Dear Parents and Caregivers

The colder weather might have moved in, but it has not dampened students’ enthusiasm for things that are happening at school, which is great to see. Even in the mornings, when you think there might be few grumbles about the cold, the students are out in the yard, busy playing and running around. Games of footy and hide and seek are not uncommon, as well as an unusual game of hockey at the moment and some additional ‘construction’ in the sandpit, complete with foliage. The only grumbles in the morning are mine as I roam the yard on duty trying to stay warm!

Though I really can’t complain at all! I have had some great learning opportunities this term, at the regional Leaders’ Days (last week) and at the ‘Principals as Literacy Leaders’ (PALL) course on Friday of Week 4. What I particularly like about days such as these is the learning I do, both in the formal ‘sit down’ sessions and more informally, over a cup of coffee at morning tea, and then coming back and sharing that learning with staff. It is a great way to build upon what we are doing here, utilising best practice from around the region and elsewhere.

One example from the PALL course is the ‘Literacy Practices Guide for the Primary Years’, a little A4 booklet that steps me, as the Principal, and the teachers through what research considers is the best classroom practice in literacy in R – 2, Years 3 – 5 and Years 6 – 7. A specific focus is identified for each of the three areas of schooling and it is further broken down into what you could expect to see in terms of:

- classroom organisation, for example, displays of students’ work and alphabet charts
- program planning, including teaching approaches used and assessments
- observation of a reading lesson, including how students are grouped, task success and explicit teaching
- observation of another learning area
- the types of assessments used.

We reviewed the document at a staff meeting and have decided to use it to ‘self-reflect’ on our own practice first, as there is always the chance that there are things we have not thought about as well as things (and there are many!) that we ought to give ourselves a pat on the back for – those things we are doing currently and are doing well!

Our self-reflection will then become the basis for a rich, whole staff discussion as well as wonderful fodder for one-on-one meetings. I see this document, among other things that we use, as giving us a sound basis for the confidence we currently have in our teaching and the learning our students do in literacy. As I sit here and tap this newsletter out, I am also thinking about how it could be pulled apart and then put back together as part of our whole school literacy agreement – but don’t tell staff, that was an idea that just occurred to me! Now the brain is whirring, just what you want it to do if the learning excites you!

More learning is on its way for staff this week, too, at the combined Horrocks Hill Hub Student Free Day at Saddleworth Primary School on Friday. Just so you know, there will be no one on site here at Manoora that day, but messages may be left at Saddleworth if need be.

Teachers will be engaged in learning more about the History curriculum; in particular, cultural perspectives, as well as reading assessment, and we are fortunate enough to have the expertise of regional and state wide consultants to lead us through this learning. The focus in the last part of the year is likely to shift from History to Geography as the new curriculum has just been released in that area. It obviously pays to keep busy!

Thankyou, too, to everyone who has been collecting those ‘Earn and Learn’ points for the school, it is most appreciated. I believe the promotion finishes in the next couple of weeks, so it’s time to start rounding up those stray stickers and send them in. Don’t worry if there not stuck on sheets, we can sort that out here, no bother.

Governing Council meeting Tuesday night, 7.30 pm, after the long weekend. Enjoy the break and your time with family and friends.

Tracy Griffin
2013 MATERIALS & SERVICES FEES
Materials and Services Fees for 2013 are now overdue.
Please contact Lyn for a School Card Application Form if you believe you may be eligible.

As we fly through term 2 and the cold winter approaches, I have been busy with the students continuing new art projects, running lunch time activities, and enjoying cooking with groups of students each week. Back in Easter we enjoyed Pastor Robin coming to share with us about the Christian meaning of Easter. The inter Church Council have agreed to continue volunteering their time to do this for special Christian events like Easter and Christmas. This is a huge blessing, because it normally the school and church would pay someone else to come run a session. With the local churches running them instead, it saves the school and church money, insures we can definitely have seminars, and shows the students who the leaders of our local churches are. You will know when seminars are approaching because you will find a permission form will be sent home.

My next goal is to find a way to communicate with the Manoora community. Part of my role is to bring the community, churches and school closer together. Manoora already has a fantastic parent’s comity, and both the comity and the school use community facilities for events, that all families are welcome to attend. So I don’t need to “reinvent the wheel” as the old saying goes. However if there is any events that you need an extra hand with, and it falls within my role, please don’t hesitate to ask me.

### IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

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<td>Student Free Day</td>
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<td>11th June</td>
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Christian Pastoral Support Worker: Nadine Greenshields

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Who are your kids chatting to online?

Young people feel safe using the internet. If they are chatting to people they know, (or think they know), and trust they will often let their guard down and try new things if it seems popular with their friends.

Regardless of how safe they feel or how confident they are, there are people out there looking or ways to target young people online.

It is important to teach, guide, assist and supervise young people in the safe use of the internet. Think about how we teach our children not to talk to strangers.....it's the same on the internet.

This is an event not to be missed—it will change your thinking

A free community education session will be delivered by Mr. Brett Lee, who worked as a Queensland Police Officer for 22 years, 16 of those as a Detective predominantly in the field of Child Exploitation. In his last five years of service, he was a specialist in the field of undercover internet child exploitation investigations.

Brett has been personally involved in the online investigation, arrest and prosecution of numerous offenders, whose medium for preying on children is the internet. Brett has delivered training to members of the law enforcement agencies including New South Wales Police, South Australian Police, West Australian Police and Australian Customs. Within his own police service he was involved in the training of plain

For more information contact Jim Oakey
Riverton & District High School. 8847 2202

This event has been coordinated by Stalakta High School and made possible through the support provided by the Mid North Innovative Community Action Networks Community Partnership Grants