TERM 1
WEEK 11
9th April 2013

Tuesday 9th April
School Banking

Wednesday 10th April
Small Schools’ Cross Country @ Marrar

Merit Selection Training - 3:30 p.m.

Mobile library visits

Friday 12th April
Creative Arts Day @ Beckom - Stage 2 students

Thursday 25th April
10:30 a.m.
Anzac Day March

Monday 29th & Tuesday 30th April
School Development Day

Wednesday 1st May
Students return

Thursday 2nd May
Anzac Service - 10:30 a.m.
Last Wednesday, during his visit, Mr Peter MacLean provided an update on the progress toward appointing a Principal to our school. With no transfer matches identified, the vacancy has been declared by staffing and will be advertised in the coming weeks. A merit selection panel has been convened. Interviews are likely to occur mid-Term 2. Accordingly, current teaching arrangements will continue for the remainder of semester one. That is: Miss Jess Walsh will continue in the role as Stage One class teacher, Mrs Lea McGuiness will be Teacher-Librarian and I will continue as Relieving Principal and Stage 2/3 class teacher.

Special thanks to Sonya Spencer who has been providing rejuvenating and relaxing yoga sessions for our students on a regular basis over the last few terms. Sonya has generously offered to continue this service next term.

Our wonderful bus drivers, the Carroll’s, Steele’s and Mahoney’s, have reported very positive behaviour on the buses in recent weeks. This is exactly what is expected at Matong Public School. Well done, everyone!

Laurinda Motion delivered an outstanding mentor’s workshop last Friday. Both Laurinda and I were ecstatic about the level of interest and support for this program. Heartfelt thanks to everyone who was able to come along to the training to consider becoming a mentor. Special thanks to Marg Turnbull for whipping up a fabulous lunch! Thanks also to those who, though unable to train, have indicated interest. As the training is a compulsory component, if you have not yet trained and are still interested, please contact me at school and I can organise a special extra training run. For all mentors who will be joining in the program, a meeting is proposed for Thursday 2nd May at 9:15 a.m. just prior to the commencement of our School ANZAC service.

On Friday, we also had a visit from Susan Limberger who provided some sage advice and support on behavioural issues through her role with student services.

As you are reading this, I am nearing the end of a two-day Principal’s Induction at Narrandera. Thanks to Mrs Annie Crocker for teaching Stage 2/3.

I hope all students are gearing up for a fantastic cross country at Marrar tomorrow. Let’s see everyone participating and making our school proud. Parent-Teacher interviews (by request) have been underway. Working as a team, we can maximise the educational outcomes for your children.

This Thursday, we thank Mrs Michelle Rudder for coming in to help facilitate some ‘top-secret’ craft activities in the lead up to Mother’s Day.

I wish you all an enjoyable and relaxing holiday.

School resumes for staff on Monday 29th April.

Staff will participate in two jam-packed days of professional development. The first of the two days will be spent at Ganmain P.S. completing further training in Focus on Reading. On Tuesday, we will be joined by staff from Gralee School, for training in non-violent crisis intervention (NCI). Interested parents and community members are welcome to participate, however, numbers are limited. There are currently only a few places left. Please contact the school prior to the end of term if you wish to secure a place.

Students resume school for Term Two on Wednesday 1st May. A very busy day, Anthony Rudder and Kasey Rowland set off for their Stewart House adventure while Rosie Currie and Miss Walsh have their final training run before the Western Riverina Netball Trials on Tuesday 7th May (Note date change). Have fun, everyone!

Finishing up this Friday, Mrs Marg Turnbull is taking leave throughout Term Two. Mrs Carmel Walsh will relieve in the role of SAM. Due to other work commitments, Mrs Walsh will be working on Monday, Tuesday and Friday each week. Marg is looking forward to spending more time with family and checking off things on her ‘extreme adventures list’. Rumour has it that she has had a more attractive employment offer... ‘working on the farm with a good-looking bloke!’ Marg, we thank you for your commitment, tireless hours of work above and beyond regular duties and wish you every happiness in your new pursuits.

Warm regards,

Valerie McKelvie - Relieving Principal

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**Special Visitors**

A big thank you to Senior Constable James Beeche and Constable Nicholas Geyer from the Narrandera Police Station, who took some time out of their busy schedules to drop in to visit on Monday morning. The children enjoyed their informative talk on their role as a Police Officer, Bullying and Making Good Choices.
TERM ONE – WEEK NINE

Stage One Awards
Brodie Rudder – fantastic work in maths. Keep it up!
Baxter Smith – impressive word building

Stage 2/3 Awards
George Hatty – exciting, humorous, high standard homework
Kiarah Lenord – imaginative, well-constructed creative writing

RFF and Library Awards
Quoc Dang – detailed and neat work in HSIE
Kasey Rowland – caring and considerate attitude to students and staff

TERM ONE – WEEK TEN

Stage One Awards
Noah Kitching – impressive work in all areas. Well done Noah!
T.J. McFarlane – always trying hard and never giving up

Stage 2/3 Awards
Mandy Costello – fabulous progress in mathematics
Daneka Hatty – fantastic creativity in writing

RFF and Library Awards
Grace Altoft – a positive and enthusiastic attitude to her maths work
Edward Hatty – excellent skills in writing

PRINCIPAL’S AWARDS

Kasey Rowland
Always setting a fine example

Grace Altoft
A responsible attitude to learning
Schools in the Department of Education and Communities may from time to time employ permanent staff using the Department “merit selection” process. In some circumstances, panels allow for the inclusion of parent or community members to specific categories of membership for panels. E.g. A nominee of P & C or the Local Aboriginal Education Group (AECG). Anyone serving on a panel must be merit selection trained. Accordingly, Merit Selection Panel training will be conducted by School Development Officer, Mrs Lillian Dowell at our school on: **Wednesday 10th April, 2013 from 3:30 p.m.** This training is available to anyone interested in being considered to be part of selection panels in the future where a parent or community member is required. Completing the training does not require or guarantee that you will be involved in a future panel. Please contact the school to lodge your interest. If you have trained previously, and would like to ensure the currency of your training, it is advisable to attend.

**Anzac Day March at Ganmain**

April 25th is Anzac Day and, as always, our students and staff have been invited to participate in the Ganmain and district community march and celebrations. Once again our students will be joining students from Ganmain P.S. and St Brendan’s to lead the singing of “The Last Anzac” and “Lest We Forget”. Hopefully, we will have a large contingent of Matong students marching on this special day. Those participating need to be at the corner of Ford Street and Waterview Street in Ganmain (opposite the park) by 10.30 a.m., dressed in their summer school uniform (with a school jumper if it is cold).

**Riddle of the Week**

I am only useful when I am full, yet I am always full of holes. What am I?

**Answer to last week’s riddle**

Q: I am always hungry, I must always be fed. The finger I touch will soon turn red. What am I? A: Fire

**Mobile Library**

The mobile Library is due to visit the school on Wednesday 10th April. Though we will not be at school due to Cross Country, items can be placed in the school returns box. The mobile will visit again during the holidays on Wednesday 24th April.

**Lunch Orders**

Don’t forget that lunch orders are due in by Thursday each week.

**School Anzac Day Service**

On Thursday 2nd May, a service will be held at school to commemorate ANZAC Day and to publicly unveil the restored Matong Great War Honour Board. Parents and community members are most welcome to join us at 10.30 a.m. for the service and then a morning tea afterwards. Those attending are asked to please bring a plate of “goodies” to share for morning tea. Students, who have written permission, will also be invited to share morning tea with us. Thank you. Permission note is attached.

**URGENT**

**Current Data Required**

Student information held on ERN (Enrolment Registration Number System) is vital for meeting student health and welfare needs, learning and support requirements and in managing emergencies. The accuracy of this data also impacts heavily on school funding.

In particular, data on parental background including occupation, school education and qualifications, current address, language background and Aboriginality, are key pieces of information used to benefit your children, in terms of funding and levels of additional educational support.

In the context of Local Schools Local Decisions, it is extremely important for our school to gather, review and update information about student details and parent background. It is anticipated that this data will be used to calculate initial funding allocations under the 2014 Resource Allocation Model.

**Times to capture and update information**

- Upon enrolment
- At key transition points e.g. Year 6-7
- When changing schools
- Annual Reviews
Schools must ensure student and parent background information is as up to date as possible by the following ‘cut offs’:

- end of February each year
- and again by the end of April each year.

Families are assured that individually identified data is not transferred to any other agency or government department, other than as is described on the enrolment form. Please take some time to consider the accuracy and currency of the information provided to school about student and family background. If there are any changes to be made, however small, please contact the school as a matter of urgency before the end of term one. Please contact us if you would like any help with this process.

### Creative Arts Day – Stage 2

The transport list for the Creative Arts Days is attached to all Stage 2 (Years 3 & 4) students’ newsletters.

### Parent and Carer Tips

#### Managing depression

One in four kids over 12 has symptoms of depression. Would you know what to look for and how to help? Don't be afraid, ask your child how they are feeling and keep communicating with them. Find out more:


#### Spellcheck

Is your child learning to spell? Struggling with the weekly spelling lists? Here are a few strategies that will help: Find out more:


### Important Reminders

- Hair up to avoid headlice
- Jewellery and nail polish not permitted. Exceptions: watches, sleepers, studs.
- No toys or electronic devices at school Items will be confiscated for return to parents.

### Coolamon Library News

The council school holiday program is now complete, with lots of fun and exciting entertainment planned for the children. Some special events are a finger puppet workshop; decorate a cake with fondant icing, online cartoon workshop. Also a dance and video making workshop for our youth students is available. The children’s theatre production of “Fantastic Mr Fox” has been cancelled due to circumstances beyond our control, we do apology for any inconvenience. The school holiday program is available from the Coolamon Library, your school and the Coolamon Council website.

Our next storytime session will be held this Friday, 12th April @ 10.30am, theme “Crocodiles”. Please note storytime will not be held during the school holidays.

The Library will be closed for the Anzac Day public holiday on Thursday, 25th April.
Ganmain Swimming Club AGM

When: Wednesday 24th April, 7.30pm
Where: Ganmain Bowling Club

We have had a great 2012/2013 season; now is the time that we start to look towards the 2013/2014 season (hard to believe really)! All parents are invited to come along with your feedback and any ideas to see swimming club continue to grow and improve.

GGGMFNC FUNDRAISER TO PURCHASE A DEFIBRILLATOR

The Ganmain, Grong Grong, Matong Football and Netball Club, in conjunction with the Lucas family, are raising money to purchase a defibrillator for the football and netball club and use by the wider communities.

Statistics show that if you can use a defibrillator on someone who has had a major heart attack in the first 5 minutes then you significantly increase the chances of saving their life.

Our aim is to raise $3000.00

PLEASE ASSIST BY MAKING A DONATION

Donations may be dropped in to the front office at the Matong School or at any of the money boxes located in various businesses in the GGGM district.

YOU NEVER KNOW WHOSE LIFE YOU MAY SAVE!!!

Any additional funds will be donated to the Heart Foundation.

2 DAY HIP-HOP DANCE WORKSHOP
WITH CENTENNIAL JOYCE FROM STRICKLE FRESH
TUESDAY APRIL 23 + WEDNESDAY APRIL 24 10AM-4PM
COOLAMON CENTRAL SCHOOL, COOLAMON
FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 13-18
REGISTRATIONS ESSENTIAL
PICK UP A FORM AT THE LIBRARY OR CALL 69272492

BAND AND SONGWRITING WORKSHOP
WITH FANNY LUMSDEN & THE THRILLSEEKERS
MARRAR HALL APRIL 14TH, 12PM-1:30PM