**Our Pioneer Valley Maths Contestants**

By Josh Harding

Can you solve this problem? Can you solve this problem in only two minutes!

Eight teams are participating in a night tennis fixture competition. A team consists of two men and two women, each of whom pays $6 per game to the local Tennis Association to play. Play is scheduled on Wednesday nights during the first half of the year. Each team plays each of the other teams once per round in the two-round competition. How much will the Association have collected from the players at the end of the competition if there are no cancelled night fixtures?

Answer: you have to read to the end of my news report...

On the 14th of March, five Walkerston State School teams travelled to Marian State School to compete in the 2014 Pioneer Valley Maths Competition. Students from Marian, Mirani and Walkerston participated. We started off with the Team Challenge, in which we had 45 minutes to complete ten very hard questions that involved money, normal equations (adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing), measurement, drawing, graphing, decimals and BODMAS.

After lunch, we had a relay event. All the teams had a runner and two pairs. There were twenty questions and we had 45 minutes to complete as many as we could. We rotated until time was up, or until we completed all of the questions.

We did not come 1st, 2nd or 3rd, but we did very well. I loved the maths competition and hope to compete in the Whitsunday Maths Competition coming soon.

Answer: $2688

Tygah Wilson

When asked “What was good about the maths comp?” Tygah Wilson said, “It is good for the brain and it is really good for the little kids to learn how to do maths and to prepare them for high school.” Tygah hopes to next compete in the Whitsunday Maths Competition as well.

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**Year 6/7 Camp Fundraising**

**Easter Raffle**

The Walkerston State School P&C have authorised an Easter Raffle which is to be drawn in the last week of this term. All profits will go towards fundraising for the year 6/7 Sydney/Canberra school trip.

All year 6/7 students are asked to donate an Easter egg product. Hampers will be made up to be raffled. All donations need to be handed into their class teacher as soon as possible.

Raffle tickets have been sent home to year 6/7 students to sell. If you require any extra tickets to sell, they are available from the school office. Your support for this fundraising event is greatly appreciated.
Principal’s Report

Great Results Guarantee
Earlier in the year, I mentioned that the school had been given extra funding to help it improve our students’ learning outcomes. I’m proud to say that our Great Results Guarantee was recently approved by the Director General of Education, Dr Jim Watterson. I would invite you to read our Great Results Guarantee which also be accessed via the school’s website.

A considerable component of our Great Results Guarantee money has been used to employ Teacher Aides to provide specific forms of support. Last week, students were reminded of the importance of working effectively with Teacher Aides via our weekly Behaviour Expectations Warm Ups. Teacher Aides play a crucial role in supporting students, particularly those at risk of falling behind their peers in their learning. It is important for all students to realise that having access to a Teacher Aide is a privilege, and as such make sure that they are working to the best of their ability when under the supervision of a Teacher Aide.

Early Morning Reading Club
One of the ways in which the Great Results Guarantee funding is being used to provide greater support to our students is by allowing the school to employ a team of teacher aides to run an Early Morning Reading Club. Starting next term, Early Morning Reading Club will run from 8:20am to 8:45am. At Early Morning Reading Club, students will complete a range of tasks, including small-group reading, working on particular skills like phonics and sight word recognition, and discuss any homework that has been set. The whole intent of the Reading Club is to make sure students are confident and prepared for the day’s lessons, and to provide another opportunity to get support to improve their reading.

Here, I will outline how the Early Morning Reading Club will work.

• Early Morning Reading Club is not a means by which parents can drop their children off early and expect them to be supervised by an adult – students will be invited to participate.
• Parents, in consultation with their children, have a right to decline the invitation for their child to participate.
• Students who will receive invitations will be students in Years 1 to 4 who appear to be just below the school’s Reading benchmarks:
  - In Year 1, students who will be invited will be those who are currently at or around Reading Level 7.
  - In Year 2, the targeted students will have a Reading Level of 14.
  - In Year 3, the students will have a Reading Level of 17 to 19.
  - In Year 4, the students invited will be identified as having a Reading age 6 to 12 months behind their peers.
• To ensure each student involved will receive sufficient attention from a Teacher Aide, a maximum of three students in each year level will be invited to participate at any one time. Participants’ progress will be reviewed at the end of Week 5 to see if they need to continue participating, or to leave to allow another student to join.
• Each invited student will be involved in Early Morning Reading Club twice a week.
• Repeated poor attendance or attitude/behaviour will result in the student losing the opportunity to be a part of the Reading Club. Parents/Caregivers will be informed after only one significant instance or non-engagement, and students receive only one warning about their attendance and/or behaviour.
• Depending on the total number of students who might be identified as needing support, each student might be restricted to a maximum of two terms in the Early Morning Reading Club – we won’t really know how this will go until we have an idea of total number of students who can be involved, and what progress each student makes over time.

Resilience and Our Four Step Plan
I have spoken at length, both in newsletters and on whole school parades, about Our Four Step Plan, and the important opportunity it gives students to take a stand against students they think are bullying them by saying “Stop it, I don’t like it.” A student’s ability to avoid being bullied is influenced by such external factors as a clear school anti-bullying policy, and fellow students’ actions to either condone or condemn observable bullying behaviours.

However, just as importantly, a student’s capacity to cope with a potential bullying incident is determined by their own internal resilience. When I talk about resilience, I’m referring to a student’s ability to metaphorically cop something on the chin, to get back on their feet after a setback, to deflect or ignore an insult or put-down. I recently came across a good blog on the internet that looks at how parents can play a role in developing resilience in their children, the Parenting ideas blog, http://www.parentingideas.com.au/blog. If you google parenting + ideas, all as one word, and ‘blog’, you’ll find the website. I’ve included the website’s banner on the next page so you know you’re at the right website:
The page on Resilience talks about how resilience is comprised of four basic components: independence; problem-solving; optimism; and social connection. Importantly, the blog talks about how parents can nurture and develop resilience in all of their children. This is not an ‘official school recommendation’, but I found enough interesting and valuable information, and basic common sense, on the site to feel that it was worth sharing with the school community – feel free to have a look and make your own mind up.

**Attendance: Every Day Counts**

As this will be the last newsletter of the Term, I wanted to end with an observation about attendance at school. First, the good news – our daily attendance to date is basically at our target of 95%. Attendance is tracked very carefully via OneSchool, and as such, we can get immediate information about our overall attendance rate. Shown on the right is our average daily attendance rate up until Thursday, March 26th.

Unfortunately, within that 5.5% of students missing each day are a few students who are regularly away. I have to honestly say, coming from a High School setting to a Primary one, I find it hard to conceive why any student could be regularly away from school at such an important time in their intellectual development.

From next term, the school will be employing every possible tool it has, including developing Attendance Improvement plans, and if necessary, prosecutable Enforcements of Attendance, to make sure all students are here for the maximum amount of time possible. Please note that when we review our attendance data, we will be flagging not only ‘Unexplained Absences’, but also absences classified as ‘Other’ and any student sick for longer than two consecutive days without a medical certificate.
Student of the Week Awards for Weeks 7 and 8

**Prep A**
- **Joshua Germanotta** for always trying his best and for making excellent progress in all areas.
- **Logan Eller** for always trying his very best and for having a positive attitude towards school.
- **Tammin Mackay** for working very hard to learn her sight words and Jolly Phonics sounds.

**Prep B**
- **Ella Waldon** for working hard in literacy.
- **Justin Caruana** for trying really hard with his sight words.

**Prep C**
- **Paige Barberel** for putting a lot of effort into her book work and showing a keen interest in learning.
- **Ella Ruddell** for showing a big improvement with her letters and sounds. Keep up the great work Ella!

**Class 1A**
- **Ela Brennan** for being a wonderful friend and shown a caring attitude toward others.
- **Hayley Merrett** for trying very hard to complete all her school work.
- **Toby Falconer** for working very hard to complete his work in class.

**Class 1B**
- **Harry Butt** for working hard with his reading and writing and going that extra mile.
- **Claire Murry** for consistently working very hard and showing great organisation.

**Class 2A**
- **Charli Woodhouse** for applying herself well to writing tasks in the lead up to imaginative retells.
- **Mark Schlitter** for working well on all class activities, especially writing tasks.

**Class 2B**
- **Ashton Janke** for including wonderful vocabulary in his persuasive.
- **Caitlin Grech** for doing absolutely fantastic on her persuasive on chocolate. You are brilliant!
- **Braeden Rice** for an amazing persuasive. Great arguments to back up your point of view.
- **Sophie Galea** for being a very fancy writer. Your vocabulary makes your sentences very fascinating.

**Class 3B**
- **Chelsey-Lee Lote** for always having a go, no matter how hard it is.
- **Ty Murphy** for reaching his goals through hard work and dedication.

**Class 3A**
- **Sarah Middleton** for being a helpful and responsible student.
- **Emily Harrap** for eagerly participating in class discussions.

**Class 4A**
- **Dylan Kay** for working well in Reading Comprehension lessons.
- **Hayley Galea** for working well in Reading Comprehension lessons.
- **Bill Flynn** for working hard on his persuasive text in writing lessons.

**Class 4B**
- **Bill Flynn** for working hard on his persuasive text in writing lessons.

**Class 5A**
- **Tayla Scriha** for writing clever Sizzling Starts in her Narratives.
- **Alyssa Irwin** for wonderful work in Mathematics. Keep up the great work, Alyssa!

**Class 67B**
- **Jordyn Valentine** for always being a positive and productive learner in class.
- **Ben Dodd** for improved focus in class and great work in maths this week.

**Class 7A**
- **Joshua Harding** for working hard to produce a great narrative.
- **Tait Poli** for asking questions, especially in Science, to extend his understanding of new concepts.
P & C News

The following businesses provide benefits to our school through rewards programmes.

Our School is now part of the Amart Sports Community Kickbacks Programme. Please nominate Walkerston State School on your Amart membership. For more information go to www.amartsports.com.au/community-kickbacks

ezcovers.net.au also offer the school a rebate of 5c for every book cover sold. The durable slip on plastic covers come in many patterns and colours and the range of sizes fit exercise, A4 and scrapbooks. All covers are priced at $1.20 each.

Breakfast Club

The Breakfast Club is open from 8.15 to 8.45 every day, in the hall. A free breakfast of cereal, toast, fruit and juice is available to all students and staff. Not only is it a time to fuel up before school, but also a chance for new students to mingle. We are happy to accept any donations of fruit families would like to give. Donations can be left at the hall before school or at the office. Volunteers are always needed and very much welcome. Please contact Andrea on 49593384 if you can help. We also would like to thank Woolworths Walkerston, Walkerston Bakery and the Chaplaincy programme for their continued support.

P & C News

The next P & C Meeting is on Friday the 28th of March at 1.30pm. You are welcome to join us for lunch at the Duke at 12.30pm before the meeting.

School families and staff are invited to an end of term lunch at the Duke hotel on Sunday the 30th of March from 11.00 am. There is a Sunday special of $5.95 steaks. This is an opportunity to celebrate making it through first term. Yay! Bookings are essential, please call or text Andrea on 04275963684 with name and numbers, or the hotel on 49592216 and ask to be added to the Walkerston State School Function.

Parents, grandparents and school staff are invited to the P & C Committee catch up morning tea in the hall this Tuesday 1st of April starting at 9.15am. Come in, have a chat and find out what is happening around the school. Tea, coffee and scones will be organised by the P & C and supplied by Woolworths. If anyone would like to contribute a plate of treats it would be most appreciated.

Tuckshop is open Monday, Wednesday and Fridays for first and second break. It uses a bag system for ordering. PLEASE ENSURE THAT TUCKSHOP BAGS ARE PUT IN THE CLASS TUCKSHOP BASKET BY 9.30. THEY ARE NOT TO BE LEFT AT THE TUCKSHOP. This is so the teachers will know who is having tuckshop and can make sure the students receive the correct order.

Ida and Katrina are always looking for extra volunteers especially on Fridays. Volunteer forms are available at the office. Please ring Andrea on 49593384 for further information.

If you would like an issue addressed or have a complaint, compliment or enquiry, you are most welcome to attend the P & C meetings, drop a note into the P & C Box at the office or contact Andrea on 49593384. If you see a problem, be part of the solution.

Next meetings: 28th March, 2nd May, 30th May @ 1.30pm in P&C Room in the hall.
WEST’S “TIGERS” JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE
U/6 COME TRY DAY

U/6 COME TRY DAY AND MEET OUR NEW COACHES
POSTPONED to THURSDAY 3rd APRIL 4.30-5.30PM
TIGER PARK, WALKERSTON
NRL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER TYSON MUSCAT WILL BE
ATTENDING TO RUN THE SESSION AND SOME FUN GAMES.
SAUSAGE SIZZLE & DRINK PROVIDED
FOR MORE INFO CONTACT:
secretary.wdjrlfc@hotmail.com or 0438 735 698
(We are also looking for players in Under 10/Born 2004)

The Cartooning Camps are back in Mackay
April 14th to 17th at the Showgrounds.
Collect an information flyer from the school
office or phone
02 9011 7729 or 02 9343 0833
www.illustrating-man.com.au

TRASH AND TREASURE
Keep 24th and/or 25th May clear so you can come and
check out the Trash and Treasure being held at North Eton
QCWA Hall hosted by Eton QCWA Branch.
WE PROMISE YOU’LL GET A BARGAIN!
Proceeds go towards the upgrading of the hall.
All donations gratefully accepted
Contact Teresa 49593465

St. George Rookies2Reds
Professional coaching program over 5 weeks
Family pass to a Reds game of your choice (valued at $110)
10% off Reds Merchandise
Rookies2Reds Pack
$60—Valued at over $300
Where: Wests Leagues Club
When: Monday 28/4/14—Monday 19/5/14
Time: 3.30 to 4.30pm
Age Groups: Junior Champs 8-9
Future Star 10-11
BEGIN YOUR JOURNEY FROM ROOKIE2RED NOW
REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.ROOKIES2REDS.COM.AU
OR CALL 1300 QLD RED (1300 753 733)

BROMELIADS
FOR SALE
From $5—$10
Huge Variety
Contact Glenda on
Ph. 49592451

Foster careers are as different as the young lives they transform
Contact us for a foster care information pack.
churchesofchristcarepathways@gmail.com
Churches of Christ Care Pathways
4953 5997
carepathwaysqld.com.au

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