Dear Parents and Carers,

We certainly have been busy over the past 3 weeks with our school visiting St Colman’s school to participate in the World of Maths Day, the senior students traveling to Tinaroo for Leadership Camp and the junior students traveling to Maidavale during camp week. As we approach the end of the year, we are now entering the assessment phase of Term 4 where we will be assessing what the students have learnt during the past 7 weeks. Even though assessment is an ongoing part of the teaching and learning cycle at our school, I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that your child’s attendance at school during this time is particularly important. Remember, everyday counts when coming to school, 1 or 2 days away may not seem like much but just 2 days absent each week adds up to 24 weeks absent per year! Learning at our school will continue right up until the last day, so please ensure that your child is at school.

Prep Open Morning
Next Friday, 29 November, we will be holding our Prep open morning at school from 8:30 – 10am.
During the morning we will have a number of activities on offer and information packs about our school will be available for parents and carers. Please encourage any parents of Prep aged children, those children who turn 5 by 30 June 2014 to come along and see how great our school is. NOTE: Prep open morning will be run in conjunction with Pre-prep next week.

Auction Sausage Sizzle
This Saturday, the P&C will be holding a sausage sizzle at the machinery auction which will be taking place on the block behind our school. Proceedings will kick off at 9am, if you are able to help out, please come along – everyone is welcome!

JAG Meeting
The Junior Astronomy group meeting has been postponed until Friday 29 November from 6:30-8:00pm. All students 11 years and over are welcome to attend.

Graduation and End of Year Celebrations
This year we will be holding our graduation and end of year celebration evening on Friday 6 December in the school library. The evening will include a graduation ceremony for our year 7s, presentation of this year’s play and other entertainment. This year we will be holding a ‘pot-luck’ dinner so please bring a dish to share with the other families. BYO drinks for the evening. Proceedings will begin at 6:30pm, we look forward to seeing you all there.

JOKSS Christmas Fun Day
On Tuesday 10 December, we will be hosting the Term 4 JOKSS Day which will involve the children in various Christmas themed activities. Students from Kalamia State School and Jarvisfield State School will be attending. Our P&C will be providing tuckshop on the day. Please find attached a tuckshop order form. Orders and money will need to be returned to school by Wednesday 4 December.
Secret Santa present swap
As with 2012, this year we will be holding a Christmas present swap between the students during the last week of school. Children will be allocated the name of a fellow classmate to buy a gift for, gifts are to be up to $10 in value. If your child will definitely NOT be at school on Thursday 12 December, can you please let Miss Laidlow know so that their name is not included in the name swap.

Pre-Prep
Don’t forget, we are now running a Pre-Prep program on **Friday mornings from 8:30-10am**. This program is free and is open to all families in the district. Please encourage anyone you know with young children to come along.

P&C Meeting
Our next P&C meeting will be held on Tuesday 3 December at 3:15pm in the staff room. This meeting will be held in conjunction with the Centenary Committee meeting and we will be looking at future planning for 2014. 2014 will be an extremely busy year for our school and any assistance you can offer us is greatly appreciated. All parents, carers and friends of the school are welcome to attend.

Scinspiration 2014
Scinspiration is a science based, extra curricular excursion to Canberra. Scinspiration is open to all students in Years 5,6 and 7 in the Burdekin, Ingham, Charters Towers and Bowen Districts. This exciting excursion will take place during the first week of the June-July school holidays of 2014 from **Monday 7 July to Saturday 12 July**. **Students who attend Scinspiration have the opportunity to visit numerous attractions, observe working scientists and meet other enthusiastic science students from both districts.** Attractions we will be visiting include: Parliament House, The Australian War Memorial, Royal Australian Mint, Questacon Science Centre, CSIRO Discovery Centre, Geoscience Australia, National Zoo and Aquarium and a day investigating the snow at Perisher Valley. Registrations are now open and a deposit will be required to secure your child’s place on tour. Bookings are strictly limited to 40 students and will be taken on a first come, first served basis. The total cost of the trip is **$1250 per student**, this includes flights to and from Townsville, all transport whilst in Canberra, all meals, snow gear hire and a trip T-shirt.

During 2013, the school and P&C offered a **combined subsidy of $600 per student, reducing the cost of the trip to $650 per student.** We cannot guarantee that the trip will be subsidised to this extent during 2014, however, we will be offering some subsidy to reduce the cost. If your child is interested in attending, please return the **attached registration form with a deposit of $100** to the school as soon as possible.

Awards
Congratulations to the following students who have received awards for their great work this fortnight:
Blaize Palmer  Johnny Rehbein  Ty Jacka  Shaylah Rehbein
Keep up the great work everyone!

Yours in Education
Hayley Laidlow
Principal
Last Monday 11 November, students from 6 small schools around the district boarded a bright yellow bus and embarked on an epic adventure to Lake Tinaroo Active Recreation Centre. 33 students from Osborne State School, Maidavale State School, Gumlu State School, Jarvisfield State School, Kalamia State School and Millaroo State School gathered together for their annual Leadership Development camp. The students participated in a variety of team building activities including raft building, team games, canoeing and high ropes challenge. Canoeing proved to be a favourite among the students with many professing that it was their favourite activity at camp. Busy days were followed by busy nights as the group participated in a games night, trivia night, movie night and even a slime night where the teachers tested the students’ determination, challenging them to slime relays, baby food eating competitions and even bobbing for marshmallows in giant dishes of baked beans!

On Thursday, the group packed up for a tour of the Tablelands. They visited the Herberton Historic Village where we visited an old style classroom complete with ink wells, desks with forms and even the dreaded cane! They students also got to try their hand at blacksmithing as some lucky students became forge assistants during a blacksmithing demonstration. The group then visited Malanda Falls for a quick lunch stop then moved onto Gallo’s Dairyland where they were able to try various chocolates and cheeses and observe the dairy cows being milked. Finally they visited the Crystal Caves where they saw the world’s largest geode and got to crack a geode themselves, the amazing rock contained amethyst crystals and small amount of water which had not seen the light of day for 40 million years. Sadly, on Friday it was time to pack up and come home. The group said goodbye to the staff at Lake Tinaroo and embarked on the long journey home – they can’t wait to go on camp again in 2014!