Dear Families,

Last week we had workmen arrive to take quotes on re-painting and re-carpeting the big classroom. The Department of Education is committing $7000 to the project. I intend to buy new furniture for the classroom from our school budget that reflects 21st Century Learning. The big blackboard will be removed to create more wall space. This is an exciting opportunity to design a contemporary teaching and learning area and I welcome any ideas that the community would like to bring forward.

On the last page of the Newsletter is a Whooping Cough Alert for all parents to read. Please read the article and make yourself aware of the symptoms.

WATER WATCH

On Friday, Tim Ryan from Nambucca Valley Landcare visited Medlow and provided us with a Water watch testing kit. The students will be able to take water samples upstream and downstream from Factory Bridge. Today we are looking at turbidity.

The seniors have started their big research project on agriculture and water and the juniors have started their project on the water cycle.

“PRE-SCHOOL TRANSITION”

Nate Bloomfield aged 3, began his “pre-school transition” last Friday. He had a great lunch time enjoying the guinea pigs, the big red bouncy ball and playing in the sand pit. He was then a star at rugby league scoring several tries! His time in the library was spent with the older boys who showed him all the best books on trucks. Whilst Amelia was reading the story, Nate sat very quietly listening to every word. Well done Nate, and we hope to see you again next Friday!
ASSEMBLY AWARDS

The following students received awards at Friday’s Assembly:

Amelia for hard work in all subject areas and leadership.

Anna is welcomed back to Medlow.

Lehman for his focused effort and attention and good team leadership on the water watch project.

Claire for a real commitment to mathematics.

SPRING IS IN THE AIR

Mrs Trudgett’s junior craft class is making baby animals. The students are researching their animal, the materials they need and how they will make it. The students are very excited and there are lots of cute pictures of baby animals being sent to each other as email attachments.

On Tuesday, Debbie Desmond is bringing in some baby calves for us to handle and feed. This will be a beautiful experience for the students. Thank you Debbie.

(I’ve got baby goats at my place but I’m not sure of the logistics of getting them from Eungai to Medlow for the day! I don’t fancy having a goat and kid in the back of my car for the trip!)

MENTORING

Mentoring has begun with the older students teaching the younger students the leadership roles within the school. Lauren and Amelia were assisting Anna and Bree to deliver the Assembly. Nick and Lucie were showing Amali how to run the Library. Anna, Bree and Amali did a great job so thank you to Year 6 for your genuine help and care for our new leaders. Next Friday it is Taryn’s turn in the Library.

NAMBUCCA RIVER FESTIVAL

Medlow will be performing their cover version of “Lanterns” on Sunday 29th November at the Nambucca River Festival. All of the students are using an instrument. You may have noticed down by the river at Macksville they are already preparing a stage so it will be a spectacular back drop. All performers get free entry on that day.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

Attached to the Newsletter today are the order forms for the school photos which will be taken on Thursday 12th November. Parents are asked to return order forms prior to the photo day with the correct money inside the provided envelope.

PARENTS GUIDE TO THE NSW PRIMARY SYLLABUSES

We have also attached a copy of the above booklet. Parents are asked to have a look at this document. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.
Skate demos, competitions and learn to skate - Macksville Park Fun and Fitness Official Opening and Nambucca River Festival

Everyone’s invited to join in the fun when Macksville Park Fun and Fitness is officially opened with special skate demos and competitions at Macksville Skate Park on Saturday 28 November. The event begins at 9.30am at the skate park, with pro skaters showing off their moves. Bring your own skateboard or scooter to have a go in the competitions or get a free lesson throughout the morning. The events are suitable for kids of all ages. Nambucca Shire Council and the NSW government have funded the skate park and other works in Macksville Park, including lighting for the touch football fields, a community recreation room at the Macksville Memorial Aquatic Centre and fitness trails throughout the park. For more information closer to the day, see Council’s website at www.nambucca.nsw.gov.au

In the late morning, the Nambucca River Festival kicks off with events on the Nambucca River and on the foreshore. Music, food, and festivities will continue throughout the weekend. For more information on the Festival, go to www.nambuccariverfestival.com.au

Lehman accepting the Water Watch kit from Mr Tim Ryan, the local Landcare Co-ordinator.

Nate enjoying his very first day at big school. Welcome Nate.

Medlow Public School is a proud member of the Valley 10 Community of Public Schools.
**Whooping cough information for schools**

There is an outbreak of whooping cough (pertussis) in NSW, mainly affecting school-aged children.

Coughing spreads the infection to others nearby. Whooping cough can spread to anyone at home, including younger brothers and sisters. Whooping cough can be especially dangerous for babies.

Whooping cough starts like a cold and progresses to bouts of coughing that can last for many weeks. The infection can occur even in fully-vaccinated children. Older children may just have a cough that is persistent and may be worse at night.

- Children with these symptoms should see a doctor.

- If your doctor diagnoses whooping cough in your school-aged child, please let the school know and keep your child at home until they have taken 5 days of antibiotics. Keep coughing children away from babies.

- Whooping cough vaccines give good protection against infection but immunity fades with time. Check that all your children are up to date with their vaccines, due at 6 weeks, 4 months, 6 months, 4 years and 12 years of age (offered to all Year 7 students through the NSW school-based vaccination program). A booster is also recommended at 18 months of age.

A booster dose of vaccine is also recommended for adults that are in contact with young children, such as school staff and parents. Pregnant women are recommended to have a booster dose during each pregnancy and this is funded by NSW Health. Those who are new parents or carers of babies should consult their general practitioner about appropriate immunisation.

Your local public health unit can provide advice about whooping cough on 1300 066 055 or visit the NSW Health website for information for childcare and schools about whooping cough.