“Putting Faces on the Data”
This week I have been fortunate to attend a 2-day follow up conference in Toowoomba delivered by educational expert Lyn Sharratt. Lyn is currently an Associate at Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at University of Toronto. Her background includes cumulative experience as a teacher, curriculum consultant, teacher-trainer, public education policy analyst, superintendent of schools, and superintendent of curriculum and instruction (similar to our Assistant Regional Directors). Lyn’s focus is maximising the potential of student data and how it must be used to direct teacher instruction in the classroom. Our school attended the first workshop last year where we made a commitment to implement some of Lyn’s strategies to help improve our school performance. This week, I have presented to other schools the work we have done so far around our use of school data. Lyn’s work in school improvement links very closely to our Priority School Review work that we are currently undertaking. The purposeful focus that all this work provides us will be valuable as we continue to work through our Action Plan that is in place for improvement in student writing across our school.

Calling all Volunteers!
Our school reading groups have started again for the year and are in full swing. What this means is that ALL students are engaged in key reading activities from 9:00 – 9:45am each morning of the week. We would appreciate any support parents are able to offer during this time to assist individual student groups as they work through their activities. Across the classes there are numerous groups, and while we are able to support all students in this setting, the benefit of having additional helpers assist a group for the full session time is significant. If you are able to join us for this important part of your child’s day, please let the class teacher know. (Extra little people are most welcome in all of our classes – don’t let that be an excuse to keep you away!!) WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL!

Instrumental Music
Mr Vincent Kwan will continue to offer instrumental music tuition (strings) to our year 3 – 6 students every Friday. It is terrific to see a total of 17 students participating in the program this year and we welcome our new beginning students. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students and I thank parents for supporting their children to access this valuable learning experience. New instruments and books have been ordered and will be in the school by next week.

Fruit Break
As a group, fruit and vegetables are rich in vitamins and minerals. They also provide other nutrients important for growth and development, such as dietary fibre. Fruit Break is a set time that allows students to eat fruit or salad vegetables in our classrooms. Students ‘refuel’ with fruit or vegetables during this morning break – assisting physical and mental performance and concentration. Fruit Break encourages fruit and vegetable consumption and gives students the opportunity to eat a piece of fruit or vegetable that might otherwise be left uneaten in their lunchbox.

What fruit and vegetables are allowed?
FRUIT
✓ All fresh fruit (for example, whole or chopped fruits)
✓ Fruit canned in water or juice (not syrup)
✓ Dried fruit (please limit as it contains concentrated sugar and tends to cling to teeth, increasing the risk of tooth decay)

VEGETABLES
✓ All fresh vegetables (for example, carrot, celery sticks, cherry tomatoes)

Fruit Break is an established practice at our school and next term we look forward to ensuring that ALL students are using this opportunity to eat some fruit or vegetable. Students who don’t have (or who have maybe forgotten) a fruit/vegetable snack for the day will be provided with a snack to ensure that no-one misses out. We would ask that parents please include a suitable fruit/vegetable snack in their child’s lunchbox to help us optimise student learning and class performance.
**Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL)**

**BE RESPECTFUL**  **BE A LEARNER**  **BE SAFE**

**Behaviour of the week:** I follow routines

This week in our Positive Behaviour for Learning lessons, the students are learning about the importance of following routines. This positive behaviour expectation has a Be a Learner focus and is applicable to all areas. In class, the students will identify the important routines and why we have them in place.

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**Year 5 - 6 Class - Natalie Newell**

This year our students (across the school) will begin studying the subject Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS) in the place of History and Geography. In HASS, our class have been investigating the significance of Federation and the advantages that it brought to our country. It was great to see students actively research and gain an understanding of why the Federation Star (biggest star on our flag) deliberately has 7 points. It will be great to see students look at our national flag with some new understanding!

**Year 3 - 4 Class - Kristy Walker**

WOW! What a busy start to the year we have had! I cannot believe we are already in Week 3! This term is only going to get busier in the next few weeks! In Science, our silkworm eggs are hatching and we have been monitoring them closely. After an unanticipated ant attack we are slowly building up the number of hatched silkworms again. For HASS this term, we will be working on a unit surrounding early exploration and settlement. Students will investigate the experiences of British explorers, convicts, settlers and Australia’s first peoples, and the impact colonisation had on the lives of different groups of people. A friendly reminder to parents to please only fill classroom water bottles with water. In addition, it boosts mental performance and concentration in the classroom. Well done!

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**Year 3 - 4 Class - Kristy Walker**

I follow routines

This week in our Positive Behaviour for Learning lessons, the students are learning about the importance of following routines. This positive behaviour expectation has a Be a Learner focus and is applicable to all areas. In class, the students will identify the important routines and why we have them in place.

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**Prep - 2 Class - Louise Burns**

It has been a very busy in the P-2 class! This week we have been working on our writing skills and focusing on making our sentences more interesting by adding adjectives. Here are a few examples:

*The tall giraffe was running from a pack of hyenas.* By Eva Newell

*The giraffe was running from a very scary rabbit.* By Sharlie McComb

*The giraffe was scared of a vicious tiger.* By Charlie Forrest

It has been great to see the students eating their fruit during fruit break. Fruit break allows the student’s time to refuel on fruit and rehydrate with water. In addition, it boosts mental performance and concentration in the classroom. Well done!

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**Augathella Yoga Classes**

There will be no yoga this week.

**Augathella Zumba Fitness**

Zumba Fitness Mondays 5:30pm at the Town Hall, bring along water and a towel.

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**Augathella Golf Club**

Golf this Sunday 12th February hit of 1:00pm.

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**P&C News**

P&C AGM will be held on Monday 20th February, 1:00pm in a meeting room at the school. There will be a general meeting to follow.

**Tuckshop News**

On tuckshop this week is Kate Swanson and Kira Reddan. Tamara Mibus is on homebake.

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**Augathella Aqua Ants**

Swimming club is on Friday 10th February. Pool opens at 3:15pm and races will start at 4:00pm.

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**AN INVITATION IS EXTENDED TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC TO ATTEND A SEND OFF CELEBRATION FOR**

**DR COLIN CASE**

**DATE:** 11TH FEBRUARY 2017  **TIME:** 5PM  **WHERE:** Augathella Hospital Grounds

Cold meat, dessert and punch will be supplied by the Hospital Auxiliary

Please bring a salad to share

**BYO:** Drinks

For more information phone the Augathella Hospital: (07) 46567100

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**All items and flyers for our school newsletter must be at the school by Tuesday afternoon at the latest. Thank you.**

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**February 2017**

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