Parents, a very interesting fact is that reading can be such an enjoyable leisure activity. It has so many benefits including: mental stimulation, vocabulary expansion, stronger analytical thinking skills, improved focus and comprehension, improved writing skills and entertainment. This week, encourage your child to borrow a new book from our well-resourced library and expand their knowledge on a topic of choice. In the wise words of Dr. Seuss:

“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.”

There are such fabulous learning opportunities happening in classrooms. Highly engaged students and conversations about learning are being observed. Teachers have been focussing on planning explicit and differentiated learning experiences for their classes to ensure all students move along the learning continuums.

I congratulate and appreciate the enormous commitment staff have been making to professional learning, planning and programming this term. It is such an exciting time at Murwillumbah PS. When visiting the front office next, take a look at some of the fantastic art work on display from our wonderful children.

As part of DEC policy and in accordance with the Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012 and the Child Protection (Working with Children) Regulation 2013, from the commencement of Term 2 2016, any parent who volunteers to work with children, including assisting with sport transport, music and dance groups, classroom helpers, canteen, excursions or any other type of activity that you come into contact with children, will need to complete the Working with Children Check. This form WILL NOT be sent away, no-one else will see this form as it stays at the school. You will be required to provide proof of identity that meets the 100 point check so that you can continue as a volunteer.

This procedure is to ensure the safety of your child and ensure that all children and parents are protected under this regulation. Please note that forms will be available from the front office. When completing the form, you will need to provide the 100 point check.
BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS
Please be aware that teachers do not commence supervision of students in the playground until 8.30am. Unless your child is attending a pre-arranged school activity, they should not be arriving prior to 8.30am – at this time the students are requested to sit under the COLA and wait for the teacher to come on duty. If you need to drop your child early at school, please make arrangements with a family member/friend to ensure that your child is safe. The same applies to leaving the school in the afternoon. Please ensure your child promptly leaves school grounds. Your assistance in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you to all the parents and carers that attended our Parent/Teacher/Student Goal information sessions. It was extremely well supported and feedback I received from the event was very positive and supportive. We had 80% of parent community turn up—“Thank You, parents”. If you missed out on attending please don’t hesitate to call your child’s class teacher to arrange a meeting. Similarly, at any time for any concern the class teacher is the first contact that should be made as they will have the most information about your child’s recent school activities.

NAPLAN 2016
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.

2017 HIGH SCHOOL EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FORMS
Attention Parents of Year 6 students: Expression of Interest forms need to be returned to Murwillumbah PS by this Friday March 18th.

We are once again heading into a very busy time at school. This Friday, 18th March the SRC are holding a mufti Day to raise money for the Leukaemia Foundation. Also on this day all children will be involved in activities to celebrate Harmony Day and Bullying, No Way Day.

These activities will include such things as singing, games, art and cooking from various countries. Harmony Day celebrates Australia’s cultural diversity. Harmony Day is about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. It is a day for all Australians to embrace cultural diversity and to share what we have in common. This year’s Harmony Day theme is “our diversity is our strength.”

The Life Education van will be at our school from 21st to 24th March. All children have the opportunity to participate in this very worthwhile program which provides students the opportunity to develop strategies, and practice the skills required to avoid the harms associated with an unhealthy lifestyle.

The School Easter Hat Parade will be taking place on Thursday, 24th March at 9:15am. Students from K-2 will parade their hats around the new hall. Children should now be well under way preparing their Easter hat for the parade. Please remember that the children will need to be able to put on and remove their hat independently. Parents are all welcome to come along. Years 3–6 are also invited to take part in the parade. The P&C will be coordinating the very popular Easter Egg Raffle. Parents are very welcome to join in the fun.

Upcoming events to look out for include in week 10 the K-2 excursion to Salt on Thursday 31st March and the school Cross Country on Friday, 1st April. The Seniors’ concert will be held on Tuesday, 5th April. The children are learning a repertoire of songs with Mrs Armour and are looking forward to being able to perform at this concert.
Murwillumbah students are continuing to display their prowess in sport with students being selected to attend District and North Coast team trials. This includes Charlie for tennis who was placed second overall at the North Coast trials and will now play in the State Championships. Considering Charlie is only in year 4 competing against year 5 and 6 students, this was an outstanding effort. We are very proud of Charlie!

Congratulations to our Boys’ and Girls’, softball teams who played Brunswick Heads on Monday. They displayed fine skills and good sportsmanship and were great representatives of our school. The boys will progress to the next round after a convincing 15 to 5 victory. Our Senior boys’ cricket team will play Bangalow Public next Thursday in the second round of the KO.

Our two dance groups are busily rehearsing for the Far North Coast Dance Festival. It is great to see the commitment of all these children as they give up many of their lunchtimes to attend these practices. Our concert band is another example of this.

It is great to see parents helping out within the classrooms. Just a reminder that you need to sign in at the office and wear a visitor badge while you are here. Please then sign out as you leave. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Have a great week

Les Daley
Principal

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**Merit Awards**

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

**KA:** Indiana, Jara

**KP:** Callum, Jemma

**1K:** Rylee, Amos

**1/2S:** Noah, Marlie

**2P:** Chloe, Benji

**3W:** Shanay, Lily

**3/4K:** Ellie, Tess

**3/4L:** Aurelia, Tiarna

**4/5H:** Joshua, Kiarn

**5/6G:** Blake, Mia

**5/6P:** Ayla, Skye

**Miss Daley:** Ayla, Jahlow

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

**KA:** Kye, Renee

**KP:** Scarlette, Leila

**1K:** Sam, Willow

**1/2S:** Jarod, Lachlan

**2P:** Riley, Sienna

**3W:** Tristan, Lachlan

**3/4K:** Lachlan, Sarah

**3/4L:** Noah, Lilly B

**4/5H:** Dorian, Jake, Kathleen

**5/6G:** Griffin, Rose

**5/6P:** Zack, Annalee

**Miss Daley:** Sophie, Nik

**Mrs Taylor:** Benji, Izaak
Stage Three

Students in stage three have been enjoying our brand new Future Focussed learning spaces this year. Our classrooms have been equipped with brand new furniture designed to promote collaboration and enhance teamwork, within flexible learning spaces. Teaching and learning is supported by the latest technology, as students each have access to individual laptop computers. This added technology allows students additional opportunities to develop skills and knowledge through activities such as researching, designing, typing, collaborating, creating and problem solving. The level of skill development shown by the students in such a short period of time has been impressive.

Students have described some of the highlights as:
~Using Google Classroom and Google Apps to access tasks, complete online activities and submit work.
~Watching videos about classroom learning which we can pause and rewind if we need to.
~Using spread sheet software to create pixel art.
~Researching historical events to write about.
~Designing creative and informative presentations about characters in our Literature Units.
~Making use of a large number of apps and programs to support our learning including Reading Eggs, Spelling City, Mathletics and Kahn Academy.
**P&C News**

A few exciting messages from the P&C...

We are asking each family to donate a small Easter gift for the Easter raffle. A box has been placed in the office for donations. Raffle ticket for the Easter raffle have gone home this week. Tickets are $1 each. Please return all books (sold and unsold) by Wednesday 23rd March. **Raffle will be drawn on Thursday 24th at the Easter Hat parade.**

This Sunday (20th March) we have been invited to volunteer at the Kingscliff Triathlon. Children aged 10 and over are welcome to volunteer but must be accompanied by an adult. Every volunteer will receive a t-shirt and lunch. You should bring a hat, sunscreen and closed footwear. Our meeting point at 6am on Sunday morning is at Ed Parker Rotary park, next to the bridge at Cudgen Creek.

We will be passing water to the athletes as they run past our tent.

We need 15 volunteers to receive a donation of $1000.

If you can join us please contact Natalie Hall on 0488105389.

**School News**

**LIFE EDUCATION**

Just a reminder that the Life Education Van is coming to our school in Week 9, from Monday 21st March to Thursday 24th March. If you could please return your permission note and money to the office before Friday, 18th March 2016.

The cost is $10 per child and includes the Life Education session, a student workbook and a sticker for each child. Life Education is clearly linked to the PD/H/PE syllabus, and is only offered to our school every 2 years. Each child is encouraged to participate in this worthy activity.

**EASTER HAT PARADE**

We will be holding our Easter Hat Parade on Thursday, 24th March at 9:15 am all students in Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 participate. Children in Years 3-6 are also welcome to participate.

We are asking that hats are made at home and brought to school for the morning parade. The parade is for the students to participate in and enjoy themselves. There are no prizes handed out.

The P & C will be drawing their Easter Raffle during the parade.
Canteen News

Hi everyone. A very big thank you to all the new mums and dads that have volunteered to do canteen duty. It makes my job so much easier when there is someone else helping to feed our hungry munchkins at recess and lunchtime!

Next Wednesday, 23rd March is the last day of canteen before Easter, so we will be having some Easter treats available for students who wish to buy. Here are some photos of what we had last year.

Prices start at 50c and nothing is over $2. I hope everyone has checked out the menu on the school website and noted the pricing changes. Remember, we are not able to offer tomato sauce or BBQ sauce for free. So please include the 30c in your child’s lunch order to avoid disappointment.

All recess orders should be on a separate bag, and please, if you are paying for more than one child put who they are and what class they are in. I do try to get to know most of the children, but not always what class they are in! It saves a lot of time when we are busy.

Have a Happy Easter!
Debbie Lowe
Canteen Manager

Sports Report

DISTRICT SPORT TRIALS

On Friday 4th March, Cooper and Griffin attended the AFL district trials. The boys played against boys from other schools over the day. Whilst both Cooper and Griffin played well, unfortunately they were not selected to trial any further.

On Sunday 6th March and Monday 7th March, Noah participated in the North Coast trials for cricket in Coffs Harbour. Whilst Noah bowled well he was unsuccessful in gaining selection in the North Coast team.

On Tuesday 8th March, Charlie competed in the Far North Coast Tennis trials at Mullumbimby. Charlie played extremely well and placed 2nd overall, earning him a place in the North Coast team to play in the State championships- great job Charlie!

Our boys and girls Softball teams played their PSSA knockout games against Brunswick Heads on Monday. They displayed fine skills and good sportsmanship and were great representatives of our school. The boys will progress to the next round after a convincing 15 to 5 victory.

Congratulations to all of our students representing the school.
SRC News

The SRC will be holding a mufti fundraiser on Friday 18th March for the Leukaemia Foundation World’s Greatest Shave. Children are requested to bring in a gold coin donation and to come to school with their hair in a ‘wild and wacky’ way eg. hair chalk, crazy hair styles, hair spray or clips. Full mufti may also be worn on this day for an additional gold coin. (Please ensure that your child/ren wears sports appropriate clothing- school hat and joggers as sport will be held as normal and no singlets.) Money raised will help the Leukaemia Foundation to look after people with blood cancers and pay for research to find better treatments and cures.

Community Noticeboard

CYC’D BIKE PARTY
Saturday April 9th  Registration 3pm, Ride 4pm
Who said cycling had to be serious? All abilities, costume fun, community fundraiser, 100% profits to community organisations. Easy bike ride along the scenic Tweed Coast towards Casuarina then back to “The Lake Cabarita, for a party under the stars, there will be prizes, raffles, fabulous food and a sensory tent for Kids to chill in. For more information email thebikeparty@gmail.com or checkout Facebook @cycdbikeparty Arna 0421 176 613 or Jenny 0417 723 908, Prices: Kids $5.00, Grown-ups $15.00, Teams of 4 or more $ 50.00 for registration go to trybooking.com/186100

2016 MISS TWEED BALL
April 2nd          Burringbar          April 16th          Tumbulgum
April 30th         Pottsville          May 14th           Bilambil
June 4th           Tyalgum            June 18th         Crystal Creek
June 25th          Stokers/Dunbible    July 23rd        Uki
July 30th          Chillingham        August 6th        Final Ball
This is the 45th year of the Tweed Ball Series run by the Tweed Combined Country Halls Association, a voluntary group that runs the series not-for-profit.

The evenings start at 8pm and tickets are available at the door. The evening is planned to have something for all the family with no alcohol. The dress code is semi-formal.

Casuarina Rugby Club is looking for kids for our Under 8’s and our Under 12/13’s - and beginners are more than welcome! Training starts very soon - and we’d love to welcome new players! We have a great club, great kids, great coaches and we have great fun! Please email casuarinarugbyclub@gmail.com, visit our website www.casuarinarugby.com or call us on 0403 837 111

AUTUMN KIDS’ CAMPS
BOOKINGS NOW OPEN

- New friendships
- Great value
- Fun
- Safe

Our Autumn Kids’ Camps are now open for enrolments via our website. Here, you will find what’s on offer for the autumn school holidays.

Led by qualified instructors, you can rest easy knowing your kids are in safe hands. Our Kids’ Camps are suitable for children aged 7 to 16 years and range from 1 to 5 days.

- Residential camps include:
  - 24 hour supervision
  - Activities
  - Accommodation
  - Meals
  - Supervised transport

www.murwillumb-p.schools.nsw.edu.au
## Term 1

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>17th Mar Winter District Trials</td>
<td>18th Mar School Funky Hair Day</td>
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<td>21st Mar Life Education Van this week</td>
<td>22nd Mar All Schools Rugby League Gala Day</td>
<td>23rd Mar Softball Gala Day - Boys and Girls</td>
<td>24th Mar 9:15am Easter Hat Parade P&amp;C Easter Raffle Drawn</td>
<td>25th Mar PUBLIC HOLIDAY-GOOD FRIDAY</td>
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<td>28th Mar PUBLIC HOLIDAY-EASTER MONDAY</td>
<td>29th Mar</td>
<td>30th Mar</td>
<td>31st Mar K-2 Salt Excursion Canberra/Snow Payment Due</td>
<td>1st April School Cross Country</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>4th April</td>
<td>5th April</td>
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### School Holidays

Monday 11th April 2016 - Friday 22nd April 2016  
Students return to school - Wednesday 27th April 2016

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**Canteen Roster**

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<tr>
<th>MONDAY</th>
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<td>March 18&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Kylie S, Steve C</td>
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<td>March 21&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<td>March 23&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Louise W, Rose S</td>
<td>Lizzy L</td>
<td>March 25&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<td>Good Friday</td>
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<td>April 1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<td>Easter Monday</td>
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<td>Trish C, Bettina E</td>
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<td>April 4&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Louise W, Noriko H-K</td>
<td>Kylie L, Alesha D</td>
<td>Heidi L, Kylie E</td>
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<td>April 4&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<td>April 6&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mandy R</td>
<td>April 8&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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If you are able to help us on any of the days above, please contact the school office.  
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.