**Millner Primary School**

**Sabine Road MILLNER NT 0810**

**“Achieving Together and Building Respect”**

Principal’s Report for School Council – May, 2016

Term two is fast ticking along – particularly with a couple of four-day weeks! –much activity has taken place since our last meeting in April.

Week two saw a big Professional Learning focus on Meaningful Maths – the approach we and several other Darwin primary schools use for the teaching and learning of Maths. Meaningful Maths is informed by an approach called New Zealand Maths [‘NZ Maths’] and draws upon both the resources and pedagogical principles of NZ Maths, but has been deliberately aligned to our own Australian Curriculum. In week two, we had a consultant from New Zealand in our school for two days, who worked with teachers about various aspects of their Maths teaching. Teachers also participated in two after school Professional Learning sessions that addresses various areas of need regarding the teaching and learning of Maths.

I was away from the school for four days in week four, participating in a DoE leadership course. Whilst I was quite ‘anxious’ about being away from the school for several days in succession(!), the school was left in very capable hands with each of the Senior Teachers – Karen Piening, Wendy Boehme and Sheree Arratta. These ladies were able to keep the school running well for this week, as well as keep me informed on a daily basis about the events and activity that unfolded each day.

We are now right in the middle of the Assessment and Reporting period, seeing teachers complete their various assessments with students and develop the individual semester reports. This is undoubtedly a ‘peak’ workload period for teachers in any school and Millner teachers are working very hard to meet all of the requirements and to successfully achieve the end result of accurate, professional reports upon each student’s learning for semester one.

Last week, Millner year threes and fives – along with their counterparts from all other Australian schools – participated in the annual NAPLAN testing. These assessments were carried out very smoothly and with minimal disruptions. The information we get back from these assessments later in the year will build on the information that we have collated from NAPLAN results of previous years and enable us to continue monitoring trends in progress and achievement for Writing, Reading, Maths, as well as Spelling and Grammar.

As you know, one of our ‘Big Five’ Improvement Priorities this year is to work on developing a high-profile PE program – we have some important events coming up that are contributing actions towards this priority. Our ‘wet and wild’-themed fun run is happening on Thursday, May 26. Classes are looking to run their own fundraising stalls on this day – any support from parents or School Council would be very much appreciated! The school Sports Day is slated for Wednesday, June 15 and is always a fun school-community event. It looks like we have also been able to secure an initial session with the Elite Sports Program from Casuarina Senior College, seeing them come out to Millner to run some specific Health and PE activities with older students from our school, as well as others from the Nightcliff Hub.

Jane Mellett finished up as our year four teacher at the end of week two. As you can imagine, finding an available and quality teacher in the beginning weeks of term two left me feeling a little worried! Thankfully, we were very fortunate to secure Ms Hira Haroon, who has made a very impressive start and has already been able to move her class forward in some important areas.

Finally, the selection process for the principal position is currently underway – we are likely to know the outcome of this in the next couple of weeks.

Thank-you for your support of the school through your participation as School Council members.

Regards,



Warwick Peter-Budge