Dear Parents and Caregivers,

As many of you have no doubt heard by now, I have accepted a position as Principal of Miles State School commencing Semester 2, 2016. Miles presents a wonderful opportunity to further my career with 200 students and a staff of 30. It also offers Simone, Sonny, Libby and I with the chance to be closer to our families.

I feel very fortunate to have been the Principal of Thargomindah State School over the past 2 1/2 years. The students here have made a lasting impression not only on me but also my family. We feel privileged to have been a part of the community and have created lifelong memories of our time in Outback Queensland. I applaud the community for the calibre of the young people you are raising – fine young men and women.

I am immensely proud of our achievements as a Team at School. I would like to particularly acknowledge the introduction of the Kindy program. Thargomindah championed this initiative and as a direct result of our success, a pilot program is now rolling out at 15 State schools across Queensland. This is an achievement that our Team, in partnership with the Bulloo Shire Council and Brisbane SDE, should be very proud of. Similarly, by championing and implementing the North Coast Math’s program our School has again been recognised as a leader, with the South West Darling Downs Region adopting this program off the back of our accomplishments.

Importantly, our student data indicates consistent improvement in the academic achievements of our students—a testament to our terrific staff and the tremendous efforts of our students to try their hardest every day. Attendance has improved from 89% in 2013 to 93% at the close of last year. A great indicator of our holistic approach to School life.

Our Annual Sports Camp has doubled in size and in 2016 will be a hallmark event on the Schools sporting calendar of South West Queensland. We have worked hard to increase its profile and establish firm partnerships with key agencies to ensure its long-term economic viability.

I believe we currently have a strong, cohesive and committed team at School. I have no doubt they will continue to deliver great educational outcomes for our students and the broader Thargomindah community well into the future. I thank them for their ongoing support and dedication to our vision.

I would like to recognise the incredible support of the P&C whose proactive and dedicated contribution to school life has been invaluable. The fundraising results are simply incredible and this has positioned the Committee to strongly support the School well into the future. I would also like to mention the Bulloo Shire Council and their significant contribution and ongoing commitment to our students here at Thargomindah, particularly through the Kindy program, the Senior Campus and Homework Club.

I remain 100% committed to Thargomindah State School right up until my departure. It is business as usual until the end of term. I understand Education Queensland will be undertaking a recruitment process in the coming weeks to contract an Acting Principal prior to a permanent appointment being made. I will keep you informed regarding the appointment once confirmed. It is my intention to work closely with them to ensure a smooth transition occurs.

Thank you again for your support over my time here as Principal. It has been a privilege to work together with you and your children over the past 2 1/2 years.

Warm regards,

Steve Bennett

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DR DESLEY MARSHALL
WILL BE IN THARGOMINDAH
30th & 31st MAY 2016

DR MARSHALL IS PROVIDING GENERAL PRACTITIONER SERVICES INCLUDING SKIN CHECKS, GENERAL HEALTH CHECKS, CHRONIC DISEASE MANAGEMENT, MEN’S HEALTH, WOMEN’S HEALTH, CHILDREN’S ASSESSMENTS, AND MENTAL HEALTH

FOR AN APPOINTMENT OR MORE INFORMATION CALL THE CLINIC ON 46553361

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P-2 Class with their ‘Winter Wonderland’ drawings of a Polar Bear

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DATE CLAIMERS:

6th June Small Schools are Great Schools
17th June Under 8’s Day in Quilpie
17th June Readers Cup

STUDENT OF THE WEEK
FRIDAY 20TH MAY

Kyra—Being proactive with her Homework
Georgia—Writing a great Narrative

BEDE’S ROAD SAFETY AWARD
Jack P—Crossing the road safely

RECOGNITION OF ACHIEVEMENT
Sonny—Completing 100 take home readers

Year 4 students completed ‘Solve It’ Impact
P-2 CLASSROOM NEWS

It’s report card time!!! Well almost. I am in the process of writing the comments. Most students have completed all their assessment with only a few to catch in the coming days. With report cards coming soon please keep in mind we will be holding parent/teacher meetings should you feel you would like to speak to me about your child’s progress.

We are currently working on a poetry unit for English and the children really like the opportunities it brings to use our senses. We will do more senses work in the coming weeks. Rhyming is very important in the early years as it helps establish spelling patterns. Please share with your child a poem or a nursery rhyme.

I have made adjustments to the Preps reading at home where they will take 2 books home a week. If parents can read to them the first night, then read with your child the second night and then let the child try to go alone on the third and fourth nights. Any questions about this please don’t hesitate to see me.

Trish

3-6 CLASSROOM NEWS

Another busy week for the year 3-6 class. As we are nearing the end of term, all our assessment needs to be completed within the next two weeks. It’s really important that our students aren’t losing focus, as I know they are all determined to get an excellent report card.

On a more exciting topic, we have a new member of the upstairs classroom! A big welcome to Bridie, who joins our year 5/6 cohort. Bridie has already settled in very well. She and all the kids seem to be getting along really well!

I am going to start sending daily messages home (through email) to keep you all informed of what we are doing/learning in class, and when things are due. If you have another preferred method, or your email is not up to date with the school information, can I ask you send a note in with your child or let me know otherwise of your email address or best contact method. In this email I will also include a weekly overview of what our week looks like, and what we are focusing on in class.

Reporting is just around the corner and I will begin to write my comments this week. If you have any concerns or would like to talk about your child’s progress before the reports are sent out, please give me a call or pop in to see me, and I’ll be more than happy to talk with you on how they’re going.

Have a wonderful week!

Amy Hollis
Katie Piper

Can you imagine this; your life is perfect with everything going as planned, then out of the blue it all changed? Well this happened to a young lady named, Katie Piper. However the tragic event that shocked Katie’s world did not stop this young lady. She showed courage and determination and faced that heart breaking obstacle to be where she is today.

This courageous individual was born on the 12th of October, 1983 in Andover, United Kingdom. She is a middle child with an older brother, Paul and a younger sister, Suzy. Katie also has two very supportive parents, David and Diane. She attended Harrow School and Port Way Junior School as a child. After leaving school Katie trained to be a beautician, aiming to break into the fashion industry. As an attractive young woman she was also able to undertake some modelling work.

In 2008 Katie experienced a horrific life changing event. She and her boyfriend at the time Daniel Lynch were holidaying in North London in 2008. They were only two weeks into their relationship when, out of nowhere, he grabbed Katie, raped beat and stabbed her several times. He also threatened to cut her with a razor and hang her. Eight hours after the attack he drove her to a hospital where her wounds were treated. Two days after the attack she received several phone calls of apology from Daniel who had previously been her boyfriend but says that he never actually did it. She said yes but it wasn’t his problem, it was his friend Stefan Sylvestre. Out of hatred and revenge for ending the relationship with his mate, Stefan threw acid at an already injured Katie. Both Daniel and Stefan were sentenced to 10 years for their trial and sentencing. Eight hours after the attack he drove her to a hospital where her wounds were treated. Two days after the attack she received several phone calls of apology from Daniel who had previously been her boyfriend. Out of hatred and revenge for ending the relationship with his mate, Stefan threw acid at an already injured Katie. Both Daniel and Stefan were sentenced to 10 years for their trial and sentencing. After their trial and sentencing, Katie stated, “I thought, I’m the one with the life sentence - not him. He can change his identity, change his name, get a new job, a partner, move on, but I can’t. I can’t pretend it didn’t happen because it’s all over my face!” (My face, 2008). The acid attack was so shattering for Katie but this brave woman showed her courage and determination. She did not give up – she was not going to let him beat her.

Following the attack Katie was mentally strong but nothing could have prepared her for what would be ahead. In 2009 she set up the Katie Piper Foundation – a charity with ‘the vision of a world where scars don’t limit a person function, social inclusion or sense of wellbeing’ (Katie piper foundation 2009). To be able to do this Katie needed to speak publicly about her ordeal and as, a result she displayed a great amount of courage as she not only relived her horrific past but also spoke of her future with hope and optimism.

As a consequence of the acid attack, Katie had to endure more than forty surgeries to her face and upper body. So many operations would take its toll on most people but Katie was a strong-minded young woman who endured this ordeal with pure strength. She had her last surgery in 2015. Her facial looks were not the same and never would be but her fearless determination to get back to where she was before the attack is inspirational, especially he positive perspective on life. Before the acid attack she was a self-centred person and thought she was better than everyone but this certainly changed. Katie now knows that everyone is different in every way, and that makes people who they are today.

Katie Piper had to face what seemed many insurmountable challenges and, because of this, she displayed true human spirit. As everyone is different in every way, and that makes people who they are today.

Second Year School Update

So many experiments seemed to be happening here in the Secondary Learning Centre this past fortnight and I want to share some of these with you. Amity and Jacinta have been working on a science unit titled, ‘Moving Right Along’. It relates to Newton’s law of gravity and the influence of forces on objects and surfaces. There were sandwich bags made up of flour, sugar and other powdery materials as the girls used these to find out that 1 N of force is equal to 100g of mass. Then there was the paper spinner that Amity made and tested by dropping from the centre’s verandah to test for gravitational pull. Amity thinks this has been her favourite experiment so far. The final one for unit 3 has been testing friction of different shoe sole compositions on a smooth floor surface. Akasha has had some success and some failures with her plant production unit in ag science. It’s been difficult to get many seeds to germinate. Perhaps that’s why, living out here, we tend to buy seedlings for our gardens. Here are some photos of these experiments from the past fortnight.

We have also included in this newsletter, the biographies that Amity and Jacinta have recently completed.

Carmel Beresford

Malala Yousafzai

Imagine this, you are travelling home and then without a warning, bang a shot rings out. Malala Yousafzai doesn’t need to imagine she lived through this. Malala stood up for women’s rights and highlighted the need for education. She spoke for those who couldn’t and nearly lost her life because of it. She valued her education and thought it should be available to all regardless of their geographic location. At the UN Youth Assembly just nine months after her assassination attempt Malala said, "One child, one teacher, one book, and one pen, can change the world.”

By Jacinta Byrne

SECONDARY SCHOOL UPDATE

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By Jacinta Byrne
Come dressed in something that symbolizes Queensland as a state to you and enjoy 2 great movies.

First Movie to start at 6:00pm

Dinner (Pizza) at 7:30pm

Second Movie to Start at 8:00pm

Movies will be on Tennis Courts so please bring a blanket, pillow etc.

Children must be signed in and signed out by a parent/adult.

ARE YOU A GENIUS, A GOOD GUESSER, PLAIN LUCKY OR JUST LIKE TO HAVE FUN?

Why not come and test yourself on just how much you know about Queensland and The Local Community

Teams of 5 - All teams must have a team name

Come dressed in something that symbolizes Queensland as a state to you

Nominations are required NO Later than Thursday 26th May 2016

(Individual Nominations welcome)

Bookings are required for catering purposes

BYO Drinks