



MUTARNEE STATE SCHOOL

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Term 1		
February		
14	Friday	P&C Meeting (1:30pm)
20	Thursday	Waterview Principal Meeting at Rollingstone SS - 1pm-4pm (Lydia away)
March		
13	Thursday	QSIL Training in Townsville (Lydia away)
14	Friday	QSIL Training in Townsville (Lydia away)
April		
5	Saturday	Easter Holidays Commence
Term 2		
April		
22	Tuesday	Term 2 Commences
25	Friday	ANZAC DAY
May		
13	Tuesday	NAPLAN (Year 3, 5 & 7) Language Conventions & Writing
14	Wednesday	NAPLAN (Year 3, 5 & 7) Reading
15	Thursday	NAPLAN (Year 3, 5 & 7) Numeracy
21	Wednesday	NQ Region Principals' Forum – Townsville (Lydia away)
22	Thursday	NQ Region Principals' Forum – Townsville (Lydia away)
June		
28	Saturday	June/July school holidays commence
Term 3		
July		
14	Monday	Term 3 Commences
18	Friday	Waterview Sport's Day at Helen's Hill SS
25	Friday	Small Schools Sports Day at George Day Oval
August		
8	Friday	Barnes Cup at Forrest Beach SS
17 - 22	All Week	Ingham Arts Festival
September		
3 - 5	Wednesday - Friday	School Camp – Magnetic Island
20	Saturday	September/October holidays commence
Term 4		
October		
6	Monday	Labour Day Public Holiday
7	Tuesday	Term 4 commences
20	Monday	Pupil Free Day
December		
13	Saturday	Summer holidays commence

Dear Students, Parents/Carers & Staff,

Firstly, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Lydia Jamieson and I am so excited to be the new principal of Mutarnee State School. I have absolutely loved my first week working with the dedicated staff and fantastic students at Mutarnee. It has also been wonderful to meet the parents. I have heard that you are a very committed and helpful group. I look forward to working with you.

A little about myself - I was previously the principal at Abergowrie SS and before that at Booyal Central SS near Bundaberg and I have moved to the school residence at Mutarnee with my husband Ryan. So I have a lot of experience working as a teaching principal and I understand the demands of the role as well as the enormous benefits this job has. I have a reputation of working hard and having high expectations of all key stakeholders such as parents and staff, as well as for the students themselves.

As I think it is essential that parents/carers play a huge role in their child/ren's education, I think it is important to notify you of everything that is happening in the school.

For instance, the school priorities for this year are:

■ **Reading** ■ **Writing** ■ **Attendance** ■ **School & Staff Capacity Building**

In 2014, the school will be participating in a Teaching & Learning Audit, Discipline Audit, School Audit as well as a Quadrennial School Review (QSR). These are completed in consultation with parents to ensure that your likes, dislikes, concerns and suggestions are acknowledged and responded to.

I will be looking at providing some workshops later this term for parents to assist you to maximise your reading experiences with your child/ren. Reading is crucial in their education and the love and interest of reading also needs to come from the home.

Please don't hesitate to call, text or email me if you have any questions or queries. I will be able to let you know of a suitable time and make an appointment to talk face to face. The details are above.

Homework

Homework will begin next week. The students will receive a homework grid and there will be a sheet that explains the process. They will also have to learn their spelling words and continue with home reading every night. The homework grid is a fortnightly task, not weekly.

Attendance

Every lesson, every day counts. It is vital that the students attend school every day in order to learn. To encourage high attendance I have a rewards program. Each student marks their attendance with a star in the morning. If your child has a 95% attendance rate or better for the term, I will reward them with a fun day on the last day of term. Unfortunately, I have to make it clear that if your child misses many days they will not be able to enjoy the fun experiences. Legitimate absences such as illnesses (doctors certificate supplied and other emergencies will come with special consideration.

If your child/ren will be away from school, please ensure that you notify the school with either a phone call, email, text message or letter in the communication book.

Behaviour

As you are aware, the school has a Responsible Behaviour Plan. This plan is a guideline for behaviour across the school. We have very high expectations for the students, staff and families when it comes to behaviour. The three school rules are: *Be Responsible, Be Respectful and Be Safe.*

Communication Book

As you are aware I have implemented a communication book. The letter in the front of the book explains the purpose and processes for this form of communication. Please don't hesitate to add comments, ask questions or add highlights from home. This may include stories or photos of vacations, pets etc. The children will be able to share these with their friends as well.

Enrolment Agreement

New enrolment agreements are enclosed with this newsletter. Please complete and return at your earliest convenience.

Textbooks

The P&C has purchased New Wave Mental Maths and Grammar Conventions textbooks for each student. Invoices have also been attached to this newsletter. Please send payments to school as per school uniform procedure.

P&C Meeting

The first P&C Meeting for the year will be held on Friday 14th February at 1:30pm. All parents/carers are invited to attend.

School Uniforms & Hats

School uniform shirts can be purchased from the school through the P&C for \$25. Black school hats are also available for \$10.

Contact Details

It is important to ensure that the school has updated details such as phone numbers and email addresses in case we need to notify you for any reason. If you have any changes, please notify the school through the communication book.

Thank you for making me feel so welcome here at Mutarnee State School.

Kind regards,

Lydia Jamieson
Principal