Hello parents, families and friends,

As you are all aware Erin has had to extend her sick leave. We are all very keen to see Erin return; however, we will now see her coming back to school in week 9. Please be assured that while some changes to staffing will occur, maintaining the greatest consistency in our teaching staff was our ultimate goal to ensure the disruption to learning was kept to a minimum.

**Staffing weeks 6, 7 and 8**

During these weeks we welcome back Mr John Eade. John has taught at our school many times over the last few years and we are confident the P-4 class will thrive during those Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday’s he will take the class. Many thanks to Sue and Kerrie for your commitment during these first 5 weeks.

**World Teacher’s Day and Day for Daniel**

Reminder that on Friday 30th of October, the student council is holding a free dress day. The children are encouraged to wear a red shirt in support of the fundraiser and bring a gold coin donation that the student council will donate to the Daniel Morcombe Foundation. We will also participate in a variety of activities provided on the Day for Daniel from the registrations pack, aiming to “keep kids safe!”. Don’t forget it is world teacher’s day and parents are most welcome to bring a plate and come along for morning tea; or alternately, send the kids with a plate to share for morning tea on that day.

**Kids Helpline Interactive Sessions**

Last week the school participated in an interactive sessions via iconnect at school. The P-4’s discussed sad feelings and the 4-6’s discussed dealing with anger. The sessions were highly beneficial as all students took away the key message that all of these feelings are ok to have as long as you deal with them in the correct way. The kids loved talking with Gwen and were able to see some animations. I was really proud of how the kids engaged in the discussion, even at times when technology was not engaged with us!

**School Opinion Survey**

On the student free day the staff were able to have a look at our school opinion survey. The survey is designed to give feedback on how the school is going over the last 12 months. We discussed some great ideas and actions we can take as a staff to improve our school over the next 12 months.

Until next time,

Gemma

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**EVERY DAY COUNTS... attendance at school is the responsibility of everyone in the community.**

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**MILLAROO IS A GREAT SCHOOL!** - Acting Principal Gemma Petersen

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**SCHOOL FOCUS AREAS in 2015**

✓ Australian Curriculum ✓ Student achievement ✓ School community engagement ✓ Instructional leadership ✓ Staff capacity
Another English unit is wrapping up, officially at the end of week 5, the children have done a fantastic job in creating their own poems. The year 3’s have used features of rhyming, rhythm, repetition, alliteration, puns, spoonerisms, neologisms, nonsense words and onomatopoeia. They have created their own unique poems, some of which are included in the newsletter. The Prep – year 2’s have reconstructed a poem to make it their own and will be proudly reciting them to the class in week 5.

In maths we have been focussing on fractions symmetry, money and time. Telling time is often a tricky problem for children. The basic understanding of 60 seconds equals one minute and 60 minutes equals one hour seems to be a concept that is often hard to grasp. (I guess all other maths is 10’s based.) It would be very beneficial to your child if you could incidentally encourage the telling of the time at home. Both digital and analogue time telling are being taught.

We are encouraging children to have a greater pride in the presentation of their work. Rushing and lack of pride in their work often results in us as teachers and teacher aides having to decipher their work. We are pretty good at this, with plenty of practise reading upside down etc. However, it is a bad habit that needs to be broken. If the children have a different teacher as they progress through school, their work will not necessarily be understood. Some children should not be surprised if they have to repeat their work.

Well, we are now nearly half way through last term and it is great to see the achievements the children have made throughout the year. All of a sudden all the children seem to have shot up unbelievably.

- Mrs Salter
Mrs Salter...
...helps us when we need it.
...is happy all the time.
...well, my art would be rubbish without her!
...makes stuff when something in on.
...is so nice for stars and cars.
...is a joyful, happy loving teacher.
...let’s us go on the i-pad when we are waiting.

Miss A...
...has lots of enthusiasm.
...makes maths fun!
...my favourite thing about Miss A is her smile.
...is fun and likes singing.
...is good because she’s the principal.
...teaches us fun songs!
...fun, always happy.
...let’s us go on the computers.

Mrs Gemma...
...is happy.
...always turns something someone says into a laugh.
...teaches maths.
...is playful.
...she does music. That is fun.
...kind, patient and organised.
...is a mathematician!

Mrs Cerovski...
...gives us lot’s of tally marks.
...makes science more fun!
...let’s us play snap and memory.
...is very nice.
...makes us have fun!
...thank you for being our Thursday teacher!
...walks around the classroom a lot.
The Museum of Tropical Queensland, based in Townsville and part of the Queensland Museum Network, is running the *My Favourite Place in Queensland* Photography Competition to encourage photographers of all ages to snap and share the best of the Sunshine State and win over $5,000 in prizes.

There are **three age categories**: primary school (Years 1 to 6), secondary school (Years 7 to 12) and an open category (18 years of age and over).

And over **$5,000 worth of prizes**!

For all the details, visit our website (www.mtq.qm.qld.gov.au), complete the online entry form and submit your photograph **before 5pm on Monday 30 November 2015**.

Importantly again this year, we **don’t ask for** the copyright for the photos submitted.

Entries will be featured regularly on our Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/museumoftropicalqueensland) and highly commended photographers will be announced in early 2016.
Curriculum intent:
I have really enjoyed coming in on other days at the moment to see how things work on Erin’s side of things. Most importantly it has been great to come in and understand how the homework is set up and organised. It took me a little while to work it out on Monday, but thanks to Miss Duffin, I think I have it right now! If you do have a problem with the homework please let me know and I can address the issue. As I prepare to put together end of semester report cards I am really pleased with our growth and change in approach to learning Maths but also the high standard we are now operating to. This kids may get grumpy with us doing too much ‘learning’ in Maths but it certainly is paying off.

Teaching Focus:
This week I am focusing on developing our Personal and Social goals. During the Monday/ Friday whole school days we have taken the opportunity to develop some partnerships between the younger students and the 4-6’s. This will assist students in working towards their own personal and social goals. Some of the children’s goals are things like speaking clearer, being more confident talking to people and being a better listener. Children are paired to work on things like writing word definitions together and assisting younger students with technology issues.

Behaviour update:
The class has finally reached a stage of independency . Throughout all of our classes, in particular the Maths and English lessons the 4-6’s have seemed to have shifted gears and have moved into the zone of working autonomously. This is something we have been working on for the whole year and to finally achieve this is awesome. The kids have been working so well on their own we have been able to release Mrs Harris and Miss Duffin from time to time to go work on some other jobs! Still we can always improve on something...back chatting is the top of my hit list. I am more than happy to have a joke from time to time but there are some instances where talking back to your teacher is not acceptable. These issue will be dealt with through a warning system and time outs at lunchtime.

This week’s Focus:

Science: Conducting light energy
Technology: Presenting Robot challenge to the class
History: Constructing 3D model of first fleet ship/ first settlers life / life of women over the 19th century.
Music: Performing percussion and melody as a class.
English: Y ear 4 – comparing 2 ad’s.
Y r 5/ 6 – drafting response to literary or informative text.
Maths: Y r 4 – Data assessment, Y r 5 - Factors
Y r 6 - Representing numbers on a Cartesian plane
“When I get angry I can go and do something on the computer, like go to the Landcare website.” – Athan

“I got really helpful advise like using the green, yellow and red lights to understand how angry I am feeling. If I ring kids helpline I can talk to someone that gets me and they are not bias.” – Abi

“We watched a video about a boy that really wanted to go somewhere, but he didn’t get the marks he wanted and was feeling sad.” – Billy

“When I have sad feelings I can play funny games.” – Tayla

“If your upset think of something happy, like for me it’s sprinkling flowers to help you feel better.” – Jollea

“You are allowed to cry if your feeling really sad, but you can go to your favourite place if you like.” – Montana

“If you are sad you can go to your room and cry in your pillow if you don’t want anyone to know you are sad.” – Nicole
The Transition Process

The process of transition enables families and children to become familiar with the school routines and environment, and for the school to start to become familiar with important information about the child such as learning strengths, interests and stress triggers.

When a new student prepares to begin school it is important to teach:

⇒ the routines the student is likely to encounter in Prep
⇒ the staff the student is likely to encounter (classroom, playground, office, specialist staff, support staff, other)
⇒ any peers the student may already know or has recently met
⇒ the environments the student is likely to experience, including the Prep classroom, school amenities, the allocated playground area, specialist lessons, library
⇒ routines the child will need to know, such as access to the tuckshop, uniform shop, after school hours care program, sporting amenities, the library and specialised support or rooms

As a part of our transition process we have been co-constructing a “My New School” booklet with our pre-preppie Tim.

We can’t wait to have you join as great group of kids Tim!
Important Dates in 2015

30/10  World Teachers Day
       Day for Daniel
05/11  Planet Rhythm
09/12  GRADUATION NIGHT—
       ‘Let Us Entertain You’ - Dalbeg Hall
10/12  Student break up day

Green Light Card WINNERS
are
GRINNERS!

Abbi Bax,
Tayla MacDonald
and
Savannah Storey

4 School Rules
Match Respect  
Maintain Pride
Manage My Safety

Star awards
to...

Billy Bax,
Athan Vener,
Bree Sexton,
Charlie Lamb,
Brodie Lamb,
Nicole Cervoni