MAREEBA STATE SCHOOL

“Every day, in every classroom,
every child is learning and achieving”
&
“Every day in every classroom,
every child is ready to learn and achieve”

Wednesday 22 July 2015

OUR POSITIVE BEHAVIOURS
I CARE ABOUT LEARNING.
I CARE ABOUT MYSELF AND OTHERS.
I CARE ABOUT MY SAFETY.

Mareeba SS Sentinel

Working Together As One

Tasanda and Allirah participating in the ‘shot throw’ event at the 2015 Athletics Carnival.

OUR P&C MEETS THIRD TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 7:00PM
CONTACT US: Phone - 4092 8100  Fax - 4092 4396  Email - the.principal@mareebass.eq.edu.au
Student absence line - 4092 8166
Welcome back to Term 3! It was great to see so many students back at school last week, in full school uniform and ready to start the term. School attendance remains an important focus for us and every day at school makes a positive difference to a child’s education.

Every year the Department of Education and Training undertakes a survey of parents, students and staff to gauge their levels of satisfaction with important aspects of schooling. All staff, parents and a group of randomly selected Year 4, 5 and 6 students will participate in this survey. I encourage all contributors to take a few minutes to complete the survey as this information helps to inform school planning processes. All responses are completely confidential and the school will receive the collated details of your feedback later this year. All participants will be asked to complete the survey by 3:00pm Friday July 31. Paper returns from parents can be either dropped in to the school office or sent back in with their child. Please contact me if you need further information.

Mareeba State School was mentioned in the recent State budget to receive $1.69 million in a facilities upgrade. This allocation will be spent on two purpose built modular buildings that will be constructed at the school in preparation for the 2016 school year. These buildings will be a very welcome addition to the school and greatly assist in catering to the needs of growing number of students.

As we get back into the routine of a new school term, it is important to remember how well children respond to strong and regular routines.

Incorporating home reading into every afternoon’s homework is a great way to assist students with their education. Whether your child reads to you or whether you read to your child, I encourage you to include reading as a daily activity in your home.

Once again, welcome back!

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**SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS**

Monday to Thursday  8.00am - 4.00pm  
Friday  8.00am - 3.30pm

**PB4L UPDATE**

Welcome back to Term 3! We trust everyone had a great holiday. I am hearing all sorts of stories about the rodeo and the shows. We are hitting the ground running this term and keeping up those expectations of our students. Our rule focus for weeks 1 and 2 is: “I follow steps to solve problems”. This is a reminder rule as we had this one last term, and it is very important. We use steps to solve problems every day here at school. Just like there are steps to solve a mathematics problem we can use steps to solve our issues in the playground. For example, if someone is not playing nicely we could, 1. Use our words e.g., “Stop it! I don’t like it!” 2. Walk away 3. Tell a teacher. It is vital that school staff are aware of issues at school and if our students are following steps we can intervene when necessary. The focus rule for weeks 3 and 4 is “I follow safety rules and teacher direction.”
**RESOURCE SCHEME**
Parents and carers are welcome to call in at the office and pay the annual resource 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 following families who have

Nathan (Prep C, 1F) Dita (Prep R, 1R, 3MT)

**THE LIBRARY NEEDS BOTTLES!**
In preparation for our Art Show later this term, we are collecting clear plastic bottles for our display. They can be soft drink or water bottles but we do need them to be washed and clear (not coloured). Please drop off your plastic bottles to the Library. Thank you for your help.
Liz, Leevi, Cassie & Val

**CURRICULUM UPDATE**

**Prep Information Night**
Prep parents of 2016, come along to the Mareeba State School Prep Information Night, Wednesday 22nd July, 2015. 5pm tour of the school, 5:30pm Information Session at H Block (Prep building – corner of Atherton & Sutherland Streets)

**Student Learning Cafes 2015**
The first student learning café for Term 3 occurred on Tuesday, July 21st at 8:30am in the library. This is a great opportunity for your child to come along and practise their reading and/or get homework assistance. The learning cafes take place every Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Parent volunteers to listen to students read are always appreciated.

**2015 ATHLETICS CARNIVAL**
The Athletics Carnival was a huge success with excellent numbers of students participating. Mitchell were both participation and overall winners. Two records were broken: Frank Tulloch set a new record of 4.06m in the 10 year boys Long Jump and Saurav Sapkota set a new record of 4.33m for the 11 year boys Long Jump. Age Champions were a tight battle with some points coming down to the last event to determine the overall winner.

**AGE CHAMPIONS:**
12 year girls: Kate Walker
12 year boys: Owen Christopher
11 year girls: Doreen Ketchup
11 year boys: Saurav Sapkota
10 year girls: Coco Gambino
10 year boys: Frank Tulloch

Congratulations to everyone who participated. The District Athletics Carnival will be held this Thursday and Friday.

**SCHOOL DENTAL CLINIC**
The Dental Clinic will be closed until Thursday 30th July. If parents have any urgent issues, they can see the dental van at St. Thomas’s.

**SCHOOL OPINION SURVEY**
Online Access details for the School Opinion Survey have been sent home with students. Surveys are open until the 31st July.
If you haven’t received your access details, please contact the school office.
Throughout the year, students from all year levels have been working hard on improving their literacy skills. They have been learning their sight words, diagraphs and blends as well as practising reading and spelling. Students have been using iPads to access different literacy programs and have worked hard to improve their reading levels. The Year Ones love using the ‘Starfall Learn to Read’ app, which can be purchased from the app store or accessed online at www.starfall.com.

On Tuesday 21st July Mareeba SS took part in celebrating Planet Ark’s 20 years of planting trees by participating in National Schools Tree Day. Councilor Mary Graham from the Mareeab Shire Council presented our school leaders with an Atractocarpus fitzalanii ‘Brown Gardenia’ tree to plant on our school oval, joining thousands of other individuals across the country making a difference, connecting people with nature, beautifying neighborhoods and inspiring positive environmental change. With the help from our Groundsman Mr Brad, Chase, Ellie, Ben and Kara dug deep to proudly plant our tree, providing shade for future students and supporting the Mareeba SS Environmental Committee.

Our current attendance rate for 2015 is 89.5% (compared to 87.8% in 2014, 89.1% in 2013, 90.5% in 2012 and 87.8% in 2011)

- Friday 26th June (last day of term 2) attendance rate was 71.9% (lowest for term 2)
- Monday was the day with the most absences in term 2
- Tuesday 16th June was the highest attended day with a rate of 93.7%
- We averaged 11.8% absences per day in term 2
- Total absences in term 2 was 4347 and the following reasons were recorded: Holiday – 232, Illness – 1300, Other – 820, Suspensions – 62, Unexplained – 1933
- In term 2 we had approx. 310 students attend school at or above our target of 95%
- In term 2 we had approx. 220 students attend school less than 85%, putting these students significantly at risk
- Since we started using the MGM text message system we have improved our unexplained absences by 17.77% with year 6 improving their unexplained absences by 35.4%
**School Review**

**Opportunity To Have Your Say**

Our school is scheduled for a school review from 8 – 10 September. The Department of Education and Training has introduced new performance reviews for Queensland state schools in 2015. The reviews do not rate or compare schools but provide independent and quality feedback to help schools continue to improve outcomes for students. All schools will have a review at least every four years. A final report is made available to parents and the community on the school’s website. The review team would like to hear from our school community and I encourage anyone who is interested to have their say. Your feedback is important and will help us continue to deliver a quality education for students. If you are interested in speaking to the reviewers, or would like more information about the review process, please contact the office. Further information about the reviews is available from the department’s website at: education.qld.gov.au/schools/school-performance-assessment-framework

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**QUILT FOR RAVENSHOE**

On Wednesday, 24th June, Mrs Mandy Whybird, Chase Burns and Ellie Fink travelled to Ravenshoe State School to deliver a ‘quilt’ created by Mareeba State School students and the library staff. The ‘quilt’ is a special representation of the thoughts we have for the Ravenshoe community at such a difficult time.