Hello Linville,

Term One is flying and it is hard to believe that next week is the halfway mark for the term! Last Wednesday we were visited by our schools Assistant Regional Director, Mrs Debbie Hails. She mentioned how good it was to see the students engaged in learning when she visited the classrooms and was very pleased to see how focussed everyone was. Last year we made progress academically and also with our attendance. It was the first year since we went over to the digital system, OneSchool, in 2010 that we achieved an attendance rate of higher than 93%.

School Improvement Agenda
This morning at the P & C meeting I shared our schools improvement agenda for 2015. This is included with the newsletter and will be on every newsletter for 2015. Last year we saw great successes as we strove to achieve our goals for our school. We look forward to the continuing and building on those successes this year. For 2015 our agenda will focus on:

- Reading - Every student reading, every day and achieving success.
- Behaviour - Last year was the preparation phase of SWPBS - this year it has a new name PBL (that is Positive Behaviour for Learning) and it is implementation year.
- Differentiation - Improve how we cater for the learning needs of each student at our school.
Cross Country
Harlin State School has asked if the date for the Cross Country be moved forward. It is now on Thursday 12th March. We will be leaving school at 8.45 am for a 9.00 am arrival at Harlin. Students are running the lap challenge and have been engaged in other endurance activities to help prepare them for this event.

In HPE, senior class students were talked through tips for running a “smart” race. These included a brief sprint at the beginning (no more than 200 m), on the uphill shorten your running stride and go faster over the last third than the first 2/3’s, choose a steady pace that you can maintain, run close to the first runner if you can (about 1 metre behind, especially if it is windy) and save some energy for the last 100 m sprint.

At sports events we run in age groups not year levels, so students will be organised according to the year of their birth. Below is a list of distances and age levels that will run those distances.

5 & 6 Year olds (students born in 2010 & 2009) - 500 m
7 & 8 Year olds (students born in 2008 & 2007) - 1 km
9 & 10 Year olds (students born in 2006 & 2005) - 2 km
11 & 12 Year olds (students born in 2004 & 2003) - 3 km

Communication
Communication is an area that I, along with most of the human species, have to continually work at to improve. It is also the key to avoiding misunderstandings or clarifying what is happening at school. All staff are happy to talk with you and if you have questions or would like to know about what your child is learning then please approach Mrs Corcoran, Mrs McLachlan and I, we love to talk about what is happening in the classrooms.

Most issues can be sorted out quickly by having a conversation. If talking face to face cannot happen then please call, e-mail or send a message in homework diaries or the new communication books (for the Prep-Year 3’s).

Healthy Lunches
At the start of the school year we like to include information in the newsletter about healthy eating. Included as an attachment with this newsletter is a suggested guide for healthy snacks for students. For the rest of this term a “healthy lunch” message will be included with the newsletter.

Australian Curriculum - Health and Physical Education (HPE)
The over-arching message that we send to our students at Linville is our school motto “Our Best Always”. In every situation we expect them to achieve their very best. In Health this term, the Prep-Year 3’s are discussing things that they could not do as infants, which they can do now. This leads into PE where they are mastering a range of skills involving strength, balance, agility and co-ordination. For Health Year 4-7’s have been talking about relationships and how our emotions and feelings influence and impact on others. In PE the Years 4-7 are working on developing endurance and strength (mainly some extra Cross Country preparation). What they are learning in Health goes well with the PE component as some students are realising that the emotion they play a game or activity with can influence the enjoyment of others.

7 Steps in Writing
Our school teaching staff and teacher aides attended training in the program “7 Steps to Writing Success”. As a school we recognised many years of low achievement in NAPLAN writing tests. Joining with our local schools we received training during the January Student Free Days, before school started. Look out for your children coming home talking about “Sizzling Starts”, “Dynamic Dialogue” or “Tightening Tension”. 7 Steps use a chunking technique to teach students key skills for improving their writing. It has a solid research base and evidence for improving student’s ability to create interesting to read text. Included with the newsletter is an overview of the 7 Steps to Writing Success.

On Monday and Tuesday next week Mrs Corcoran will be attending Professional Development in becoming a 7 Steps Writing Coach. On Monday Mr Mac will cover her class and she will be replaced by Mrs Somerville on Tuesday.
Principals Conference
At the end of next week is the bi-annual Principals Conference in Brisbane. This means that I will be away next week from Wednesday to Friday. Mrs McLachlan is replacing me for the three days. If you have a matter that you needs urgent attention please either e-mail me or talk to the staff at school.

Looking forward the rest of the term!

Mr Mac.

P & C News
The next P & C Meeting will be the AGM on Wednesday 11th March 2015 at 9:00am. All welcome!

Community News

Supa Club
The Supa Club dates for this term are 25th February, 11th and 25th March.

Catharina Kusay

Esk District Junior Cricket Club will be running a MILO in2CRICKET program for girls and boys aged seven to 11 in to get a taste of cricket. The program will be held after school from 3.15 to 4.30 at Esk State School. The program involves fun, safe activities that teach kids the basic skills to play cricket, in a supportive, non-competitive environment.

The cost of the program is $80.00 which includes afternoon tea and a pack containing a backpack, MILO, Aussie Cricket Crew membership, bat, hat, shirt and ball.

Contact Hilary Benson on 0419028154 if you are interested.