Hello again,

We are half way through this term and I for one, am hoping the hotter weather is behind us.

Leaders
Our seniors went to Grip Leadership early in February and did a fabulous job representing our school. Mrs Harris and Mrs Gemma were very proud of the children’s listening skills and participation. Photos page 3.

Our Leadership Induction Ceremony was a proud day for parents, families, friends and staff. It was unfortunate all our invited guests had to put in apologies, but it was still a special occasion for all, receiving their badges and public recognition for the responsibility of the year ahead. Photos page 4

School Grounds
Thanks to the P & C and families for taking on the mowing of our school grounds. The P&C made this decision on behalf of the parent body, due to cuts to the school budget by the department. By the P & C managing the mowing, the school is able to use the money previously expended towards purchasing valuable classroom resources for the school. It is essential for student safety that around the school buildings be mowed weekly. If you are unable to mow on your allocated weekend please arrange a swap or replacement. Thanks to Mick for servicing the mower and sharpening the blades, this will make it better for the next family on roster. If you’re not sure when your turn is the roster is on page 7 of this newsletter.

Open Communication
One of the easiest ways to find out how your child is travelling at school, or to clarify a concern from some information that your child brought home, is to make an appointment to see either Sue, Gemma or myself. No concern is too big or too small and there is research to state that a child who sees their parent interested or invested in their school life has improvements in their academic and social learning.

We are having our parent/teacher night at the end of the term, but you don’t have to wait until then if you would like a chat. Making an appointment with a brief detail about what you wish to discuss—learning, playground, behaviour, classroom, homework, will give us time to prepare for the discussion. If you can’t make it up for a face to face meeting, you are more than welcome to give us a call or send an email.

Travelling Safely to School
Please remind your child of the importance of safe behaviours whilst riding the school bus. Poor behaviour choices could lead to a distracted driver, then an accident. Copies of the bus code of conduct can be reissued if needed.

Have a great fortnight,

Erin
English—Prep, 1 and 2 have been listening and reading picture books. It is important for young readers to be able to consolidate Concepts About Print. These include front and back covers of a book, the title and what it means, know the difference between a word or a letter or a capital or a lower case letter. Punctuation marks are also important and what they mean. Once these basics are secure they begin to see themselves as readers. We also ask the children to identify parts of sentences, such as noun (who) verbs (actions) characters, (who), setting (where) and when and what in story or sentence. Our younger learners also need to be able to relate events in the story to their own personal experiences, identify from clues in the text (illustrator’s pictures and author’s words) how the characters are feeling and be able to compare books.

As this unit concludes with a monitoring task of a spoken presentation, the P-2 children will move into a unit based on persuasive texts. This unit will be assessed and the first job for the children is to identify what they need to learn, know and be able to do to be successful in their assessment. At school we call the process WALT, (we are learning to) Know and Do table (we must know and we must be able to do) and unpacking the GTMJ (Guide to Making Judgements).

Year 3 have started the year with a monitoring task and are learning to read and analyse persuasive texts. They need to also learn how to write a letter to the editor and a persuasive paragraph. We have been identifying how forceful some words are in persuasion. The use of modal verbs (may I have pet versus I should or I must have a pet) and evaluative adjectives (when you evaluate an argument you work out how important the ideas are in order to judge them) along with identifying points of view and alternate points of view.

The next unit will be a narrative based unit with a formal assessment. The year 3s will analyse a character from a novel through comprehension questions and write a short narrative.

Science—The Year 3s head down to Mrs Gemma for their study of Science. This term they are looking into space and finding out about the effects of the sun and moon on the earth.

Prep, 1 and 2 are taught Science by Mrs Salter and are studying the Water Cycle. I am sure they have come home talking about cirrus and cumulus clouds and described the differences. The class will also keep looking to the sky for day and night and back Earth for landscapes and how water is a resource and how to use and conserve it.

Maths—This term we are working on time concepts, number concepts and length. Skip counting by 1s, 2s, 5s and 10s is a daily task and we are partitioning numbers which will help us with addition and subtraction.

Class is a busy, busy place. Please make sure your child is reading every day at home and if applicable learning sounds/letters or sight words. Homework is handed out on Monday and returned following Monday.
Millaroo Moments

Gripleadership—Townsville 09-02-16

Sweethearts Day
Millaroo Moments
Leadership Ceremony 17-02-16
Absolutely loving the journey so far with our very enthusiastic bunch of 4/5er’s that have joined us this year! James with his enthusiasm to work hard; Montana always striving to better herself; Nicole with her complex thoughts and ideas; Joel’s ability to turn every moment into a smile and a dance; and, Jollea with her passion to go above and beyond with all her tasks. The kids have had a swift induction to how the 4-6 classroom works. It’s full on and challenging and despite this ALL the children have seemed to have adjusted well. In terms of our classroom effort I have been amazed at the gear the 4-6’s have started in and look forward to a huge journey of growth and excitement over the year.

**Teaching Focus:**
My focus to date has been on setting up all of the subject learning walls and learning journey. These displays include marking criteria, what the kids have to know and be able to do to get tasks done and visual/word displays to prompt learning and cue prior knowledge. On our Tuesday/ Wednesday/ Thursdays this semester we cover English, Maths, History, Music, Technology and Science. There is a mountain of learning to do and at times some research activities may be sent home to ease the pressure of facilitating 14 eager learners all trying to use limited computers at once. Please let me know if this does not work for you and we can arrange something else; however, I believe this type of homework activity will be extremely valuable as the students head in the direction of high school.

**Behaviour Update:**
As some parents may have seen our little classroom contract for behaviour went home in week 1. Over the last 2 weeks we have pulled out the 15 minutes at lunch time card for some students’ choices that were not safe and others that were not kind to others. The kids have got on board with this and are striving for great behaviour, those that make poor choices are aware of the consequences and whether they like it or not are giving up those 15 lunch-time minutes without a disagreement. Fingers crossed a tough approach at the beginning of the year means I will get a lunch break at some stage by the end of the term!
On Friday the 12th of February Millaroo State School raised money for Heart Disease.

This was a very successful day as we had a lot of gold coin donations that all added up to $86.85.

Everyone wore red to school and at Morning Tea time the student council ran a cake stall. The cake stall sold lots of cupcakes which were decorated by the grade 6 girls; however, we also sold brownies shaped as hearts.

As Abi is our recreational officer she organised a colouring in competition. Lots of people entered their pieces of artwork, everyone’s colouring-in’s looked amazing.

There was 4 winners, 2 for people’s choice and 2 for judges’ choice.

For the P-3 people’s choice, the winner was Jorja Vener who won a movie voucher and a pizza voucher.

For the 4-6 people’s choice, the winner was Bree Sexton who won a pizza voucher and a craft photo album.

For the P-3 judges’ choice, the winner was Jack Keyes who won a Dog backpack.

Lastly for the 4-6 judges’ choice, the winner was Max Graham who won a colouring in car pack.

The prizes for the colouring competition were kindly donated by the following:

- Cinnamon Kids
- Toy World
- Delta Cinema’s
- Dominoes
- Butterfly Blue.

Sweet Hearts Day was a successful day!

Written By,

Savannah Storey
**Mowing Roster**

February 27/28 - Bax  
March 5/6 - Keyes  
March 12/13 - Vener  
March 19/20 - Storey

Please remember that mowing around the school is the essential mowing that is required every week. If you are unable to mow on weekends, you are more than welcome to mow after 3:30pm during the school week. Each family is responsible for the mowing to be done on their weekend. If you are unavailable to do it on your weekend, IT IS UP TO YOU to find a family to replace you or swap with.

**PLEASE BE AWARE**—all the wet weather has really fired up the mosquitoes here at school. If you wish to send insect repellent to school with your child PLEASE make sure it is a roll-on or pump spray. NO aerosol cans thanks

**Brain Break - H20, Fruit N' Vege to Go!**

PLEASE be aware our SNACK break is a quick boost of water and fuel for the brain. Think no or limited packaging. Suitable foods
Important Dates in 2016

March 4       Clean up Australia Day at School
7            START your Cross Country Training
10           Burdekin Zone Hockey tryouts
14           Burdekin Zone Basketball tryouts
15           Burdekin Zone Soccer & AFL tryouts
16           Burdekin Zone Rugby League & Netball tryouts
18           National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence

21 Mar        End of term social gathering—Quick P&C meeting, share a meal then 10 min Parent Teacher Interviews
24 Mar        Term Finishes

YOU CAN DO IT
5 Keys to Success
Getting along
Organisation
Confidence
Persistence
Resilience

GREEN CARD WINNERS ARE GRINNERS
Abbi and Tayla

HALL OF FAME
Jack T—great independent work and helper to prep
James—working hard in maths in 4-