With the term now well underway and routines back in place, I would like to thank parents and staff for a very strong start to the year. Our Day 8 census saw 854 students enrolled. Thank you also to those of you who attended our Parent Information Evening and Prep parent reading workshop. Our programs are as busy as ever so keep an eye on our newsletter, Facebook page and website for upcoming school events.

Our student leadership program is a vital part of the educational experience our school provides for our students.

(Continued Page 2)
As we grow the community leaders of tomorrow, we encourage every student to take the opportunities that the school offers to build leadership and teamwork skills. Students have an opportunity to develop their leadership skills in a number of different ways. The important message our school has for students is that you do not have to have an official badge to be a part of our student leadership program. Whilst the formal student leadership positions are obviously very significant, students can grow and develop their leadership skills by being involved in a diverse range of programs across the school – Student Council, peer mentoring and the environmental club are just a few of the opportunities available to students. In fact, every student can demonstrate leadership every day just by making good choices, even when no-one is watching! Congratulations to our student leadership group who were received their badges at a special ceremony on Monday.

The safety of our students is always of paramount importance to us. I appreciate that parking around the school is often difficult. However, please can I encourage you to observe parking signs and to avoid parking on roadside verges. Students also need to be reminded to use the supervised crossings when trying to get across busy roads. Crossing supervisors will be visiting Prep and year 1 classes in the near future to remind students of important road safety messages.

It was fantastic to see the Reading Café begin again for the term with a very enthusiastic response. Encouraging and supporting reading at school and at home is very important to us and to the success of your children. As your children start bringing home their readers please help us to make reading an enjoyable and rewarding experience by listening to and reading to your children (and enjoying a good book yourself!) on a regular basis. Reading café occurs each Tuesday and Thursday in the library at 8:30am and starting next week, Prep students are welcome to attend. Volunteers to listen to children read are always welcome!

Do you have uniforms and shoes that your children no longer need?
Feel free to drop them into the office, as we can always use spare clothing and shoes for students. All donations are very much appreciated!

Thank you

Voluntary Contribution Fee
Parents and carers are welcome to call in at the office and pay the voluntary contribution fee of $50. EFTPOS is available. If you are unable to pay the total amount, we accept part payments. All monies go directly towards purchasing resources for classrooms. Thank you to the families who have recently paid:

- Harrison-Nastasi (5E)
- Nakano (6T, 3M)
- Gale (1R)
- Marcel (Prep C)
- Srhoj (4L, 5S, 2F)
- Eade (5E)
- Liddell (4Y, 2T)
- O’Brien (Prep C, 1F)
Would you eat dirt?

Often when adults and children are faced with challenges, we sometimes think negatively, talk negatively and act negatively. The bad news is that thinking and talk negatively is like eating dirt – it’s bad for us. Repeated negative thinking negatively impacts on:

- Our ability to look for positives in the challenge
- Our ability to stop and take a breath
- Our ability to consider other perspectives of the problem
- Our ability to devise creative solutions
- Our ability to see the funny side of the problem
- Our ability to focus on the good things in our life

We know that eating dirt isn’t good for us, so why would we continue to feed our brain with negative thoughts which lead to negative words and negative actions?

So in the next two weeks – let’s all focus on noticing our negative thoughts.

- Stop the negative thoughts in their tracks by saying to ourselves in a silly/funny/gentle voice, “Oh I notice that I’m having the negative thought” rather than “I’m right and they should change”/“I’m stupid”/“Nobody cares”.
- Remind yourself that thinking negative thoughts over and over and over is like eating dirt.
- Take 3 deep breaths
- Focus our attention on the “good news, good news, good news” (it can be funny or solution-focussed good news).
- Praise yourself for being smart enough not to keep ‘eating dirt.’

Breathe deeply - Jo Jones Laifoo, Guidance Officer

Cassie’s Farewell

Last Thursday, our staff members had an afternoon tea in the library to farewell Cassie Blain and wish her luck in her retirement.

Cassie has been a Teacher Aide at Mareeba State School for 26 years and she will be greatly missed. All the best, Cassie!

PBL Update

Weekly expectation focus—I am a Learner

Our focus expectation for Week 4 is ‘I listen to the teacher and others when they are speaking’. It is great to see teachers working with our students on our expectations.

Congratulations to the classes that have won the ‘I Am’ trophies over the last two weeks. At Mareeba State School we utilise a whole school positive rewards system. When our students are ‘caught’ making good choices at school they may be issued an ‘I Am ticket.’ This ticket goes towards their class total and the classes that obtain the most tickets win the ‘I Am’ trophy. At the end of the term the classes with the highest total wins a Subway Party for their class. It is always a tight race in the end and every ticket counts!

Superstar Sports is well under way with Mr Samanes and Mr Fry taking two students from each class out for Fun Friday. The students chosen are those who have been demonstrating excellent behaviour throughout the week. There has certainly been a few sweaty faces on Friday afternoons.

Have a great week! - The PBL Team.
Year 6 News

This term, students in Year 6 have the opportunity to spend a day at Tinaroo Environmental Education Centre. The day is designed as preparation for the senior camp later this year. Students have the opportunity to set expectations for themselves as leaders at Mareeba State School.

So far 6A and 6B have travelled to the centre to partake in the leadership activities that are planned and run by the staff at Tinaroo. Problem solving tasks were set for groups of students that required planning and teamwork. The students had a fantastic time working together to complete the challenges. 6M and 6T will be visiting the centre later this week.

Thank you to Brumby’s Bakery, Howe Farming, Mulungu and Muluridji Tribal Aboriginal Corporation for donating food for emergency lunches for our students. We appreciate your generosity.

JUNIOR SEASON SIGN-ON

Mareeba United Football Club
SATURDAY 18TH FEBRUARY, 2017
9AM–12NOON
@ MUFC Clubhouse – Chowko Road, Mareeba
All registrations to be done via www.myfootballclub.com.au

SQIRTS (3-5 years) $70.00
- Every Thursday 5.15-6pm. Incl: Training shirt & Mini Ball
MINI ROOS (Under 6-11) $200.00
COMPETITIVE (Under 12-15) $270.00
SENIOR COMPETITION (Under 16-18) $300.00
Players receive a Training Shirt, Playing Socks & Gear Bag!

TRAINING COMMENCES: Tuesday 21st February 2017 5.15pm-6.00pm at MUFC Grounds.

FOR ENQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT MAREEBA UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB ON:
pr: Junior President, Matt Horsfall on 0437 397 306 or President, Rob Allen on 0435 891 769
facebook: www.facebook.com/mareebafutsall
email: president@mareebafutsall.com
web: www.mareebafutsall.com.au

A Special Visit for Preps

All of the Prep classes got a special visit last week from our local firefighters. The firefighters were at the school to generate increased awareness about fire safety and to promote the role of the helpful firefighter. They spoke about good and bad fires and outlined what was required in the case of a fire at home and or school. They also showed the equipment required to fight fires. We thank the Mareeba Fire Brigade for their support in fire safety and the time spent with the Preps.
Head of Curriculum
Valerie Dayes

Valerie is responsible for the implementation of the Australian Curriculum across the school. She works with teachers and Teacher Aides to ensure quality teaching and learning occurs in all key learning areas. She can be found in the library and can be contacted vdaye1@eq.edu.au.

STLN Teachers
Tanya Neville & Nadine Apps

Tanya and Nadine support teachers and students with reading intervention to help each student reach their reading goal. They also assist teachers to track and monitor each child’s progression reading. Tanya and Nadine also facilitate the English as a Second Language and Speech Language Programs in the school, manage the Reading Café and support teachers with effective strategies to cater for different learning needs.

Guidance Officer
Jo Jones Laifoo

Jo is a registered teacher and psychologist. Referrals for support from Jo are made through the class teacher and then presented to the Student Support Team to determine how the team can support the student. Jo’s work involves supporting staff and student wellbeing and running programs to do so. Jo also runs supported play at second break each day in her room focused on development of pro-social skills.

Behaviour Support Teacher
Luke Cifuentes

Luke supports students and staff to manage behaviour issues and ensure calm classrooms across the school. He is also a member of the Positive Behaviour for Learning Team and implements the whole school positive rewards system. Luke can be contacted on 4092 8100.

Teacher Librarian
Liz Crunkhorn

Liz manages our school library. She teaches library lessons to all students which involve a mixture of literature and IT, linking to the C2C classroom units. Liz is also our Information Communication Technology (ICT) Co-ordinator and looks after our ICT network, which includes computers, laptops, iPads, XOs and all other technology across the school.

Early Years Intervention & Transition Teacher
Margarita Tatti

Margarita provides literacy support to early years students (Prep - Year 1). She networks with Early Years Services in the community to help to make the transition from Kindy to Prep as smooth as possible. Margarita will be working with families that have children starting Prep in 2018. She can be contacted...