tough. Many parents find that their boys either aren’t interested in sitting still long enough, or they often perceive reading as a “girl thing”. The consequences of boys not reading as frequently or as copiously as girls can be dire. National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) data shows that girls have consistently outperformed boys in reading across the last six years of assessments. Research also indicates that boys are three to five times more likely than girls to have a reading or learning disability. Experts agree that when it comes to engaging boys with books, the key is reading with dads, uncles and grandfathers. When fathers/uncles/grandfathers engage with their boys in reading, the level of boys’ engagement, interest and participation are known to change. Dads/uncles/grandfathers are able to engage their boys in different ways with books, usually by hooking into shared interests and developing sustainable reading habits.

The following tips are easy ways for dads/uncles/grandfathers to start or further develop quality reading relationships with their boys.

*Dads/uncles/grandfathers are frequently seen as an untapped resource when assisting their boys with reading. When boys see their fathers as frequent and resourceful readers, this sets the scene for their future reading lives. Dads/uncles/grandfathers who share quality reading time with their sons are role-modelling effective reading behaviours.

*Reading at home together is an excellent way to build quality reading time, though also consider making time to head into the classroom for reading when you are available. Make a special time together on weekends to venture to the local library or bookstores.

*Read about shared interests

*Encourage boys to choose what they are interested in reading. If they want to frequently read non-fiction texts about animals or dinosaurs,
this is okay. Don’t restrict your boys’ choice in reading – when choices are restricted, a huge disincentive to read is created.

*Dads/uncles/grandfathers need to share their favourite texts with their boys – talk about the types of authors, what happens in the story and what the characters are like. If you generally read only magazines or the sport pages in the paper, talk about these too. This sharing builds strong relationships around reading and demonstrates that reading takes on many different forms.

* When considering books to suggest to your boys, try to think of a broad range of different types of texts. Comics, or graphic novels as they are now frequently known, are engaging, fast-paced, detailed and are usually tailored to boys’ interests.

*Laugh and have fun. Boys love humour, and the plethora of humorous books that are in print makes these a popular choice. Allowing boys the opportunities to see the men in their lives as strong, resourceful and avid readers helps to demonstrate the importance of reading. Take the time to read, discuss and enjoy books with your son, grandson or nephew to help set them up for reading success.

Have a great week.
Les Daley
Principal

**Merit Awards**

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MERIT AWARD WINNERS FOR WEEK 7 TERM 1:

KL: Kai, Poppy
KP: Awinya, Izaak
1K: Abbey, Hudson
1/2S: Danika, Jayden
2H: Kaitlin, Aurelia
2/3G: Jack, Ben
3P: Kendell, Thomas
4P: Evie, Kaitelyn
4/5A: Daniel, Thomas
5/6K: Harley, Lila
6W: Adam, Jorja, Jade
Library: Kolton, Maddi

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MERIT AWARD WINNERS FOR WEEK 8 TERM 1:

KL: Layla, Kyra
KP: Lachlan, Lynda
1K: Sienna, Jack
1/2S: Charley, Noah
2H: Jack, Vanessa, Riley
2/3G: Tiarna, Millie
3P: Nara, Noah, Nik
4P: Brielle, Luke
4/5A: Ben, Breanna
5/6K: Zali, Cooper
6W: Jordan, Emma
Library: Jordan, Marlie

**Sport News**

What a great fortnight it has been in sport at Murwillumbah Primary!

Joe attended the North Coast Cricket Trials on Sunday and Monday (8th & 9th) and a number of students attended the District Trials on Thursday 12th in a variety of sports.

The following students had success and will now attend the Far North Coast Trials next Monday 23rd. Adam (Open Rugby League), Zach (11Yrs Rugby League) Ruben, Dominic, Joe, Cooper, Avalon, Lilly, Hannah, Jorja (Soccer), Cedar (Netball) and Maddi (Hockey). We wish all students the best in their effort to reach the next level.

On Monday (16th) Charlie attended the North Coast Tennis trials in Grafton. His performance as a 9 year old was exceptional. He came away from the day as 1st reserve for the North Coast Team. Congratulations Charlie.

Reminder that our annual Cross Country will be held next Thursday 26th March.
**School News**

**BULLYING NO WAY AND HARMONY DAY**
This Friday, 20th March, students at MPS will be celebrating Bullying? No Way! It’s Harmony Day, combining recognition for the importance of both days. Students will be participating in a range of activities celebrating diversity, building team work, and modelling positive, friendly behaviours.

On Friday students may bring a gold coin donation to wear an orange t-shirt, or a t-shirt displaying a cultural image or message. Sports shorts and shoes will still need to be worn. The SRC will be collecting gold coin donations to send to Vanuatu to support the communities who have been devestated by the recent cyclone. Keep an eye out on the school’s website and facebook page for photos of our day’s events!

**Canteen News**

It is wonderful to see all the smiling faces at the canteen at recess and lunch time. Class Leaders are doing a great job getting the lunch baskets to the canteen as early as possible so that makes my job a lot easier.

Canteen helpers are always needed so please if you can spare a few hours please call in. Unfortunately young children are not permitted in the canteen and this limits many parents, so maybe grandparents can help out.

Parents please remember that if you are ordering recess for your child please use a separate bag clearly marked Recess!

Please remember to check the current menu for up to date pricing. Some items have had a slight increase

- Sushi $3.00
- Tomato Sauce 30C
- School Milk (all flavours) $2.70
- LOL’S $2.40

Prices that have gone down are – Toasted ham & cheese $2.80 and toasted cheese sandwich $2.00

Meal deals are becoming very popular- toasted ham & cheese plus a popper $3.50, toasted cheese & popper $3.00. These are available every canteen day.

Easter is fast approaching and the canteen always likes to get into the Easter theme so we will be having an Easter meal deal themed day on Wednesday 1st April. Students will be able to purchase an assortment of Easter goodies including bunny biscuits, easter fruit baskets, hot cross buns and Deb’s famous multi coloured pikelets!

**Canteen Roster**

If you are unable to do canteen on your rostered day please notify Debbie (0422 698 542) or the School ASAP, so a replacement can be found in time.

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<th>MONDAY</th>
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<td>18th March</td>
<td>20th March</td>
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<td>Liz H</td>
<td>Clare E</td>
<td>Kylie S</td>
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<td>23rd March</td>
<td>25th March</td>
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<td>Rachel R</td>
<td>Alouise V</td>
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<td>HELPER NEEDED</td>
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<td>Heidi L</td>
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## Calendar

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<th>Term 1</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
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<td>19th March</td>
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<td>23rd March Zone PSSA Trials</td>
<td>24th March Rugby League</td>
<td>25th March</td>
<td>26th March School Cross Country</td>
<td>27th March</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>30th March</td>
<td>31st March</td>
<td>1st April Canteen Meal Deal Day</td>
<td>2nd April Easter Hat Parade P&amp;C Bunny Hop</td>
<td>3rd April PUBLIC HOLIDAY GOOD FRIDAY</td>
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School Holidays Tuesday 7th April - Monday 20th April Students return to school Tuesday 21st April

## Community Notices

**NEW U12 ALL GIRLS AFL TEAM**
- Days: Sunday mornings, 8 week program
- Training: Wednesdays 4.00 - 5.30pm
- Fees: $70 (includes polo shirt)
- Sign on Online: murwillumbahvulcans@yahoo.com.au

Enquiries: Judi Lee on 0402 158755 or Dom Trevaskis on 0408 118 551.

U8 to U16’s Mixed teams also available. $150 for 16 weeks.

**ENRICHMENT, EDUCATION, EXCITEMENT BECOME A VOLUNTEER HOST FAMILY!**
World Education Program (WEP) is inviting you to experience another culture in your own home by becoming a volunteer host family to an international student arriving in July 2015. Our students from Canada, Denmark, Ecuador, Italy, Belgium, the USA, and France are looking forward to experiencing life in Australia, making new friends and becoming a member of an Australian family soon.

**Hosting Is Fun! Find Out more!**
Ph: 1300 884 733 Online: http://www.wep.org.au

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**Enrolling Now for 2015**

**UnitingCare Murwillumbah Preschool**
- Quality inclusive preschool program for three to five year olds
- Open 9am to 3pm school terms
- Excellent staff-to-child ratios
- Experienced, qualified educators
- Community based, not for profit

2-6 Byangum Road, Murwillumbah
T: 6672 2982
E: murwillumbahps@unitingcareswact.org.au
www.unitingcarechildrensservices.org.au