From the Principal

Dear Parents

Welcome back to the new school year. Everyone seems to have settled into school life very quickly and calmly. Please remember that when you arrive at school after 8am in the morning to come to the under covered area and sit down and talk with your friends. Depending on the day the routine is a little different. On Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 8:25am we all go to the oval and do Walkers Club. This is to get us moving, but also the students enjoy doing something different. Parents are welcome to join us. On all days, when the old school bell goes that means drink, fill up water bottle and line up. Most classes are then collected from the under covered area.

As always, this term is very busy. We are trying to keep our calendar on our web page up to date to give you information of what is happening in our school. This is the link directly to our calendar.  
https://emeraldss.eq.edu.au/Calendarandnews/Eventscalendar/Pages/Eventscalendar.aspx

Parent information sessions

On Wednesday 10 February, all year levels will run a 30 minute information session in their classrooms. They will run the same session twice so that if you have multiple children, or you are unavailable for one of the times, you can attend the other time. For those that can’t make the sessions, a class newsletter will be sent home the following day. The sessions will run at 5:00 pm and 5:45pm. To ensure your student’s safety, if you bring them to these meetings can you keep them in home the following day. The sessions will run at 5:00 pm and 5:45pm. To ensure your student’s safety, if you bring them to these meetings can you keep them in

Education Queensland is continuing the push of Every Day Counts and has asked that all principals share the following message with their parent communities.

- It is important that your children attend school every day. Taking a day off because the fish are biting, or you want to go shopping on your birthday, is not an acceptable reason to miss a day of school.
- If your child is sick, you should contact the school as soon as possible with an estimate of how long your child will be away from school.
- If your family has to travel away for family or cultural reasons, and you expect to be away for more than 10 days, you will have to apply in writing for an exemption from Compulsory Schooling. Exemptions should be applied for and approved by the Principal of your child’s school BEFORE you travel away. Application forms are available from the office. (The school does not have to provide school work for children with an exemption)
- It is not acceptable to take your children out of school for holidays. Families should plan their holidays to coincide with school holidays.

P & C

The P & C AGM will be held on Thursday 11 February at 6:30pm in the conference room which is in the office block. I encourage all parents to become involved in our P & C. They are a very hard working group of parents in our school and for me, as Principal, they are the primary way I consult with the parent community.
The first general meeting will be the following week; same time, same place.

**Badge Ceremony** for our school leaders will be held at parade on Wednesday 10th February. Mr Lachlan Millar, Member for Gregory, will be our official guest and will be presenting the students with their badges. Parade will start at 2:20pm

**Emerald District Sports Trials**
This year all Emerald District Sports Trials, except for Athletics and Cross Country, will be held after school usually on a Thursday afternoon from 3:30 to 5:30. These trials are not about come and have a go at the sport; they are about selection for Central Highlands and beyond. Letters will be sent home to relevant students notifying of trial dates. Please ensure these are returned by the due date or they will not be accepted.

Please check the school calendar on the website for the dates of these trials.

**Jackie French**
During the pupil free days, Jackie French, funded through our partnership between BMA and the Emerald /Capella State Schools, visited our community. Jackie spoke to parents, staff, Town library and Avalon.

Her key messages were:

- Reading creates more intelligent children as it creates more neuron pathways in the brain.
- Never stop reading to your child, even when they have learned to read.
- Let your child read what they want to read. Don’t make the mistake of saying ‘that book is too hard for you’, instead, you read a bit and then they read a bit.
- Let them read parts of books; don’t make them read the whole book.
- Books with spills on them and dog-ears are fine, it means they have been loved.
- For reluctant readers or children who say reading is boring, read to them from a book they want read to them, and then stop reading when you get to the cliff-hanger bit. See if, later on, they try and read the rest.
- Remember there are 2 types of books – books we read to learn to read that have repetition and books we fall in love with.

**Student of the Week**

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<th>WEEK 1</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Charlie A - Prep A</td>
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<td>Sienna W - Prep B</td>
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<td>Ryan J - 1A</td>
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<td>Allie G - 1B</td>
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<td>Dayle A - 2A</td>
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<td>Eden C - 2B</td>
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<td>Zac A - 3A</td>
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<td>Flynn H - 3B</td>
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<td>William S - 4A</td>
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<td>Tom L - 5A</td>
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<td>Corey E - 6B</td>
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**Cleaners’ Cup**
Week 1: All Classrooms!

**Tuckshop News**

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<td>February</td>
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<td>Mon 8 Feb</td>
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<td>Tues 9 Feb</td>
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<td>Wed 10 Feb</td>
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<td>Thurs 11 Feb</td>
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**Free Dress Day**
Friday 12th February

**Wear RED for Love**

**Gold Coin donation please**
This will go towards our School Fete.
From the Office

We’re going Electronic!
As mentioned at the end of last year, we will no longer be distributing paper copies of the school newsletter. Email addresses for every family have now been updated so look out for your copy on-line TODAY. Obviously, for this first newsletter ONLY, we have sent a paper copy home with EVERY student simply to ensure that the news is getting through to you. Therefore, if you do not receive an email with our newsletter attached today, would you please contact Ange in the office to update/adjust your record. Limited paper copies will be printed and available from the office if you or your child would like to collect one.

Student Absences – SMS Messages
Hopefully you are getting used to our messaging system for student absences. Just an important ‘housekeeping’ note:- when sending your text messages, please remember to include your child’s name (especially if you have more than one child) and the date of the absence. This applies to all messages, even if replying to an unexplained absence. These text messages are generated automatically so the office does not know (without a lot of record searching) which date to apply the absence too – as in some cases there are multiple dates). Please contact Ange in the office if you need further clarification on the system. Thanks for your co-operation and patience!

Please remember, it is imperative that your MOBILE NUMBER is kept up to date on our system. This is our means of contacting all parents – especially in an emergency situation.

Personalised Senior Shirts
Notes were sent out to all Year 6 students on the first day of term with an order form if you were wishing to order a Personalised Senior Shirt. Please be reminded that personalised shirts do not form part of our School Uniform and therefore will only be allowed to be worn on Fridays, hence they are not mandatory. Order forms and payment of $50 must be received at the office by 3pm on Friday 12th February – no orders will be accepted after this date.

Instrumental Music Program
If your child is in the Instrumental Music program this year they will have received an invoice and associated paperwork on the first day of term. Please note, payment of this invoice is due by Friday 12th February. For those students who have been offered a loan of a school instrument, it will not be sent home until the invoice is paid and the instrument loan form has been returned to the office. Thank you.

P E News

School representative sport is coming in strong and fast. For those who have not had aged 10, 11 or 12 year old children asking to compete in representative sport, please read on.
At Emerald schools we offer a number of different sports where children who are displaying above average talent in these sports have a chance to compete at a higher level with children from across the state. The sports on offer are swimming, basketball, netball, football (soccer), rugby league, rugby union, touch football, cross country, track and field and cricket.

Except for swimming, the usual protocol is that children nominate themselves at school level for a school team or group of children. Those who are showing a good knowledge of the game and displaying talent are then invited to represent Emerald State School at the Emerald District level. Most of the Emerald District trials are held after school between 3.30pm and 5.30pm in Emerald. There is no cost for these trials, but parents do need to arrange transport to and from the trial.

If selected, your child is now in the Emerald District team and required to attend the next level of competition which is the Central Highlands level. There will be some cost involved and maybe travel. The furthest venue at this point is Moranbah. These trials will be held on a school day. Children selected at this point are now in the Central Highlands team. They are now aiming to be selected in the Capricornia team. Venues can now be across the Capricornia area which includes Rockhampton, Mackay, Gladstone and Biloela. Once again, there will be a cost involved and an expectation that you will organise travel for your child.
Selected children are now on the Capricornia team. This is when they will get a chance to compete against children from across the state in the state trial to become members of the state team. There are more costs involved and this time some of the teams will have transportation organised for them. Therefore, as you can see, the Emerald District trials are NOT come and try games, but for those children and families who are keen for higher competition and a chance to improve their skills.

Sports that are in this term: swimming, netball, basketball, soccer, rugby union, rugby league and touch football. If you have a child who is keen to be a part of any of these sports at representative level, please come and see me. Ms Richardson is our league and union representative on our staff. If those are your sports of interest, please see her.
I won’t be including the Representative School Sports Calendar in my newsletter report this year. This information can be found on the School website, www.emeraldss.eq.edu.au

Have a great fortnight
Cheers
Jill Ryan

Instrumental Music News

Instrumental Music has begun for the year with some very excited students picking up their instruments for the first time. If you have not already organised your child’s equipment/instrument, please do so immediately as they will fall behind the other students without it. If you have misplaced your equipment list, please email me or ask the school office for a new one.

Student resource scheme forms, loan agreement forms (if using a school instrument) and invoices were sent home on the first day of school. Please ensure these are returned to the school office with payment asap as your child can not take their instrument home until this process has been completed. Any student who has not returned forms and payment to the school office by February 29, will be withdrawn from the program.

As I service six schools in the district, if you have any questions would you please email me at lhild7@eq.edu.au and I will endeavour to get back to you within 24-48 hours.

It is shaping up to be a very busy year for Instrumental Music with events such as Fanfare (June 6), CH Festival of Bands (28-30 July) and the CH Eisteddfod (TBA) just to name a few.

Leanne Hilder
IM Teacher

WHAT’S ON

Emerald Scout Group

COME & TRY DAY
Sunday 7 February - 9 am – 12 pm
Emerald Scout Den, Cnr Opal & Theresa St

CHALLENGE YOURSELF, MAKE NEW FRIENDS, HAVE FUN
• Boys and girls aged 6 - 26 years.
• Adults (male & female 18 yrs +) to become Leaders. No experience necessary as training is provided.

For further information, contact Lyn – 0437446874

PCYC are seeking community minded volunteers to assist with Babysitting during our Group Fitness Classes

Hours are 9am-10.15am Monday – Friday.
Any assistance on any day/s would be greatly appreciated.
Contact Emerald PCYC on 4987 7475 or come in and see us at 114 Borilla Street, Emerald. QLD

TENNIS starts Monday February 1st for both coaching and junior fixtures. Senior fixtures will commence Tuesday February 2nd at 6:30pm. All new juniors will receive a free racquet and playing t-shirt for coaching.
If you would like any more information, or just to book in, please contact Glenn on 0407 693 900.
See you around the courts 😊

Markets Alive

Saturday 13 February 2016,
Emerald Christian College, 8:00am – 12:00pm
All proceeds are being donated to the Emerald Hospital.

St Patrick’s Catholic Church

Reconciliation, Confirmation, Eucharist Sacramental

Program (Year 4 and above)

Reconciliation
Parent Information Session - Tuesday, 2 February 2016
Reconciliation Ceremony, Saturday, 5 March 2016

Confirmation & Eucharist
Parent Information Session - Wednesday, 13 April 2016 at 3.30pm
Confirmation Ceremony, Friday, 10 June 2016 at 6pm
Eucharist Ceremony, Saturday, 11 June 2016 at 6pm
Enquiries contact Mrs Francie Hartley, 4982 1066