



# Millars Well Primary School

## WORDS FROM THE WELL ISSUE 1

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Welcome back to what should be a fantastic year at Millars Well Primary School. To our new families, we hope you find our school to be a very positive and productive learning environment for your children and we welcome you into our school community. To our returning families, it has been great to see you all again. Looking at the smiles on peoples' faces, it appears everyone is looking forward to a great year.

### Outstanding Parent Support

Thank you to our parents (and uniform ladies) for ensuring our students are all in uniform and showing us that they are very proud to be at Millars Well PS. I was overwhelmed with the parent representation at our P&C meeting on Tuesday night. It fills me with an enormous sense of pride that we have such a committed parent community. The work the P&C carries out over the year greatly supports the school staff to provide the highest quality learning for your children and is greatly appreciated.

### Staff Changes

This year we have two new teachers; Mrs Jodie Michael (Yr1/2) and Miss Erin O'Connor (Yr 3/4). We are also very pleased to have Mrs Brenda Gibson (PE and Kindy) return to Millars Well. In relatively recent developments, Ms Hayley Barker and Mrs Tania Neeson have both been appointed to external positions allowing them to work with teachers across all Karratha schools. Ms Barker is a Teacher Development Coach with the Pilbara Education Office and Mrs Neeson is working with SDERA promoting Drug Education and Road Safety. I am very happy to have the support of Mrs Astrid Morgan and Miss Breigh Pearson with School Administration responsibilities.

### School Assembly

The first whole school assembly will be conducted in the undercover area at 8:30am on Thursday, 26 February. Our new Student Prefects will be conducting this assembly. All parents and friends are welcome to attend.

### Parent Meetings

Parent meetings will be arranged for all classes within the first 3 weeks of this term. These meeting provide an opportunity for teachers to outline specific issues around their classroom policies and timetables. Classroom teachers will notify parents when these meetings will be held.

### Attendance and Punctuality

I cannot stress the importance of being at school every day and being on time. There is a large amount of content that teachers must deliver and non-essential absences and student lateness makes it very difficult for your child's teacher to deliver an entire learning program smoothly. Classrooms are open from 8:10am so students have time to put their bags away and get ready for 'Ten a Day' maths. Classrooms are open from 8:15am in Kindy and Pre-primary.

### In Term Holidays

Student absences arising from in term family holidays have become increasingly common in recent years and present significant challenges for our teachers and students. In order to address this issue, the Department of Education has made changes to their attendance policy to distinguish between authorised and unauthorised family holidays. If families plan to take in-term holiday, they are asked to write directly to the Principal outlining the length of the holiday and requesting an Authorised Vacation.

### School Council

I would like to thank the parent representatives of our school council for their work over the last two years. We are looking for parents to nominate for the school council for the next two years. We meet once per term. If you are interested please contact the office or complete the nomination form in this month's newsletter. If you would like more details about the role of the school council please see me or talk to Donna or Tammy in the office.

**Warm regards**

**Erin van der Sluys**  
Principal

## SPECIAL EVENTS TO NOTE

- **STAFF MEETING – WEDNESDAY, 11 & 25 FEBRUARY AT 2.40PM**
- **STUDENT LEADERS DAY AT DAMPIER – FRIDAY, 20 FEBRUARY**
- **PREFECT ASSEMBLY – THURSDAY, 27 FEBRUARY, 8.30AM**

## SCHOOL CONTRIBUTIONS

**A Contributions Payment envelope has been included with this newsletter.**

Contributions are an important part of our school's revenue and your early attention to this is appreciated.. Please place cash/cheque in the envelope provided, clearly list student's names and teaching areas and return the envelope to the front office.

A Contributions and Charges Schedule was sent home at the end of last year and is available in the front office if you did not receive one. Please note that costs quoted in the area of optional activities are set at a maximum level and many of the programme costs will be less than the quoted amount.

## P&C CONTRIBUTIONS

Parents and Citizens Association have requested that each family make a contribution of \$20.00 to assist them in their school support programmes. This year the P & C are offering parents the chance to become members by paying the \$1.00 per person, through the school with their school contribution payments. Your financial support of our school is not only appreciated but is essential if we are to continue to provide those additional components that make Millars Well the great school that it is.

## CYCLONE PROCEDURE

We are still in cyclone season. From an organisational point of view, the most difficult time is when a yellow alert is called during the school day. When Karratha goes on to yellow alert before 12.00 the school closes at lunch time. If the alert occurs at or after 14.00, school will generally be closed the following day. Please ensure you have a copy of the school's Cyclone Procedure and read the information carefully. If you need clarification of this procedure or did not receive this information, please contact the office or it is available on the school website: [millarswellps.wa.edu.au](http://millarswellps.wa.edu.au).



## VALUE FOCUS - GETTING ALONG

**Getting Along means....**

Working well with classmates, solving problems with classmates without getting angry, and following the rules in my classroom. Getting Along means making responsible choices so that everyone's rights are protected.

**Examples of Getting Along**

- Working well with my classmates.
- Listening and not interrupting when someone else is speaking.
- Talking rather than fighting when someone treats me unfairly.
- Not breaking important class or school rules.



***Habits of the mind to help me get along***

**Being tolerant of others** means not thinking that when someone is mean to me that he or she is a totally bad person.

**Playing by the rules** means thinking that by following the school rules, school will be a better place to live and learn.

**Thinking first** means thinking that when someone treats me badly, I need to think about the best way to act.

## TERM PLANNER

A planner for Term 1 accompanies this newsletter and is also available on the school website. Other items may need to be added as the term progresses. If you would like an A3 copy of the planner, please see the office staff.



## P&C NEWS

The P&C would like to welcome everyone back to another great year at Millars Well. A big thank you to everyone who came along to our AGM last night, we had a great turnout and all positions are filled. A P&C newsletter will be out soon letting everyone know what was discussed.

The uniform shop is open every Tuesday morning from 8 - 8.45am. We were busy with the start of school and have run out of some items. New stock has been ordered and will arrive soon. Please keep an eye out on our facebook page (Millars Well Primary School Parents and Citizens Association) for when the new stock will be available to buy.

Thank you so much to our lovely volunteers who have been helping out each Tuesday morning. If you are able to volunteer, please put your name down at the front office for the weeks you can help. There are still weeks needing to be filled for later this term.

If you have any second hand school uniforms that are still in good condition that you no longer need, please drop them off to the front office or uniform shop on Tuesday mornings. These items will be sold at a discounted price and allow the P&C to help raise funds for the school.

The canteen is not operational as yet but we will advise parents when it will commence operating.

The P&C are looking forward to a productive year raising funds to add to the wonderful learning experience our children have here at Millars Well P.S.

Thank you for your support.  
Millars Well P&C

## WE ARE CHANGING!

In the interest of saving trees and keeping the newsletter informative rather than repetitive; we are now going to produce our newsletter on the last Friday of every month during school terms. If you would like to register for an electronic copy rather than a paper copy, please send your request to [donna.ditterich@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:donna.ditterich@education.wa.edu.au)

## LIBRARY NEWS

Welcome back to school and a special welcome to new families. I run Scholastic Book Club here at MWPS, with two issues each term. I also organise two Book Fairs, in May and November. Scholastic offer great 'rewards' for sales from Book Fair and Book Club and we enjoy a steady stream of lovely new free books into our Library, so your support is very worthwhile.

Just a couple of points to keep in mind when ordering please - it assists busy office staff greatly if you pay online or by phone with your credit card. When ordering from multiple magazines, just one credit card payment is required, for the total amount. Also please ensure that the student's orders are clearly and completely filled out, well-sealed in envelopes or zip lock bags and placed in the collection box in the front office by the due date. If paying by cash, please enclose the correct amount, as no change will be given. Feel free to speak with me in the Library on a Monday, Wednesday or Friday with any questions.



**R Rayson, Library Officer**

## PILBARA EAR HEALTH PROGRAM

The Chevron Pilbara Ear Health Program provides education to promote good ear health and prevent hearing loss. We are based in Karratha and have a specially equipped bus that visits schools once a term to provide free ear health and hearing screening checks for all children.

Middle ear infections are common in school-aged children and some children may have several ear infections in one year. There may be fluid in the middle ear for several weeks or months after an infection. This is normal and usually clears up on its own, but sometimes this fluid can cause a temporary hearing loss. A temporary hearing loss makes it difficult to listen and concentrate in the classroom and this has a negative impact on learning.

The Ear Health Program checks children's ears to make sure they are healthy and screens their hearing to make sure that they can hear well to learn. In addition to trained hearing screeners, the Ear Health team includes a visiting Nurse Practitioner, Audiologist and Ear Nose & Throat (ENT) Specialists. Clinics are run from our office in Karratha on a regular basis and the Ear Health Program bus visits schools regularly.

If you would like your child's ears checked, please complete a consent form which can be found at your school's front office. For more information about the program, please contact Amelia Scheele at 9387 9877 ([ascheele@tsh.org.au](mailto:ascheele@tsh.org.au)) or visit our office. We are situated at Suite 3, 17-19 Crane Circle, Karratha.

**Healthy ears and good hearing are essential for learning!**



## SCHOOL COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

It is time to invite nominations for membership to our School Council. If you believe you would like to assist on School Council and be willing to meet once a term to support our P & C, parents and the school in general, please contact the school. At this stage we are just seeking nominations for the School Council but if necessary an election will be conducted depending upon the number of nominations received.

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### Nomination for School Council – return by Friday 20 February 2015

I .....wish to nominate for a position on the Millars Well Primary School Council.  
I understand the position has tenure of 2 years.

Signed .....

Date.....Phone.....

Please write briefly about any particular skills, interests, or abilities that you have that will assist you in this role on School Council.



# PREFECTS INTERVIEW OUR NEW STAFF AT MWPS

## Mrs Brenda Gibson

**Q. Why did you come to Millars Well?**

A. I was here in 2010 and I went out remote teaching for 3 years and now I am back at Millars Well PS.

**Q. What do you want to help this school achieve?**

A. I would like to help all children be healthy and active in sport.

**Q. Where do you come from?**

A. I originally came from Geraldton.

**Q. Did you move here with your family?**

A. Yes I moved here with my husband.

**Q. What's your favourite colour?**

A. My favourite colour is purple.

**Q. What are your hobbies?**

A. My hobbies are listening to music, camping, fishing and spending time with my family.



## Mrs Jodie Michael

**Q. Why did you come to Millars Well?**

A. I wanted to move out of Perth and I heard that Millars Well was a great school.

**Q. What do you want to help this school achieve?**

A. Good results in all learning areas and for my class to have lots of fun and make good friends.

**Q. Where do you come from?**

A. I came from Perth.

**Q. Did you move here with your family?**

A. Yes I moved here with my husband, three kids and two pets.

**Q. What's your favourite colour?**

A. My favourite colour is orange.

**Q. What are your hobbies?**

A. I love all sports, fishing, camping and I love watching AFL footy.



## Miss Erin O'Connor

**Q. Why did you come to Millars Well?**

A I came to Millars Well because my partner got a job in Karratha.

**Q. What qualities do you have?**

A. I am well rounded, quick thinking, friendly and helpful.

**Q. Where do you come from?**

A. Originally Victoria but I moved here from Perth.

**Q. Did you move here with your family?**

A. I moved here with my fiancé

**Q. What's your favourite colour?**

A. My favourite colour is purple.

**Q. What are your hobbies?**

A. I love all sports, especially netball and tennis, travelling, wakeboarding and camping.



**Isabelle Chapman**



**Cohen Hancock**



# Terre Rouge Ballet

Now taking enrolments for 2015  
*Offering tuition in Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) Ballet  
and Contemporary Ballet*

- Ages from 3 years to adults
- Classes in Karratha, Dampier & Pannawonica
- RAD graded and vocational exams

Join our community-based ballet school and receive expert tuition, gain valuable ballet qualifications and perform at local events. Costumes managed on a hire basis, maintaining reasonable annual costs.

[www.terrerogeballet.com.au](http://www.terrerogeballet.com.au)  
0459 163 705



## Junior Basketball Registrations Now Open

**Registrations Close**  
**FEBRUARY 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Google 'Karratha Basketball Association' to  
find our Fox Sports Pulse website to register**

Like our Facebook page for regular updates  
<https://www.facebook.com/KarrathaBasketballAssociation>

Any enquiries to:  
[juniorkarrathabasketball@gmail.com](mailto:juniorkarrathabasketball@gmail.com)



Learn how to make simple and  
delicious meals and snacks that keep  
the whole family happy, and healthy!

# Family Foods

## Free cooking workshops

**Join local nutritionist  
and health coach April Butt on**

Tuesday 10 February      Wednesday 11 February  
10am to 12noon              10.30am to 12.30pm  
The Youth Shed Karratha      Wickham Community Hall

**For information contact** the Youth Services Team  
on 9186 8687 or [elyce.huren@karratha.wa.gov.au](mailto:elyce.huren@karratha.wa.gov.au).







# Karratha Netball Association

## 2015 KADS Trials

All Junior Netball players are welcome to attend

See the KNA website for more details

<http://karrathanetballassociation.wed.netball.com.au/pageitem.aspx?id=1875203&id2=2&idU=37651&entityID=37651>

**12&U** – Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February

**14&U** – Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February

**16&U** – Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February

**All Sessions are at Karratha Leisureplex  
3.45-5.30pm Inside Courts 1 & 2**

Please email [kadsdevelopment@gmail.com](mailto:kadsdevelopment@gmail.com) the below information by Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February:  
(SUBJECT: KADS Trials)

- Your first and last name
- Date of Birth
- Preferred Position/s
- Team you played for last year (2014)

## Money for School Costs



*everyone's family*

The Smith Family offers Educational Support through Scholarships (Money) and other Educational Programs from Pre Primary to Year 9.  
*Eligibility Criteria: Health Care Card or Parent concession card; attendance 70%+*

For further information, on sponsoring a child or a scholarship ask the school or please contact us:

The Smith Family, Welcome Lotteries House, Karratha  
**Ph 9144 1854 or text 0435 800 821 and we will call you**

[tsfkarratha@thesmithfamily.com.au](mailto:tsfkarratha@thesmithfamily.com.au)

[thesmithfamily.com.au](http://thesmithfamily.com.au)

Find us at [www.facebook.com/TheSmithFamilyAustralia](http://www.facebook.com/TheSmithFamilyAustralia)

**Does someone you love have:**

Difficulties Reading?

Problems with spelling?

Worries with writing?

Find out exactly where learning has stalled

and what can be done to help.

**Dyslexia and Irlen Clinic**

will be in **your area in March 2015**

Phone **1300 732 998**

or email [\*beatrice@worldwidelearningacademy.com\*](mailto:beatrice@worldwidelearningacademy.com)

for appointments.

Visit [worldwidelearningacademy.com](http://worldwidelearningacademy.com) for self-assessment  
and download the **free eBook** – “Read, Spell, Write, Right?”