Dear Parents and Caregivers

Welcome to Week 5! We are nearly half way through the term and students are very busy completing assessment tasks. This week I have had the privilege of being invited into classes to see oral presentations and being visited by teachers and students showing off some of the great work that is happening in our school. Many of our students have come such a long way and it is great to see the improvements in their work.

Students in 3, 5, 7 and 9 have also been busy this week, participating in the annual National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) testing, to assess their skills and understanding in the areas of reading, writing, language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. NAPLAN assesses the skills that students develop over time through the school curriculum, and provides additional feedback for parents and teachers on how students are progressing in the key curriculum areas. While it can be very stressful for students, they took it in their stride and tried their best and we are very proud of them.

Congratulations and well done to all of our students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. I would like to extend a huge thank you to all those who donated goods so that we could provide our students with a nutritious breakfast before they sat their NAPLAN tests.

In other news, last week three of our students, Anikin Jones, Katelyn Wyles and Annabelle Madden, attended the Expanding Horizon Extension Camp for primary students. This was a two day camp held at the Barambah Environmental Education Centre. During the camp students participated in vision boarding, domabotics, animation and ecology activities. Students had to meet certain criteria in order to submit an application to attend this camp, so it was very exciting that we got to send three students.

We have also just found out that one of our secondary students, Jessica Wyles, has been accepted and will be attending the Expanding Horizon Extension Camp for secondary students. This is a five day camp in Brisbane at the end of Term 2 and looks like it will offer Jessica many exciting opportunities.

Last week, we also saw a number of students attending the Science and Engineering Challenge in Kingaroy with Mrs Steinhardt. Students competed in teams to design catapults and bridges which were then used to compete against other schools. The students had a great time and have a few tricks up their sleeve to use next year!

We have had a very busy fortnight and this continues into next week with 5/6 camp and a number of our students attending the Rural Discovery Day in Brisbane.

I hope you have a great fortnight,

Jess McMahon (Acting Principal)
Greetings from K Block

This fortnight’s award winners:

Daniel Humphrey – recognising sounds in words. Congratulations!
Nathaniel Flick – focused work during problem solving. Well done!
Michael Ward – an AWESOME SPELLING RESULT. Congratulations! Blue sight words.
Lorna Smith – blue sight words.
Jade Dalton – lime sight words.
Kayla Wills – lemon sight words.
Riley Dunlop – a terrific effort with his homework EVERY week. Thank you!
Jai Munroe – an AWESOME effort with handwriting. Well done!
Jorja Silk – a fantastic effort with the alphabet rap. Congratulations!
Jake Harrold – trying his best to follow instructions AND bronze certificate for making ten deposits in the School Banking program.
Charlie Searies – blue sight words.
Mitchell Fox – fantastic effort in library.
Corey McCullough – great effort in library lessons.
Courtney Kruse – great work on your leaf imprints in library.

This term during our SOSE unit we will be looking at the different ways that we can care for our environment. We have been talking about the 4 Rs – Reduce, Recycle, Reuse and Repair and how these can apply in our own lives. One lunch hour we sorted our rubbish into four different buckets, food (which we were very good at as we’ve been doing this for some time now, as the chooks get our scraps), paper, tins/aluminium/glass/cartons and other. After lunch we sat down and looked at our rubbish and discussed our findings. We found that most of our rubbish came under the “Other” category and we noticed it was the packaging from small packets of chips, biscuits and fruit ropes as these have plastics in their packaging. We talked about how we could minimise this rubbish and reduce the amount of landfill we are creating. It was suggested that we could buy bigger packets of the chips, biscuits etc., and put them into smaller containers that we could reuse. We also discussed how we can reuse our plastic zip lock bags and get more than one use out of them. Food for thought! Once again, we are not passing judgement on lunch box packaging, just discussing different ways that would help minimise our impact on the environment.

In Maths this term we have been studying shapes and their properties. We are learning that pentagons, hexagons and octagons don’t need to have all sides the same length and can look very strange! We are getting better at saying “parallelogram” and “quadrilateral”. It is great to see so many of the Year 2s making connections between the 2D shapes and the faces of the various 3D shapes we have investigated. Some of our favourite shape activities include the Geoboards and the hammer and nail set.

The flu/sick season is once again upon us. If your child is not feeling well, please keep them at home until they feel better as germs spread really quickly and we’re a friendly lot here in K Block. We like to share everything. If your child is unwell/sick during the day we will give you a call to come and collect them, so please ensure your contact details are current and up to date. This can be given to either the classroom teacher (in a note in your child’s folder) or a quick call to the office.

We hope all of you had a lovely day for Mothers Day and were treated extra special! Fiona Gill & Sonia Steele
Science and Engineering Challenge

On Thursday 9 May, 10 of Proston's year 9 and 10 students participated in the South Burnett Science and Engineering Challenge. The Challenge was a day long competition designed to provide high school students with a positive experience of science and engineering.

The students had 8 challenges to choose from:

**Cody, Jacob and Connor** chose to participate in the catapult activity. This activity involved constructing a catapult from timber dowel, packing tape and rubber bands. Points were awarded for the catapult's ability to propel a tennis ball over 2 distances at a target. They created a very sturdy device with some accuracy.

The second team of **Jessica, Chloe, Latecia** and Nicole chose Hover Frenzy. This activity saw the students construct a small hovercraft from motorised propulsion units, styrofoam trays, balsa, plastic and tape. Scoring was based on manoeuvrability, speed, and the ability to negotiate obstacles. The girls made the fastest device for the day, but had some trouble with the manoeuvrability.

The third team of **Shanoah, Graceanne and Ben** attempted to build a bridge from balsa, pins, tape, paddle pop sticks etc. Points were awarded for strength and load-carrying capacity. Unfortunately this group had an epic failure with a collapse on the first trial. Altogether the students participated well and enjoyed the opportunity to use their science minds in a more constructive manner.

Chappy's Corner

I have been writing about remembering, especially surrounding ANZAC Day. Last Sunday was another case of remembering. It was Mother's Day. As I remember Mother's Day, there are three ladies I give special honour too.

**Firstly** there is the mother who gave birth to me. This lady died when I was quite young and I recall very little about her. I know that she died from TB and history would suggest that she was very ill during the whole of the birthing procedure. The memory may be dim.

This lady I honour.

The second lady came into my life when I was 4 and a half years old. When my step mum married my dad she took on 2 ginger haired boys, loved them and raised them. The relationship was not always perfect, but step mum stuck to the task with us, had 2 children of her own and kept a family unity amongst us that I respect and honour.

There is a third mum in my life. Or perhaps I should say a third group of mums. They helped dad out when my mum was sick and dying; and after dad married my step mum and I came out of the orphanage they were still there providing support for me, particularly in my troubled times. One, Mrs Duff even invited me to have another mother in my life.

For me, Mother’s Day is remembering and honouring those memories especially as all my mums are gone from this world. But the honouring is not just for one day each year. It’s for everyday of the year!

I am now an older person. I joined our daughter in giving my wife a special mother’s day to remember. Again I hope that this is an ongoing everyday honouring to a fine lady.

Mother’s Day is past, but let’s keep on remembering. Let us never forget our mum, each and every day. **Cheers, Chappy**
Recently the students have been busy preparing for the RNA discovery day. We have been breaking in ‘Harrison’; Princess’s calf so that we can show a cow and calf. We have also been working really hard to make sure the steers and heifers are easy to handle. Many of the students have been putting in lunch hours and after school time to assist me in the clipping. Many of the other calves are also being handled, with mixed results, the boys are showing potential but we have a few stubborn girls who like to kick – more time and patience will see this improve. Unfortunately we also had losses with our chooks, and the remainder few have gone to board with Mr Seiler until we can rebuild the pen. If anyone has chicken wire that they wish to get rid of it would be greatly appreciated.

Other news at rural is that we have now fenced the entire property with thanks to Mr Scanlan clearing the way for JB and workers to finish the fences. The cows are enjoying the extra feed. The vegetable patch is progressing slower than the students would like and the tomatoes are taking their time to ripen, hopefully with the cold weather approaching we won’t lose the crop.

In the coming weeks we will reduce our herd size, selling some cows with calves. We would like to sell them locally to homes that will care and spoil them as much as we have. It will be a sad day to see some of them leave, but we also need to make sure those we keep have the best chance to get as fat as possible.

We wish our students all the best in Brisbane next Thursday, stay tuned to Channel 7 they may be featuring our students again this year.

Till next time, Sophia Steinhardt