The end is in sight
The end of the school year is fast approaching and the school has a very ‘busy’ feel to it as students and teachers finish off the year’s programs. Many students are already talking about their holiday break and the Year 6’s are sharing their nervous excitement as they prepare to move into high school and a new phase of their educational journey. I would like to remind all students that school rules and expectations are in place right up until the final day of school.

The last few weeks of school are not a time to behave or act differently, this ensures that all staff and students can continue to learn and work unhindered. It has been a wonderful year and I would like the last few weeks to be just as positive as the previous three and a half terms. Parents can support their children by reminding them and helping them to keep adhering to our school expectations.

Updating Contact Details
It is always important to keep the school as well informed as possible about telephone contact details and any changes in family circumstances. With over 500 students in our care, it is reasonable to assume that we will have a range of sudden illnesses or injuries to deal with each week. Our efforts to contact parents are often made very difficult if we are not in receipt of your most recent contact details.

As well, the emergency contacts you have nominated may no longer be a part of your extended support network. Please help us in this regard and either send a note to the office ladies, send an email to admin@musghillss.eq.edu.au or contact by telephone providing us with your updated details.

Prep is now compulsory!
From 2017, it will be compulsory for all Queensland children to undertake the Prep Year, prior to commencing Year 1.

Since Prep started in 2007, there have been noticeable improvements to learning outcomes for children who participate in Prep. The vast majority of Queensland parents already choose to enrol their child in Prep when they reach the eligible age.

Making Prep compulsory ensures all children develop the knowledge and skills provided by the Prep Year that form the foundation of future learning.


FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

Date Claimers

Monday 28th November
Assembly Years 3 to 6 at 2pm
Aussie of the Month and BASE Awards

Year 6 Southport High Transition Week

Swimming for 2M, 2V and Year 3

Wednesday 30th November
RI Christmas Concert at 2pm in Hall

Thursday 1st December
Student Leadership Presentation 2pm

Monday 5th December
Assembly Prep to Year 2 at 2pm
Aussie of the Month and BASE Awards

Year 6 Sails Excursion

Christmas Concert 5.00 – 6.30pm

Tuesday 6th December
Year 6 Bowls

Wednesday 7th December
Year 6 Graduation

Thursday 8th December
Musgrave’s Got Talent

Friday 9th December
Last Day of School for 2016

Monday 23rd January 2017
School Resumes

Tuckshop/Uniform Shop
(07) 5527 1012

P & C meet the second Wednesday of each month at 5.00pm in the Staffroom
Dress Code
Now that the warmer weather is upon us, it is delightful to note the ‘sea of yellow and green’ at our parades and in the playground. Thank you for supporting our Dress Code Policy as this enhances each student’s sense of belonging and contributes positively to their pride in themselves and their school. Please remember that we are continuing to remind parents that black shoes are a part of our Dress Code. Your attention to this would be particularly appreciated when outfitting your children for next year.

Semester 2 Reporting- What does a C really mean??
Both learners and teachers are currently completing their final term of work together. In Week 10 you will receive a report card for your child that is written with a 5-point scale (A-E). Achieving a ‘C’ on this scale means a child is ON TARGET for their age level. Achieving above a ‘C’ is awarded to learners who show that they are independently working beyond the criteria required for their year level. If you have queries about your child’s report card, please contact your current class teacher/s.

Julie-Anne McGuinness – Principal

MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Prep Transition Day
A big thank you to everyone who attended our Prep Transition Day on Tuesday. It was an exciting morning and wonderful to see so many of the students who will be joining us for Prep in 2017. A reminder that a deposit of $65 is now due for the Student Resource Scheme so that supplies can be ordered ready for the start of the school year.

Year 5 Goldrush Excursion
Last Friday, 50 adventurous Year 5 students and 4 terrified teachers dressed up in colonial costumes, and set off to see if they could strike it rich in the famous ‘Belivah Goldrush of 2016’. They fought off a bushranger before arriving in the town of ‘Goldgrave Hill’, where they had to build shelter and buy supplies before trying their hands at panning for gold. The day was a huge success for some, who returned with their pockets bulging with wealth, but was less happy for those who’d been forced to spend time in gaol, while the others mined and made their fortunes.

“I’ll never forget when the bushranger stole Hugh’s apple and fed it to the horse!” Tommy

“I couldn’t believe it when the teachers went to put the golden syrup on our damper, but they dribbled it all over our hands instead!” Maddy

“It was so funny when the teachers pretended to be assayers and sent people to jail for no reason!” Thomas S.
Learning Tip
Learning During the School Holidays

- Supporting your child’s learning at home can continue throughout the school holidays.
- There are many fun activities at home and around the Gold Coast that can help your child learn while enjoying this time away from school.
- See if the before and after school care (YMCA) at the school is offering any holiday activities for your child’s age group.
- Check with your local library for children’s activities scheduled during the school holidays.
- Check with your local council for school holiday activities for your child’s age group.
- Consider allowing your child to choose what they want to do for one day during the school holidays and then make that day a special one just for them.
- Spend the day cooking with your child to help with their reading, maths and science skills.
- Organise a craft day with your child. You could make birthday or Christmas cards, paint or create simple friendship bands with a mixture of buttons and big beads.
- Grandparents are wonderful resources. Your child could stay with them for some of the school holidays and they could help extend your child’s vocabulary skills by telling family stories.
- Help your child make a cubby house outside or inside with cushions and spare blankets under a table or a bed.
- Hold a treasure hunt. You could hide toys, books or treats all over the house and garden and let your child search for them to discover the treasures you’ve hidden.

Parenting Tip
TIPS TO GET YOUR KIDS THROUGH THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR
IT’S ALMOST THE END OF THE YEAR AND THE KIDS ARE GETTING RESTLESS. HERE ARE TIPS TO KEEP THEM (AND YOU) HAPPY THROUGH THE HOME STRETCH.

Even when tests are over and report cards are filed, students are still soaking up those last bits of curriculum they need before they advance to the next grade. They’re just doing it in a more relaxed environment.
Teachers must dig deep in their little bag of tricks to keep students from coasting – or bouncing off the walls – until the last bell rings, and parents do, too. But don’t sweat it. These tips will help get your little scholar through the home stretch with your sanity intact.

**Stick to Routine**
As tempting as it is to slip into summer-relaxed mode, don’t abandon the routines and structures you’ve relied on all year. Now that it’s light outside later, the kids may be clamouring for you to move back bedtime, but they still need to be tucked in at a reasonable hour. Regular routines, including healthy snacks and lunches, also help kids cope with the excitement of swimming, end-of-school treats and Christmas activities.

**Take it Outside**
Research shows that spending more time outdoors improves children’s concentration in school, lessens aggression and improves their ability to cooperate. Try moving homework outside whenever possible—your kids will enjoy the novelty and be less likely to complain. Draw math equations in chalk on the driveway, act out a history lesson in the local park or curl up on the front porch to read aloud. All that fresh air and the opportunity to let off steam also makes tackling any remaining after-dinner homework and bedtime easier.

**Plan Ahead**
Get a head start on preparing your child to make the transition from one grade to another. If you’re planning a trip, pick up a few books about the places you’ll be visiting. Tying your holiday to literature—is a great way to encourage reading in those last few weeks of school and into the summer. Your child might also enjoy writing and illustrating a letter of introduction to next year’s teacher.

**Acknowledge Progress**
Encourage your child to reflect back on their school year and think about what they’ve learned, what was challenging, how they dealt with it and what they’re proud of. It’s a real motivator for kids when they look back at their work. It reinforces just how far they’ve come.

www.todaysparent.com

**Health Tip**
**White Chocolate Holiday Bark**

Prep: 15 minutes; Chill: 30 minutes; Makes 30 servings

**Ingredients**
- 1 cup sliced almonds
- 1/4 cup unsweetened coconut
- 1 cup oven-toasted rice cereal
- 1 cup dried cranberries
- 1 block good-quality white chocolate, chopped
- 2 teaspoons vegetable oil

**Preparation**
1. Preheat the oven to 170°.

2. Spread the sliced almonds and the unsweetened coconut in an even layer on a baking sheet. Toast 5–8 minutes or until coconut just begins to brown. Remove baking sheet from the oven, and let cool.

3. In a large bowl, combine almonds, coconut, rice cereal, and dried cranberries. Reserve about 1/4 cup of the mixture, and set aside.

4. Place chopped white chocolate and 2 teaspoons vegetable oil in a large heatproof bowl, and set over a medium saucepan of simmering water. Stir with a spatula until the chocolate is completely melted.

5. Remove the chocolate from heat, and fold in the almond mixture. Spread mixture evenly on parchment-lined baking sheet. Sprinkle on the reserved 1/4 cup topping. Refrigerate for about 30 minutes or until the chocolate has completely set. Break the bark into small pieces, and serve.

**Candiece Ledwidge and Tamara Hall – Head of Curriculum**
Tuckshop will be closed on **WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY and FRIDAY** of the last week of school for lunch orders however we will be open for over the counter purchases of drinks and snacks.

**Uniform News**

**It is time to get in and get ready for 2017.** All stock is available for purchase - we accept cash, eftpos, flexischools and layby.

**Specials**

We have a limited number of new skirts for only $5 each in sizes 4, 12, 14 & 16. We also have preloved polos, shorts & skorts from $3.

**Uniform Shop Opening Hours for January 2017**

Thursday 19th January 2pm - 5pm  
Friday 20th January 10am - 2pm

Angela Anderson and Sally McWilliams – Tuckshop Convenors

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**ASSEMBLY AWARDS**

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**BEST SCHOOL ATTENDANCE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Uniform</th>
<th>Prep to Year 2</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Years 3 to 6</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep Silver</td>
<td>96.19%</td>
<td>4 Lime</td>
<td>97.31%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep Yellow</td>
<td>95.63%</td>
<td>5 Lilac</td>
<td>97.17%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**STUDENT OF THE WEEK – PREP TO YEAR 2**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Prep Orange</th>
<th>Prep Red</th>
<th>Prep Silver</th>
<th>Prep Yellow</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Prep Orange | Jayde A  
Holly T | 1 Blue | Xavier E 
Theo Q  
River B | 2 Mauve | Nathalie A |
| Prep Red | Olive S  
Kirra H | 1 Green | Oscar D  
Ellie C | 2 Violet | Rocher M  
Riley A |
| Prep Silver | Lucian S  
Callan T | 1 Jade | Daniel G  
Noah G | 2 Indigo | Lachlan B |
| Prep Yellow | Eziah F  
Jake P | 2 Indigo |                             | 2 Indigo | Lachlan B |

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**STUDENT OF THE WEEK - YEARS 3 TO 6**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Uniform</th>
<th>3 Navy</th>
<th>3 Purple</th>
<th>3 Teal</th>
<th>3 White</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 3 Navy | Ezekiel T  
Deep B  
Philip S | 4 Lime | Kahmeron C  
Camila V | 5/6 Maroon | Taliah C |
| 3 Purple | Taleigha B  
Hunter P  
Taylah M | 4 Ruby | Kaylan P  
Herbert H | 6 Gold | Zalieea B  
Isaak R |
| 3 Teal | Rafferty C | 4/5 Aqua | Bianca S | 6 Onyx | Indigo D  
Chad D |
| 3 White | Matty A  
Isabella C | 5 Lilac | Mali T  
Teddy F | | |
Our Prep Portfolio afternoon was very successful. We had so many parents attend and share the afternoon with their child. It was lovely to see the children so proud of their work. Some of the comments from children were as follows:

“I liked showing Daddy my favourite page,” by Denali.

“I liked showing mum all my work,” by Ava.

“I liked looking back at the start of the year's work,” by Charlie.

“I liked looking at the photos from the Father's Day breakfast,” by Mason.
2016 has been another year of review for our eLearning Program. It has seen an increase in iPads and laptops as well as refined processes for management of both software and hardware. It has also been a chance to explore options for the implementation of the Digital Technologies Curriculum which will be introduced in 2017.

This sets us up to continue the advancement of our BYOx Program, with emphasis on students bringing iPads to school every day in 2017 in Year 3 to 6. The curriculum focus for iPads will be in a number of areas, including a whole school focus on using iPads in Independent Reading activities as part of Guided Reading sessions each week. All students across Prep to Year 6 will be completing at least one assessment task using the iPads during the year. They will also continue to use them to access Mathletics and as part of the NETTS program.

What does this mean to students and parents?

- As the policy will be BYOx from Years 3-6, our goal is to aim for all students to have a BYOx in those year levels, with the school supporting eLearning in Prep to Year 2 with iPads.
- Our chosen device so far has been iPads and given the experience of some of our staff and students this will continue to be our focus. For this reason, iPads are our preferred device. If an iPad is looked after, it has the capability of being in use for the 4 years needed at school. Teachers at our school are still using the iPads that they purchased more than 4 years ago.
- Some students have tablets and other devices from other schools. While any of these are able to be brought to school, we have found that many have fewer of the capabilities that we request for our BYOx program. Please be aware that teachers and support staff have less experience and knowledge of other devices.
- There will be parent/community information sessions and ‘how to’ sessions next year to build parent knowledge of the iPads and also what opportunities they can provide for eLearning.
- MHSS is committed to safe Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) practices. All students and parents must agree to the ICT Usage Agreement BEFORE access to schools ICTs OR BYOx are able to be brought to school.
- Students in Years 3 to 6 with existing BYOx already will need to bring their iPad next year every day, with all students in Years 3 – 6 requiring access to BYOx once Wi-Fi and infrastructure upgrades have been completed. Once again, we hope this will be finalised in 2017.

The preferred device for 2017 will continue to be an iPad. The minimum specification for students new to the BYOx Program is the iPad Air2 (Wi-Fi) (3G/ 4G is unnecessary and must be disabled for school). Due to the small screen size the iPad mini is not acceptable. Existing students with earlier models will be supported but please be aware that Apple have ceased major updates of their iPad2 and other models with the release of the iOS 10. We recommend all devices be covered by an extended warranty. The life of an iPad should be between 3-4 years.

All iPads MUST come to school in a sturdy iPad case and with a screen protector. An outer zippered case is another safeguard that we encourage.
The Core App List, available on our website, is mandatory if iPads are to be brought to school. We recommend purchasing apps through the use of iTunes cards, available from supermarkets and department stores, throughout the year. Family iPads, with adult content, are not appropriate for school.

For more information on our school eLearning policy, please go to the school website.

We look forward to maximising the learning opportunities that eLearning provides for our students.

If you have any questions on any eLearning issues, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Annette Vlaanderen - avlaa2@eq.edu.au

ATHLETICS CARNIVAL FOR CHILDREN WITH A DISABILITY

Earlier this year, Mrs Leitch and myself (Miss W) had the privilege of taking a fantastic group of students to the Annual Athletics Carnival for Children with a Disability at Runaway Bay Sports Centre. Each child competed in a 50m and 100m race in the morning. In the afternoon, the students were broken into teams of 10 and competed in a Sports Skills Challenge. There were many ribbons won and the students were awarded a trophy for being the top school in the Sports Skills Challenge, which is displayed in the office. The superstar students were:

Arthur H
Krystal E
Amy M
Luke R
Shaylah H
Aurora D
Matthew D
Brady B
Earnest Y
Ayla S
Levi D
Sienna F
Ethan H
Kealy K
Joel P
Reece P
Bryson P
Boyd W
Jeremy K
Free Dental Check-ups for Musgrave Hill SS Students

This service will be provided at Labrador State School by Mobile Dental Van 128.

To arrange an appointment for your child telephone:

The Oral Health Client Service Centre
☎ 1300 300 850
Monday – Friday 8.00 am – 4.30 pm
Excluding Public Holidays

Child Dental Benefit Schedule Vouchers are accepted. When your child's $1000 cap is reached, there will be no out-of-pocket expenses provided your child meets *eligibility criteria.

* Eligibility – All Queensland resident children aged four years or older who have not completed year 10 of secondary school.

Further information on public funded oral health services can be accessed via URL: http://www.health.qld.gov.au/goldcoasthealth/html/services/oralhealth.asp

How your kids can get a good night’s sleep

Many kids today are sleep deprived. They need between nine and 10 hours sleep each night, yet most get about seven or eight hours sleep. Some get less. Not getting enough sleep leads to sleep deprivation, which is like jet lag, where kids don’t function at their optimum. Lack of sleep leads to irritability, decreased creativity and memory lapses. It also has strong links to anxiety and depression.
How sleep helps kids
Sleep maximises the brain growth which occurs with toddlers and teens. Sleep also consolidates learning: sleep research has shown that the brain practices what it has learned during the day when a child or young person is asleep. So sufficient sleep consolidates past learning as well as keeps kids fresh to maximise their future learning.

Develop good sleep habits when kids are young
Sleep experts stress that while adults may not have control over biology we can assist children to establish good sleep patterns. Children usually carry good sleep habits into adolescence. If you struggle to get young children to sleep or constantly battle kids who want to stay up longer, some knowledge of good sleep habits may be useful.

Good sleep habits include:
1. Regular bedtimes - Kids may fight this, but make sure kids keep regular bedtimes during the week and allow them to stay up a little later on weekends. Children need between 10 and 12 hours of sleep each day, while teens need a minimum of nine hours.

2. A 45-minute wind-down time before bed - This includes: removing TV and other stimuli, calming the child down and limiting food intake (and caffeine for teens). The wind-down time informs the body clock that sleeping time is near.

3. A bedtime routine - Have a bedtime routine, such as story reading and teeth cleaning, that signals psychologically that it is time for sleep. A set routine means that kids can predict. It also means that some children will fight bedtime so you need some good strategies in place to get kids to bed and make sure they stay there.

4. Keeping bedrooms for sleep - Bedrooms that resemble caves are recommended. It gets tricky with mobile phones and other information technology, but it’s smart to keep devices and laptops out of bedrooms at sleep-time. This goes for parents too. I’ve noticed most parents sleep in technology-free bedrooms (apart from a clock-radio) yet their kids will have technology-full rooms. Also don’t let kids do schoolwork on their beds. If so, they’ll begin to associate bed with work, rather than sleep.

5. Maximise the three sleep cues - These include: darkness (maintaining a cave-like bedroom); lowering body temperature (baths can be good for this); and melatonin (work within their cycle).

If your kids get less sleep than they should, check out the five habits above and work out which of these you can adjust to move things in favour of them getting more sleep.

This information has been adapted from: www.parentingideas.com.au

Emma White – Guidance Officer (Tues, Wed, Thurs)

FROM OUR CHAPLAIN’S DESK

I hope everyone is enjoying this summer heat. I can't believe we only have 2 more weeks left of the school year.

As we approach the holiday season, please know this can be a happy time of celebration for many and for others it can be a very challenging time of sadness and difficulty. Don't hesitate to contact me at the school if I can be of any support to you or your families at any time.

Have a blessed day!
Coping with Grief at Christmas

Christmas is a time of mixed feelings for those who are missing someone they love. As we gather with family and friends, the absence of a loved one may be felt even more intensely. Whether it’s a parent or partner who has left the family or a loved one who has died, you may be left feeling out of step with the jolliness of the tinsel and carols.

It is especially important at this time to take care of yourself and those around you who have also experienced significant loss or change. While some people keep busy to distract themselves, others prefer to withdraw to their memories and reflections; there is no right or wrong way to act or feel.

It's hard to predict how you'll be feeling, so put some safeguards into place.

Don't make any big decisions over Christmas time. You will probably be feeling enough stress and distraction, and there is no need to add to it. If possible, wait until the New Year.

Make plans to be around people who you trust and who understand that you might not be feeling very “jolly”. Let them know that you may actually prefer to be alone sometimes, and they should not be offended if this is the case.

Give yourself some time to think about the person you are missing. Listen to music, look at pictures, cry if you feel you want or need to. This may mean you are less likely to be overwhelmed or caught off guard by Christmas ‘triggers’.

If a family has been split through divorce or separation, Christmas day may become a logistic struggle for children who now have two places to be. Make this easier for them by including them in plans ahead of time and making the transition as smooth as possible, and do your best to avoid competition over time spent with children or size and expense of gifts.

Here are some things that might help you manage your grief feelings over Christmas.

- Do something to remember the person you are missing…
- Play their favourite music
- Go to a place they loved or do something you used to do together
- Write them a Christmas card
- Share memories and stories with others who loved them too
- If children are missing the person too, involve them and find out how they would like to remember their loved one.
- Give yourself permission to do less. People will understand if you do not get the Christmas letter out, if you do not bake cookies for everyone or if you miss a few parties. The most important thing is taking care of yourself and those close to you.
- Accept help. If you feel as though you are not coping well, reach out to people you trust and say yes to offers of support or company.
- Let yourself have fun. If you are feeling happy, go with it – it does not mean that you are forgetting or forsaking the person who is not there.

Sensory Santa - Spend time with Santa! From 20 November – 4 December 2016

For those children with a sensory processing disorder, Santa would like to have the opportunity to hear all about their Christmas wish list and spend some time with Santa when the Centre is peaceful.

Santa will be located near our Target entrance.

Bookings are essential and sessions are limited, please contact our Concierge Desk: 07 5630 5102.
Rusanne (Rusty) Jourdan – Chaplain