Welcome to the start of the 2014 school year. I'd like to begin by welcoming Miss Lauren McDowall, who is our new itinerant teacher, and April Mooka, who is the newest member of our student group. We have a total of 8 students this year and we are off to a great start …….

What has been happening?

As part of the Active After School Care Program, the students will be travelling to Georgetown once a week, on a Monday afternoon, to participate in swimming lessons. The school will provide a bus service that collects the students from school at 3pm and returns them to school by 5:30pm. I’d like to thank Claire Ballment and Irene Dempsey for their time and dedication to swimming coaching and I’d also like to thank Max Sheather for providing and driving the bus for us! The children simply love their swimming lessons and they look forward to them each week!

AASC will also be offered on a Wednesday afternoon from 3-4:30pm. Claire will be running these sessions and the children will be working on their dance routine for the upcoming Croydon Eisteddfod which is scheduled for Friday the 28th of March.

In the classroom, this year’s improvement focus is on reading, writing and numeracy.

The students have already been knuckling down to work, with new sight words and readers in the lower school, a novel narrative study of Roald Dahl’s ‘The Twits’, in the middle school and an in depth study of persuasive devices in the media, for the upper school.

What can you do at home to help your child improve in Reading?

* Practise their sight words with them. The more automatic their knowledge, the easier the task of reading.
* Read to them as often as possible so that they can hear how competent reading sounds and they can develop a love for reading.
* Encourage them to read to you as often as possible — Practise makes perfect!
* Encourage them to read environmental print such as newspaper clippings, grocery lists instructions, road signs, school notes and community notice boards.

What is coming up?

On the 12th of February at 6pm at the Georgetown Hall, the Etheridge Shire Council are hosting a forum that will address the topic of having a year 7 learning facility available in our Shire. As 2014 is the final year in which year 7 will be in primary school, this issue will affect the children in our school. All community members are welcome!

Well, that’s it from me....

Kind regards,

Hailey

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**Principal’s Desk**

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**What has been happening?**

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**What can you do at home to help your child improve in Reading?**

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**What is coming up?**

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**Calendar**

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**February**

- AASC Swimming 3rd
- AASC — 5th
- AASC Swimming 10th
- AASC 12th
- Year 7 Forum G/town 12th
- AASC Swimming 17th
- AASC 19th
- AASC Swimming 24th
- AASC 26th

**March**

- AASC Swimming 3rd
- AASC 5th
- AASC Swimming 10th
- AASC 12th
- AASC Swimming 17th
- AASC 19th
- AASC Swimming 24th
- AASC 26th
- Croydon Eisteddfod 28th

**April**

- End of term 1 4th
- Pupil Free 17th
- Term 2 begins 22nd