Dear Parents, Carers & Community Members,

Welcome,

At Mena Creek State School, we encourages all parents and members of our community to support the State Government initiative to improve student attendance.

The program – Every Day Counts – has four key messages:
- all children should be enrolled and attend school on every school day
- schools should monitor and create ways to improve attendance in schools
- attendance is the responsibility of everyone in the community
- children may find themselves in unsafe situations if they choose not to attend or skip school.

While most students attend school consistently, there is a small number of students who are absent from school without an acceptable reason and this may harm their education.

Going shopping, visiting family, staying up late and being tired or extending school holidays are not acceptable reasons to be away from school.

Research shows that if your child has a record of good attendance, they are more likely to achieve high results in the future.

For more information or if you need support regarding your child’s attendance, see our school principal and download the guide for parents at: www.education.qld.gov.au/everydaycounts/

Our Students’ Safety

Each day at school, many areas are covered including English, Maths, Science, History and Geography to name a few. One message that fits into our Health studies is ways to stay safe and our body’s reaction to being unsafe. Many topics fall into this area, from ‘Slip-Slop-Slap’, to invasion of personal space. Parents, you are the strongest voice in your child’s life and will have the most effect when ensuring your child’s safety and you should be armed with the most influential and recent information and strategies to share with your child.

A new video has been developed which can help parents understand the lessons our school is delivering from the Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum, in the Years 4-7 Classroom, this term.

The Bruce and Denise Morcombe child safety presentation for parents is available from www.youtube.com/DETQueensland and in it the Morcombes discuss the curriculum and ways parents can talk about safety with their children at home.

Please take the time to watch this video and talk to your children about keeping safe.

Until next newsletter - Cameron Wedgwood, Principal

School Uniforms

School uniforms are available for purchase every Thursday morning between 8:30 - 9:00am. Uniforms are still available from the office outside of these hours however correct money is required as no change can be given.

School Shirts size 4 - 14 $25.00
Adult Shirts size XS - XXL $27.00
School Shorts size 4 16 $10.55
School Skorts size 4 - 12 $14.00
School Hats $10.00

OINTER CANOE CLUB COME AND TRY DAY

Who: Juniors from 10 years and up
Where: The Coconuts Beach
When: Saturday 15th February 2014
From 8 am – 10 am
FREE BACON AND EGG BURGERS!!

Come and try outrigging! All fitness levels welcome. Please bring water and clothes that you don’t mind getting wet.
Contact Kate on 0427 653 359

GIRLZ CLUB

for GirLz aged 6 to 12 yrs
“Dancing, Jumping, House Music, Dance Classes”
2nd & 4th Friday of each month
5:30 to 6:00 pm
Cost $4 - food provided
191–193 Mountlyan Road, Innisfail

Friday 14th February
WET n WILD
Water games, Water bombs, Water buckets, Water pools
Marbling painting with straws and so much more!
Wear old clothes and bring a towel & a change of clothes.
Need more info – contact Mrs Kairan on 4064 2400 A/H

SCHOOL VISION

Mena Creek State School is committed to delivering explicit learning opportunities in a safe environment, embracing and respecting students and families to nurture students who believe in themselves and value learning.

OUTRIGGER CANOE CLUB COME AND TRY DAY

Week | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
2 February | 03 | 04 | 05 | 06 | 07 | 08 | 09 |
3 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
4 | Happy B’Day jade | 18 | 19 | P&C Meet & Greet AGM | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
5 | 24 | 25 | 26 | Happy B’Day Mikaela | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |

DATES TO REMEMBER

Feb Wednesday 19th
P&C Meet & Greet 3:00
Followed by
P&C AGM
March Friday 21st
Soccer/Netball Carnival
April Friday 4th
Last day Term 1
April Tuesday 22nd
Term 2 commences
April Friday 25th
ANZAC Day
Public Holiday

School Watch: 13 17 88
P & C Association
Meet & Greet and AGM
Wednesday 19th at 3:00pm

WELCOME

School Times: First Bell 8:40 am • Morning Tea 10:30—11:00am • Lunch 12:40—1:30pm • School Concludes 3:00pm
On Monday 10th of February we got dropped off at the Innisfail State College where we met Mrs Cooke who was running the event. Once all the students from the Cane Cutter Cluster arrived we got checked off the list. We had four year 12 students from the College that accompanied us as supervision. Once Mrs Cooke assigned us our supervision leader we set off to catch the bus. It took us 2 hours to get to the casino where the conference was held. The conference was held on the 2nd floor, when we got up to the 2nd floor we had to get checked in and Mrs Cooke got a GRIP leadership book for the teachers and a white envelope with certificates. There was a very large room with lots of rows of chairs with a work booklet and a pen.

We started at 9:15 and finished at 2:30pm. The first activity was a very small test called Simon Says, and that we are the Simons of our school. Then we learned that a school yard super hero stands for Helper as in helping others, Encourager as in encouraging everyone, Role Model as in your setting an example and Organiser as in organising things.

Next we had morning Tea which went for 20 minutes. The next session we talked about being strawberry leader instead of a watermelon leader. If you are a strawberry leader, you say something and then you do it and if you are a watermelon leader, you say something but you do not do it. In the same session we talked with a man named Andy who talked about Leadership Everest. Andy showed us a video about communicating with others around you and not following the crowd, but taking your own path, helping each other out and recovering from setbacks.

At 12:30 we had lunch and we went back in at 1:00. Then the last session we started off with Loud Noises. It was about 10 minutes in each session and there were 2 men—Andy and Crazy Karl. They involved us in fun activities where we needed to use our loud voices. The next topic that we talked about was bringing our ideas alive where we had to go around talking to other school members and sharing our ideas and listening to their ideas.

At the end of the conference we had a last session of Loud Noises where Andy and Crazy Carl came back up and did some dance moves that everyone had to copy. Some staff members and students had to come up on the stage and show their favourite dance moves. Just before we departed we had Q&A with the GRIP Leadership staff members and we learnt that GRIP stands for Growth, Relationships, Integrity and People. Then we left at 2:30 to catch the bus back to the College.

Amber: I thought it was fun and I learnt a lot about how to be a better leader. My favourite part was the loud noises.

Maninder: I believe that the GRIP Leadership Conference changed me as a leader and who I am and what I show to the younger students. My favourite part of the conference was the Disco dance at the end. I also loved the Loud Noises Frisbee that we received.

By Amber and Maninder

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Information for Parents and Students

**What is an exemption and why do I need it?**

Every parent of a child of compulsory school age or a young person in the compulsory participation phase has a legal obligation to ensure their child is enrolled and attending school or participating in an eligible option.

Parents can apply for an exemption from this obligation when their child cannot attend or it would be unreasonable in all the circumstances for their child to attend school or participate in an eligible option for a period of more than 10 consecutive school days.

**Situations where an application for an exemption may be made include:**

- Illness
- Family reasons
- Cultural or religious reasons

If your child is exempted from compulsory schooling, you are excused from your obligation in relation to compulsory schooling or compulsory participation.

The school principal is not responsible for providing an educational program to your child, however they may provide advice on other educational options available.

**Who decides to grant or not grant an exemption?**

- **For state school students:**
  Decisions about exemptions for up to one school year are made by the principal of the school the student attends.

- **For non-state school students:**
  All exemption decisions for non-state school students are made by the Manager, Office of Non-state Education.

- **For children who are not enrolled in any state or non-state Queensland school:**
  Decisions about exemptions for students who are not enrolled in any state or non-state school are made by either the Regional Director, Principal Advisor Education Services, Principal Advisor Regional Services, Director Regional Services, of the Department of Education, Training and Employment, responsible for the supervision of the school your child attends.

**Applying for an exemption**

You are encouraged to discuss with the school whether an application for exemption is a suitable option. The school can provide you with an application form for an exemption. It is important that supporting documentation and evidence are attached to the application.

When a decision about the exemption has been made, you will be informed in writing whether or not the exemption has been granted and if any conditions have been imposed. If you are not satisfied with the decision made, you can make a submission for the decision to be reviewed.