From the Principal’s Post
Welcome to our second newsletter for 2015. We have had a very busy start to the school year with lots of learning going on in the classroom, presentations from the Regional Council, election of our Year 6 Student Leaders, School Swimming and NAPLAN preparation, all the while working through our everyday curriculum. I am very proud of how the students have been acting and behaving over the past 4 weeks. We should all acknowledge their efforts in making the start to this year so smooth. Over the next few weeks, we will continue our NAPLAN preparation. More information on this is provided later in this newsletter.

Dates of Mr DePasquale’s absence
Last week I was absent attending a State Principals’ Conference in Brisbane. The main message that was given throughout the two day conference was that we need to be collaborating with each other (schools sharing ideas with each other/teachers sharing ideas/principals sharing ideas). Fortunately I was not one of my unlucky colleagues who fell ill from food poisoning!

Weekly Parade
We will be holding our weekly school Parade on a Monday afternoon. We expect it to begin around 2:45 pm and conclude by 3:00 pm. We welcome all members of the community to join us on these occasions, when we can celebrate and recognise the efforts of the amazing Abercorn students.

School Captain Announcements
Our Year 6 students had their speeches earlier this week and everyone has voted. We will announce the Student Leaders of Abercorn State School for 2015 at our parade on Monday 9th March. We would like to welcome all parents and carers to come and join us on this occasion to celebrate our new leaders.

Attendance Update
Congratulations to all students and parents on assisting us in achieving another fortnight with outstanding attendance. As at Wednesday afternoon, our attendance rate was 97.09%. Well done everyone on your attention to this. Without the support of our parents we would not be able to achieve such an amazing result. Keep up the great work!
P & C AGM
Earlier this week the P & C held its Annual General Meeting. It was great to see so many of our families attending these meetings. Decisions and discussions from these meetings directly impact on the students of our great school. The executive committee consists of:
* President - Scott Hutson
* Vice-President - Liam Payne
* Secretary - Kerri Bayles
* Treasurer - Camille Summers

Annual Bus Committee Meeting
Thanks to all those parents who came along to the Annual Bus Committee Meeting this week. Following discussions this term and consultation by Kim Pointon with other drivers, it has been determined that the bus schedule will continue as normal for the remainder of this term. The feedback from the meeting has been taken into consideration and will be reviewed in Term 2 as we come into the winter months and the roads have all been repaired.

NAPLAN News
The National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests were first implemented in May 2008. NAPLAN is not a test of content. Instead, it tests skills in literacy and numeracy that are developed over time through the school curriculum. Our Year 3 and 5 students will undertake these tests on Tuesday 12th, Wednesday 13th and Thursday 14th May.

Literacy Learning
We are coming to the end of our Humorous Narratives/Short Stories unit in all year levels. Downstairs we have been responding to a variety of picture books, including ‘Say Please, Louise’, ‘Don’t be Greedy, Graham’, and ‘Splat the Cat’. Students are in the middle of writing a personal response of their own story they brought in from home for their assessment. Upstairs, The Twits have almost twitted out. We’ve really enjoyed the grossness of the stories, and learning how Roald Dahl uses a variety of language features to create more effect. Students are currently analysing Roald Dahl’s texts and explaining the language features for assessment. The senior year levels have explored and analysed short stories such as ‘Mission Impossible’ and ‘The Loaded Dog’. Currently, students are analysing a chapter from Roald Dahl’s ‘Danny, The Champion of the World’ for assessment. Next unit we will be learning about the genre of Persuasive Text in the form of Newspapers.

Maths Moments
Students from Year 3-6 have recently been investigating fractions, decimals and percentages. They have been testing their knowledge in finding % discounts on amounts and finding fractions of whole numbers.

Down in the Prep-2 class, the students have been working hard to become better counters. They now have their own hundreds board decorated to their liking. The students have been putting numbers in a sequential order and identifying numbers before and after. They have also done some work on length and identifying other words to use for length. They also did some measuring and comparing the length of different objects around the school.

Reading Corner
Last week we included information about ‘Activating Prior Knowledge’ and ‘Building Vocabulary Knowledge’. This fortnight, ‘Inferring’ and ‘Making Connections’ have been targeted. Both of these strategies are very helpful, particularly with early readers. Inferring (understanding what the text is saying) and making connections with the text are two integral strategies for good readers to be using. Next newsletter, we will include some ‘Decoding Strategies’. These are more utilised by students in the lower years as they are learning the basics of reading and decoding (working out what words say).
School Swimming
Our last Swimming Lesson will be held this Friday 6th March. Our students will all receive a certificate in the coming weeks which outlines the skills they have achieved. Thanks to Debbie and the team at Eidsvold Swimming Pool for hosting us. This week we will be assessing students, part of which is performing a rescue. Students in the top group need to bring long pants, shirt and socks. All other students should bring a t-shirt and shorts to perform rescues in.

Cattle Club
Mrs Scholl has kindly offered her time to come in each week to work with our Year 3-6 students who are interested in cattle judging. Cattle Club will be on a Thursday at first break. Thanks Mrs Scholl for making time to come and see us each week!

School Website
Have you been to our school website lately? What would you like to see on our website? If you have any ideas please let us know! We are keen to have the website updated regularly with news and information that can often be of great assistance to parents and carers at home. Email bdepa5@eq.edu.au to give your feedback and ideas.

Library Borrowing
Students will have a library borrowing session each Thursday afternoon with Mrs O. Please remember to keep our library books safe and return them each week so you can re-borrow. Keep an eye out for some new books coming soon to our bookshelves!

Brain Teaser
Last week’s answer – Jake said he will have an answer for any question, not necessarily the correct answer.
This week - The day after tomorrow will be three days before Tuesday. Can you find out what day today is?

Tuckshop News
Remember that Tuckshop costs $5 ($3 at first break and $2 at second break) and all the money raised will be used to subsidise the cost of school camp.

Natural Disasters
Fortunately, the school did not sustain any damage from the recent cyclone or earthquake. There was a tree that has come down on the oval, however this has been turned into woodchip which will be put into our front garden beds.

Crazy Hair Day and National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence
On the 20th March, we will be holding a Crazy Hair Day to raise money and awareness for Leukemia. Students can come to school with crazy hair, or have it sprayed at school. We ask that a gold coin donation is made, which will all go toward the Leukaemia Foundation. On this day, we will also recognise the National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence by wearing orange. Students will participate in discussions and activities to raise awareness of bullying. We are very fortunate at Abercorn State School to have a great group of students who are tolerant and understanding of the needs of each other. Nonetheless, it is important for us to recognise this issue in society and discuss it with our students.

NRL Development Visit
Earlier this week, we were fortunate enough to have Colin from the NRL Development team visit our school. He took us out for some footy skills and gave away some prizes. Colin also spoke with the students and had four main messages:
1. Eat well – have a healthy diet.
2. Play well – play by the rules and always have fun.
3. Stay well – take care of your body and feelings.
4. Bullying can happen in 4 ways – cyber, physical, emotional and verbal, all of which are unacceptable.

**Council Spraying of Mosquitos and Sandflies**
Next Thursday, 12th March, the North Burnett Regional Council will be spraying the Abercorn area for sandflies and mosquitos. They will provide a barrier treatment here at school which is aimed at reducing the amount of mosquitos and sandflies which we are currently experiencing. The treatment will take place after school when there are no students or staff on the property. If you have any questions please don’t hesitate to contact Mr DePasquale by email - bdepa5@eq.edu.au.

**Student Council**
Shortly we will begin to form our Student Council for 2015. We anticipate that our three school leaders will be on the committee, along with those in Year 5 who are interested. Updates on how this proceeds will be communicated in the next newsletter.

**Eidsvold State School Disco**
On Friday 13th March, Eidsvold State School will be holding a disco. They have kindly invited the students of Abercorn State School to join them on this fun and exciting evening. It will run from 6:00 pm – 7:15 pm in the NTN hall at the top of the Eidsvold school oval. Entry is $2 per person and drinks, snacks and glow products will be available for purchase on the evening.

**Monto Annual Race Day – 29th March, 2015**
Gates open 11am til 6pm

5 local races

Book your corporate table for 8 at Monto Cattle and Country
(Be quick – limited numbers)

Bus Service – PO starting at 11am/Duck Inn 11:10am

Licensed Bar – BBQ – Luncheon – ‘Fashions on the Field’

Great Family Afternoon – Support Country Racing

Enquiries: 0488 508 987
Inferring

Inferring is being able to ‘read between the lines’, when the author implies something but doesn’t exactly state it. You need to use the clues in the text and your own prior knowledge to help you understand.

“Sarah’s mouth was dry and she had a big knot in her stomach. She wished today was already over.”

... I think Sarah sounds really nervous about giving her speech to the whole school.
Making connections

Making connections is when we make links between what we already know (our prior knowledge) and the text.

There are three kinds of connections we can make. The first is called:

Text to self
This is when we connect the text to our own experiences.

This part makes me think about when I lost the necklace my Nan gave me. I know what it feels like to lose something precious.
International Women’s Day

Invites you to come and celebrate

International Women’s Day Luncheon
Theme: “Make It Happen”

Special guest speaker
Gay Tully
Creator of Green Thumb Express - a successful social media campaign to encourage women to pot drought resistant plants from their own garden to share with women who have watched their own gardens suffer through drought. Gay has many roles: grazier, wife, mother, grandmother, musterer, teacher, cancer survivor, gardener and friend to many.

Day: Thursday 12th March 2015
Time: 11:30 am
Venue: RM Williams Australian Bush Learning Centre
Cost: $25.00 (2 courses)

Limited tickets available so book quick to be part of the celebration.
Tickets are available at Eidsvold Community Pharmacy, Gayndah Guardian Pharmacy and Mundubbera Guardian Pharmacy.

For more information please contact Julie Blundell on 0427 620 746 or centacare.nb2@bigpond.com

Breastscreen Queensland
Wide Bay Service
is coming to...

Eidsvold Medical Centre
19 Moreton Street
Eidsvold Q 4627
9th March 2015
to 11th March 2015

Phone 132050
to book your FREE breastscreen appointment!!

Women aged 50 - 74 are strongly encouraged to attend.
Women 40 and over are also eligible for a FREE breastscreen.
## Tuckshop Term 1- 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Lunch</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Smoko</th>
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<tr>
<td>29th Jan</td>
<td>Mini Quiche</td>
<td>School</td>
<td>Cake</td>
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<td>Week 1</td>
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<td>5th Feb</td>
<td>Spaghetti Bog, Garlic Bread</td>
<td>School</td>
<td>Fruit &amp; ice cream</td>
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<td>Week 2</td>
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<td>12th Feb</td>
<td>Pasta Bake</td>
<td>Kerri Bayles</td>
<td>Chocolate Crackles</td>
<td>Camille Summers</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
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<td>19th Feb</td>
<td>Tacos</td>
<td>Nikki Keiler</td>
<td>Jelly Boats</td>
<td>Dot Osborne</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
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<td>26th Feb</td>
<td>Homemade Sausage Rolls</td>
<td>Trudie Payne</td>
<td>Assorted Homemade Cookies</td>
<td>Trudie Payne</td>
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<td>5th Mar</td>
<td>Roast Gravy Rolls</td>
<td>Kerri Pointon</td>
<td>Chocolate Slice</td>
<td>Kellie Smith</td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
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<td>12th Mar</td>
<td>Hot Dogs</td>
<td>Russel and Chel Drinkwater</td>
<td>Surprise</td>
<td>Labell Drinkwater</td>
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<td>19th Mar</td>
<td>Chipolata Dogs</td>
<td>Kate Mortimer</td>
<td>Surprise</td>
<td>Kellie Smith</td>
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<td>26th Mar</td>
<td>Chicken and Gravy Rolls</td>
<td>Bec Hutson</td>
<td>Butterfly Cakes</td>
<td>Bec Hutson</td>
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<td>Sausage Sizzle</td>
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<td>Garlic Bread and Muffins</td>
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**22 Students and 5 staff on Thursday**