Hi Parents,

What a wonderful week we have had celebrating NAIDOC Week. We were fortunate enough to travel to Biloela State School on Tuesday and participate in activity rotations with Indigenous Elders and Groups as we learnt Indigenous games, stories, art, hip hop and what army life was like from a retired Indigenous soldier who was a Vietnam War veteran. Yesterday we opened up our school to the community to participate in NAIDOC rotations with us and see all the wonderful things happening here at Prossie. Thank you to those families who joined with us yesterday. It was a great morning. Photos are included in this newsletter.

NEW TIMETABLE
As you would be aware, last term we trialled our new timetable consisting of three learning sessions instead of four. Feedback to the school from staff, parents and students has been extremely positive and as a result, this timetable will continue. Feedback from staff, students and parents has included:

- More focused sessions with fewer disruptions
- A solid literacy block enabling explicit instruction in oral language reading and writing
- More time in the afternoon session for other key activities
- More time outside playing
- Students able to play earlier in the day
- In line with other schools making travel smoother for itinerant teachers

Thank you to those parents who provided the school with valuable feedback.

YEAR 6 AND 7 PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT
We have had a few parents and students ask about this program and unfortunately the school nurse is unavailable to run these sessions in schools anymore. We are, however, able to run a program utilising the resources we have available to us at school. Chris Couchman will run a program for the Year 6 and 7 boys and I will run a program for the Year 6 and 7 girls. On these days, Katherine Terwin will provide an activity for the remaining students. The sessions will predominately focus on puberty, emotions as we go through puberty and accessing health information that supports young people to manage the changes. The program will take place over two weeks on Wednesday 6th August and Wednesday 13th August. Please contact the school if you have any questions or concerns about this or if you would prefer your child not to participate.

SCHOOL OPINION SURVEY
The annual School Opinion Survey has opened and will remain open until Sunday 3rd August. The aim of the survey is to obtain opinion information from parents/caregivers, students and all school staff. All families are encouraged to complete their survey to ensure that their opinion is included in our school’s reports, which we will receive later this year. The reports will help our school and Education Queensland to further understand how to better meet the needs of our community. The Parent/Caregiver Survey has been sent out to families this week and it can only be completed online. Computers will be made available at school for those parents who require access to this online tool. Thank you to those parents who have completed their survey already.

**ANDREW FULLER COMMUNITY SESSIONS**
Andrew Fuller has travelled the state providing professional development to schools and communities to help prepare families for Junior Secondary in 2015. Thanks to RREAP, we have been able to get Andrew Fuller to Biloela on Monday 11th August (5:30pm-7:00pm) and Tuesday 12th August (3:30pm-4:30pm). This is a wonderful opportunity for our community to listen to an engaging speaker on building resilience in our children and brain-based learning. More information is to follow but I wanted to give you plenty of time to mark this valuable opportunity in your calendars! Year 6 and 7 students will also have the opportunity to listen to an Andrew Fuller session on Monday 11th August at 1:00pm. The session will focus on resilience and well-being. A note for this session will be distributed shortly and we will be seeking parental assistance with transport.

**P&C MEETING**
Due to the Andrew Fuller sessions, the next P&C meeting has been brought forward to Tuesday 5th August. We will be discussing our Audit report and its commendations and recommendations. Mr Couchman will take us through our whole school spelling program. It is always great to see fresh faces at P&C meetings. If you haven’t been or haven’t been for a while, please come along. The P&C is a great way to keep informed of what is happening in the school as well as make suggestions and provide valuable feedback.

**TERM 4 SWIMMING**
It was decided at a P&C meeting that the community would like to continue with two terms of swimming each year. Our Learn to Swim Grant only makes a small dent in the cost of swimming for one term, so we will require parents to pay for their swimming upfront for Term 4. The cost of swimming will be $5 per student per week over 8 weeks ($40 total). This is still less than the actual cost of the program and includes bus travel and pool entry. Next week, invoices will be sent home. You will need to pay for swimming prior to Term 4 starting to enable us to be pay the bus and pool entry on a weekly basis. Also, there are a small number of families who are yet to pay for Term 1 swimming and in some instances, 2013 swimming. Could you please pay these outstanding amounts ASAP to enable us to balance this cost centre? Your prompt assistance with this is appreciated.

**ACCOUNTS**
Invoices will be sent home next week to those families who have outstanding balances. Please remember we would like to avoid handing out new uniforms without payment as we are finding it difficult to recover the money. If you require new uniforms please either direct debit prior or come in to school to see Robyn with the correct money if possible.
The Premier's Reading Challenge is an annual statewide event for students from Prep to Year 7 in state, Catholic and independent schools as well as home-educated students. Individual students, whole schools or individual classes can enter the Premier's Reading Challenge. It reinforces the importance of reading every day. Our school has registered all students for this challenge. The reading period for the 2014 Premier's Reading Challenge commenced on Tuesday 20 May and closes Friday 5 September. Please see the Reading Record attached. A reminder that parents/carers will need to sign off on every book read to ensure it is counted.

The Premier's Reading Challenge is not a competition but a way to encourage students to develop a love of reading for life. Through the challenge, students are given an opportunity to further develop their appreciation of the English language and are encouraged to explore and enjoy a wide range of literary texts.

For a student to successfully complete the Premier's Reading Challenge, they must read or experience the number of books indicated in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year level</th>
<th>Number of books</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep to Year 2</td>
<td>Read or experience* 20 books</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years 3 and 4</td>
<td>20 books</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years 5 to 7</td>
<td>15 books</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Experiencing a book can include classroom or at-home activities such as shared reading, listening and reading along with a text, or being read to.

The requirement for Year 5 through to Year 7 students to read 15 books rather than 20 books acknowledges that older students are likely to select longer, more complex books that may take them longer to read.

Students are encouraged to select a range of fiction and non-fiction books suited to their reading ability. While there is no compulsory reading list for the challenge, a booklist has been developed to help students, teachers, parents and guardians select appropriate reading material.

The booklist has been divided into year level groups. Students are also welcome to read books from previous years' booklists and from lists for higher year levels. As the booklists are quite large, we have attached these to the electronic version of the newsletter only. These booklists are also available online at [http://education.qld.gov.au/schools/readingchallenge/booklist.html](http://education.qld.gov.au/schools/readingchallenge/booklist.html)

Please contact the office if you require a hard copy of the booklist.

**UNDER 8’s / SPORTS DAY**

Last week a note was sent home to inform you about the upcoming Under 8’s/Sports Day to be held at Mt Murchison State School next Friday. Thank you to the parents who have returned this slip promptly. We had only received some basic information at the time of printing the newsletter last week and needed to get a permission note out ASAP. We now have some further information.

Traditionally, Under 8’s Day has been an opportunity for students in the early years to participate in themed activities with other small schools in our cluster. We have been discussing this a lot at Principal meetings and have thought this would be a fantastic opportunity for all students to be involved, with the older students participating in sporting rotations with sports development officers. Thanks to the team at Mount Murchison we have confirmed development officers for Rugby League, Soccer and Austag and are still waiting to confirm Tennis. This is a fantastic opportunity to not only participate and develop skills in new sports but another opportunity to mix with peers from other schools.

All students and siblings are invited to participate, we just need to know numbers. RREAP has kindly donated a bus but if you would prefer to transport your own child, please let us know ASAP so we can inform the bus company. There is no cost to students, only Tuck Shop if you wish to purchase it. Tuckshop orders were due in today but I have organised an extension until Monday only. Please return permission notes and Tuckshop order forms on Monday if you have not already done so.
What an action packed week we had this week. NAIDOC on Tuesday and Thursday! Everyone had a great time on both days learning to rap, dance, and make a message stick at Biloela State School and learning an Aboriginal game with Chappy, icing cupcakes with Mrs Tappin and Mrs Marxsen, doing some art with Mrs Northey and Mrs Bauer, learning about Aboriginal culture with Mr Norman and listening to stories with Mrs Gardiner.

Next Friday is under 8’s and upper class sports day at Mt. Murchison State school. I hope to see you and your toddlers (if you have them) there.

A quick reminder, please make sure the fruit you send is a fresh piece of fruit or some vegetables. Dried fruit is concentrated, so it is very high in sugar and tinned fruit can also have the same issue.

The class has had a lot of fun celebrating NAIDOC Week and who would have thought we had the best ‘hunter’ ever who was able to use the woomera accurately and hit our target!

This week in maths, Years 3-4 have been learning about money and counting up to calculate change. Next time you are shopping, ask your child how much change you should get. This will keep reinforcing this skill and help when we revise this later in the year.

Next week we will be starting our times tables focus. This will be ongoing and something that just needs to be practised. All families of Year 3-4 students will receive a times tables CD that can be played anywhere (sorry parents)! Research shows that if we hear it as well as say it and write it, we are more likely to remember it!

Years 5-7 have completed their maths unit on geometry. They finished with an assessment today and I must say I was very impressed. There were some tricky concepts!

Next week we are hitting the ground running with persuasive speeches. All students will need to commit to their topic on Monday. Keep watching the news, reading the newspaper and researching issues and topics of interest.
DATES TO REMEMBER

Anzac Memorial Club raffles – Friday 1st August
Under 8’s Day at Mount Murchison State School – Friday 1st August
P&C Meeting – Tuesday 5th August
Andrew Fuller sessions – Monday 11th and Tuesday 12th August
Open morning for Literacy & Numeracy week (Breakfast & activities) - Thursday 28th August
Market Day, Country Fair & Open Day – 30th August (11.00am – 5.00pm)

INCLUDED IN THIS NEWSLETTER:

- Timetable P-2
- Timetable 3-7
- Teddy Bear Picnic
- Sista’s Yarning
- Premier reading booklists (electronic copies only)