Welcome back to Term 3 Semester 2 we are officially half way through the school year. Bearing this in mind, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate students on their impressive efforts in Semester 1. Whilst challenged by the demands of the Australian Curriculum we had a number of students produce impressive results across the board. In particular I would like to congratulate and recognise the outstanding efforts of the following students:

- Hannah Mollenhauer
- Mia Bishop
- Luke Greer
- Blair Ewart
- Mikayla Ward
- Denim Brown
- Larissa Ramke
- Elia Toomey
- Tara Ewart
- Chris Kerkow
- Meg Hansen
- James Brimblecombe

These students should be proud of their performance, congratulations once again.

A reminder for parents and the community that the key priorities for 2013 at Wheatlands State School are as follows;

- Implementation of the Australian Curriculum.
- Analyse and Respond to Data with a Focus on Spelling.
- Develop and Implement a Pedagogical Framework Aligned with State and Regional Agendas.
- Connect with Parents and Community to Support Student Wellbeing and Learning

I am pleased to report that the school is making great progress in each of these identified areas and will continue to do so for the remainder of the year. In particular I would to mention the pleasing progress and improvement being made by all students in Spelling under the Spelling Mastery Program. I look forward to seeing the benefits of this program long term.

Over recent months the State and Federal Governments have released individual Education Policies which will greatly affect the direction of education for Queensland. I would like to point out that these policies and programs are vastly different in nature. I am urging parents and community members to take a look at the following links and decide for yourself how these agendas will affect Wheatlands State School. This is a very significant point in time for the future direction of Queensland Education, consequently it is important as parents you remain informed about the benefits and implications from these reforms.

The Federal Governments Gonski Review of school funding found Australia is seriously under-investing in education, particularly in state schools. It recommends a complete overhaul of the way funding is delivered and a significant increase for state schools across the country. The exact amount of additional funding we would receive is still to be finalised. However, even if the school received the average increase of $1,500 per student per year it would provide an additional amount of $136,500 for the education of the students at our school.

Benefits of Extra Funding

With additional funding we could:

- Cut class sizes by employing an additional classroom teacher
- Provide more assistance in the classroom for students with special needs and disabilities
- Employ specialist teachers, particularly for literacy and numeracy
- Provide additional training and support for teachers

I'm sure you will agree that these resources would have a really positive impact on teaching and learning at our school. It would help us improve the education of every single child.

For more information visit the website www.igiveagonski.com.au

The State Governments Great teachers = Great results is the Queensland Government’s five-year, $537 million action plan to make our state’s education system even better. It will:

- support teachers with mentoring, training and resources
- reward outstanding teachers with career opportunities and scholarships
- strengthen state school discipline
- allow schools to have more say in how they are run because each school community knows what’s best for Queensland kids.

The plan will lift standards of teaching and give schools more flexibility to get on with the job with a range of research-based initiatives to help your child get a great education, no matter where you live.

There will be new ways of measuring and rewarding high performances among our teachers, as well as strengthened discipline and streamlined processes for suspensions and exclusions.

Find out more about the plan: www.qld.gov.au/greatteachers

Daniel Bishop
AASC

WE NEED MORE COACHES  As a community coach you will be delivering sport or other structured physical activity sessions to primary school children in the after-school timeslot during the school term. We are seeking enthusiastic and motivated community coaches who can conduct game-based activity sessions in not only traditional sports such as netball, hockey and rugby league, but also non-traditional activities such as dancing, Frisbee and martial arts. The possibilities for getting kids active are endless! You will need to demonstrate sufficient knowledge and/or experience within the activity you wish to deliver and a desire to have fun helping kids get active. Our Community coaches training program will take care of the rest.

Please read through the brochure attached to this newsletter.

Invitations to participate in AASC this term will be issued as soon as details are confirmed.

News From The Big People

English

Our topic for this term is “Songs of Social Comment”. We will listen to and read a variety of poems, ballads and lyrics that put forward different points of view. With parental permission children may on occasion bring a song to school to contribute to our discussions. If this song is on an electronic device such as an iPod or MP3 player these must be taken to the office or given to Mrs Meikle on arrival at school to help prevent any unfortunate incidents.

Lecturette Topics

All children have been given a task sheet and topic for this term’s lecturette. We have reminded the students that meeting the

Science

Biology is our focus for this term. We will be looking at the adaptations of humans and animals to live in specific environments as well as food chain and ways to classify and identify animals.

History

Our unit this term continues on from last semester – Australia as a nation. We will cover federation and more recent significant events in Australia’s history.

We continue to set high standards for behaviour, independence and effort.

Mrs Libby Meikle

1/2 Class

Welcome back!

We have enjoyed jumping back into our classroom routine. I hope that everyone had an enjoyable holiday.

Thanks to the 1/2 class and the parents who take the time each night to read with their child/ren ☺ Each student has shown improvement and will continue to do so with regular reading.

We have introduced some new topics and will paste an outline in Communication Books next week.

Our class will be completing gardening each Monday afternoon. If parents could please find an old shirt for their child/ren to bring to school for these afternoons it would be appreciated. (Preferably a large shirt that will cover their school uniform please). I am also asking that each family donate some seeds for our garden or seedlings. (Something that will grow this time of year or towards next season) We would like to make the soil as healthy as possible in the first few weeks and will begin planting in week 3.

High Expectations Handwriting Award:

Nick Divljak - Brilliant writing this morning!

Reading Awards

Week 1 – Congratulations to Ty Keltie, Jackson Brown and Nick Divljak for completing 75 nights of reading. Congratulations to the following students who completed 100 nights of reading: Kai Allan and Denim Brown. Congratulations to the following students who have all completed their 125 nights of reading: Olivia Ashley, Dallas Gordon, Jorja Forsythe, Kyle Sempf, Hannah Rosenthal, Rory Scott, Cooper Mollenhauer, Lawson Schloss and Julia Kerkow. Also big congratulations to Dustin Ramke who was awarded his certificate on parade for 150 nights of reading. Well done, keep it up ☺

Green Slips – Each week 2 students will be awarded a Green Slip from the 1/2 Class and a green slip given to a student for the neatest homework.

Week 1 – Dustin Ramke (neatest homework this week), William Porter and Hannah Rosenthal.

Miss Sarah Sullivan.
Term 3 has started off very successfully with the children busy already. We have started new units of work in English, Maths, Science, and History this week.

**English**

We have started reading a novel called *Matty Forever* written by Elizabeth Fensham. It is a story about friendship, acceptance and trust. The students will be exploring the use of descriptive language to construct characters. We have read the first 3 chapters this week. We looked specifically at nouns and verbs as well as answering literal and inferential questions. For assessment, students will be required to comprehend an excerpt from a novel. They will also express a point of view about the thoughts, feelings and actions of the main characters in the novel.

Next week the students will be introduced to their Lecturette task for the term. Information will be sent home next week in their communication book.

**Maths**

We have started maths this term on the topic of Measurement. This week we have focused on different units of length (mm, cm, m, km) and perimeter. In the next two weeks we will work on other areas of measurement including area, volume and capacity, and mass.

This term, we will cover the following topics: Space, Shape and Position, Place Value, Division, and Fractions.

**Science**

This term we are doing the Primary Connections unit, *Light Fantastic*. It provides opportunities for students to explore where light comes from, how it is used, how light travels and how it enables us to see. Students’ thinking about light and its role in our lives and our community will be developed using hand-on activities. Through investigations students will explain how light enables us to see and how we can use light to meet our needs. This week we found out what the students think they know about light and they have recorded their answers for display on our Science chat board.

**History**

Students have started investigating European exploration and the movement of peoples. They will be investigating the great journeys of exploration from the 1400s to the late 1700s and how these resulted in colonisation and the building of empires around the globe. They will pose questions about European settlement and the colonisation of Australia. Each lesson starts with a question to investigate. This week we investigated, “How do we know that people travelled across the world in the past?” We looked at artefacts from the shipwreck of HMS Pandora and examined a map labelled with a number of shipwrecks which originated from Spain, Portugal, Great Britain, France, and The Netherlands. Next week the focus question is, “What did European navigators, explorers and traders know about the world during the period 1450 to 1800?”

I would like to congratulate Alysse Bell for being our Student of the Week for her lovely setting out in her Maths book!!!

Miss Erin Hubbard

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**Prep/One News**

This week we are straight back into routine and working after a two week holiday. We have been looking at the letter ‘z’ and we have started to build CVC families with medial ‘a’ in phonics this week. We have been making the word family for ‘am’- like jam, dam, ham. We have continued with guided reading and sight words at our level. This week we started journal writing in handwriting lines. These look fantastic and everyone is transitioning well.

In maths this week we revised the numbers 0-10 and we are looking at heavy and light. In SOSE we are looking at the environment of the city and next week we will have a wall display of our art work.

Green Slips for the week are Xavier, Mia, Tamika, Amber and Erin.

Bookwork Award- Miley

Mrs Alex Brimblecombe

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**Barambah Small Schools Cluster Athletics Carnival—26th July 2013**

The Cluster Athletics Carnival will be held at Moffatdale State School in Term 3. Please note that private transport arrangements will be required for your student/s to attend. There will be no bus available. More information regarding tuckshop etc for the day will be available closer to the date.
**Are you interested in a bus service to a ‘high quality’ Kindergarten and Long Day Care Centre?**

The Queensland Government is committed to ensuring that all Kindy aged children have access to a high quality kindergarten program. The Government has provided Mother Kate’s Early Learning Centre with a grant to purchase a bus to meet the transport needs of our local community.

Mother Kate’s new Kindy bus will be visiting your school on **Tuesday 23 July 2013** between **2:30pm and 3:15pm**. To find out more information come along and talk to owners Kate and Sharon Sippel. For any enquiries phone: 4169 0811.

Mother Kate’s Early Learning Centre, 25 McCord Street, Wondai
Email: motherkates@datawave.net.au
Ph: 07 4169 0811

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<th>Dates to Remember</th>
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<tr>
<td>18th July</td>
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<td>26th July</td>
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<td>Show Holiday</td>
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<td>14th August</td>
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<td>Year 7 students Transition Day</td>
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<td><strong>2014</strong></td>
<td>Years 5, 6, 7 students</td>
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<td>4th—8th Aug</td>
<td>Canberra Trip</td>
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