

# Muswellbrook High School

Newsletter 4
1st August 2014





# Principal Report

"The tragedy of life doesn't lie in not reaching your goal. The tragedy lies in having no goal to reach"

Benjamin E Mays.

I hope as we commence a brand new Term, we will all take some time to consider our goals for success, particularly as staff, students and parents at Muswellbrook High school.

In the wake of the mid-course reports that were distributed at the end of last Term, I would like to encourage students to consider some areas for their own goal setting.

This will require being specific in goal setting and to then set up a plan of action to achieve them. For instance, your goal might be to 'improve learning in Science and to complete all assessment tasks on time". Follow through with a list of ways you can organise your school life differently. For example:

- Use my timetable to pack my school bag the night before, ready for school the next day.
- Write in my diary the homework I have and check my diary for homework.
- Read for 30 minutes each day (best way to improve learning).
- Meet with friends once a week to revise and study together. Support one another in learning!

I achieved one of my personal goals to travel during the holidays, with an amazing trip to Alaska, Canada and a few US cities (Seattle, New York City and Washington DC). For me, travelling provides the opportunity to experience new sights and quite often a different way of doing things. I am intrigued about where people live and the similarities and differences of their lives compared to my own. However, I am always extremely proud of being Australian and travel confirms my knowledge that we live in a wonderful part of the world!

Muswellbrook High School is a great school and we have had many reasons to celebrate. I would love to bring some of those successes to your attention:

I felt immensely proud to be a part of the Muswellbrook High School staff and students after I received an email from our Director of the Wollemi Network, Mr Mark Young, who attended our NAIDOC Week assembly. He wrote:

"... I had to take this opportunity to tell you how outstanding the MHS NAIDOC Week Assembly was yesterday. This student led assembly was simply sensational. It brought together Aboriginal & non-Aboriginal students to celebrate & highlight so many wonderful stories, some of which were incredibly sad & some of which were unbelievably uplifting.

Students performed wonderful dances... while the school's band & choir did an amazing job of Midnight Oil's "Beds are Burning'... I also want to highlight the great support the school receives from the AECG – what a great team!! The assembly was just another example of the amazing work being done by MHS in Aboriginal education".

The accolades must also be extended to the award recipients of the Upper Hunter NAIDOC awards: Mrs Melisa Powell was awarded the 'Community Contribution Award' in recognition of her tireless efforts in Aboriginal Education, where she consistently goes far beyond what is expected of her, always puts our students first and shows tremendous professionalism and respect to peers, students and community across the board.

Tyrell Roadley received two awards - Youth of the Year and Senior Scholar of the Year. Tyrell has left to move interstate but has left a fabulous path for many other Aboriginal students to follow at school.

Joaby Stevens, Year 9 was awarded Sportsperson of the Year (Senior) for his impressive success in boxing. Joaby recently competed at the Australian Championships held in Perth.

Marcus Morris, Year 8, was awarded the Scholar of the Year (Junior). He continues to apply himself to his studies with commitment and a determination to excel.

Congratulations must also go to everyone for their fundraising efforts last Term as part of the SRC's – 'Red Day'. The day was in honour of former student James Medhurst, who very sadly passed away during Term 1, this year. The total raised on the day was \$521.00. Students and staff wore red clothing on the day. The money was donated to the Westpac Rescue Helicopter at the Black Coal Cup.

Our most recent sporting achievement – 2014 Peels Schools Carnival 13 yrs. and 15 yrs. rugby league winners. Congratulations boys!

The talents of our staff as demonstrated at our Term 3 staff development day. The day focused on the delivery of the practical literacy strategies; the 'Super Six comprehension strategies'. New teaching ideas, designed to improve student's literacy skills in all curriculum areas, were delivered. Thank you to the Literacy Team and the staff for their participation and involvement. The day was capped off with an information session on mental health, something that is increasingly present in our daily lives. Thanks to Ms Rachel Murphy for her organisation.

On Thursday 31st July we celebrated our combined schools Education Week Ceremony, to be held in our MPC. The talents of our students were showcased and awards presented for contributions made to public education.

Best wishes to our Year 12 students who are currently completing their HSC Trials. Study hard and I trust that your hard work will be rewarded. 'Train hard, win easy!'

Our school is moving into an exciting period of planning this Term as we consider our school's focus and priorities for the next three years. The considered direction of this strategic plan will depend on our existing data trends, education trends for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century learner and the collaborative decision making from students, staff, parents and community. Great times ahead!

Enjoy your Term.

Ms Elizabeth Bate Principal

### Outward Bound

The students and I (Mr Elliott) had a very successful week at Outward Bound. We started with a walk straight up a mountain for 4 km's it was the hardest walk any of us had ever done. They called this a warm up for the week ahead. They weren't joking, as we covered about 45km's of harsh terrain. This was character building for the students as they learnt what it was like to be a leader. The students took turns at leading the group to the correct destination learning to read maps, take responsibility and fulfil leadership roles.

There were also activities along the way like abseiling, camping, canoeing and roping activities. The students really enjoyed themselves socialising with each other and challenging themselves. The leaders of the groups were skilled at encouraging students to move beyond their comfort zones and do things they wouldn't normally do.

Overall the students really enjoyed themselves and benefitted from learning to become future leaders. I would recommend any student or teacher completing the course. The course was excellent in building character and encouraging you to go above and beyond your perceived limits.

Mr Scott Elliott.

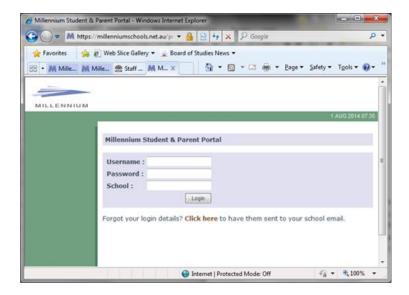
# Deputy Report

#### Communication

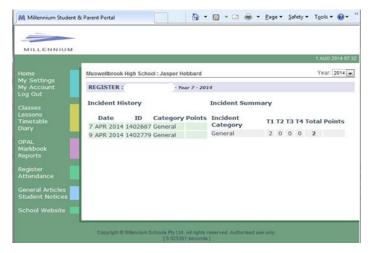
Welcome to a new group of parents who are now on our email list. We have been trying to collect as many email addresses for families as possible and it appears that many people do not renew their contact information at school when things change. If any contact details change, please either phone the school, text the school, or send your child to school with a note. We value our communication highly and become very concerned if you are not receiving our communication.

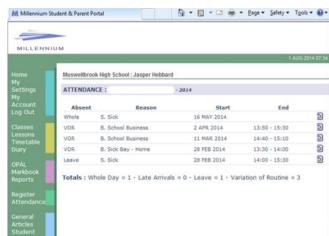
#### **Parent Portal**

You may be aware that Muswellbrook high School has a Parent Portal. Access to this is via this link: <a href="https://millenniumschools.net.au/portal">https://millenniumschools.net.au/portal</a>



From here, follow the directions to have the login details sent to your email address. This is both for the parents and the students. Through this, you are able to see the screens below:





Please contact the school if you need any assistance.

#### **Assessment Tasks**

The Assessment Calendars for Yr7-11 have been updated on the school website, please follow this link to make use of this. You may like to add your child's Assessment items to your phone calendar, or place them on the fridge etc., so that they remember to have them handed in by the due date.

http://www.muswellbro-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/curriculum-activities/assessment-schedules Don't forget, we are all working together to help your children have success in the future.

Our communication is a major element in that success.

Thanks to all of you who continue communicate well.

Yours in Public Education.

Brian Drewe Deputy Principal

# See Sharp-Lorin Nicholson

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of June Muswellbrook High School students where lucky enough to be addressed by Lorin Nicholson, a youth motivational speaker and one of the nations leading guitarists.

Despite being legally blind since birth, Lorin is one of the country's most successful independent recording artists and has been a finalist in the Australian Country Music Awards, being runner-up to the legendary Tommy Emmanuel.

In 2009, Lorin was also a nominee for Australian of the year and recently achieved the seemingly impossible, as he along with brother Dean created Australian history, by becoming the first blind people to ride pushbikes over 4100 kilometres across Australia from Perth to Sydney.

Lorin mesmerized the students with his amazing guitar work and extraordinary life experiences which addressed such issues as Overcoming Negativity, Bullying, Inclusion, Leadership, Resilience and Goal Setting. Muswellbrook RSL sponsored Lorin's visit and I would like to extend our appreciation to the RSL on behalf of the Muswellbrook High School Community.

#### Miss Murphy Head Teacher Welfare





# Muswellbrook Enrichment Centre



Bengalla Mine Engagement/Mentoring Programme. Bengalla employees provided a very special and informative afternoon for 22 of our students. We were given an overview of the Coal and Allied operations and then 6 Bengalla employees gave a brief outline of their professional journey. Professions included engineering, geology, mining superintendent, HR and marketing. During the 'break-out session' the students, in small groups, where able to chat with the individual employees.

It is important we continue to encourage students to remain studying Maths and Science and help students realise the diversity of employment opportunities available in mining and elsewhere. The next step of this Engagement/Mentoring Programme is for individual mentoring to take place for a few selected students.





#### Aspiring Leaders National Summit, Outward Bound, Canberra

Tyrell Roadley was privileged to be selected, and granted a scholarship to attend.

"It was hard and challenging but I learnt more about leadership responsibilities both at school and in the wider community. The National Summit helped me to focus on commitment to whatever I take on. It was a wonderful experience and I would recommend the program to students in the future." Tyrell Roadley Year 11

University of Technology, Sydney Galuwa Engineering and IT Experience – 2 students were selected and attended in the 1<sup>st</sup> week of the school holidays.

"The UTS visit was awesome. I really enjoyed learning about the different engineering careers. One of my favourite parts about the week was that we could go into a hospital and talk with the biomedical engineers. The visit was an amazing experience because I am looking for a university to join after Year 12." Thomas Baldwin, Year 9

"The week was a great experience and I learnt many things. I got to experience all work activities to do with engineering and IT and we even visited the building site at Barangaroo. That was a real first for me. It has made me focus even more on my school work and opened my eyes to many more careers that are available. I am really grateful for having this opportunity." Joaby Stevens, Year 9

**Upper Hunter NAIDOC Awards** - Congratulations to the worthy award recipients across the Upper Hunter. Special congratulations to our students, Tyrell Roadley, Joaby Stevens and Marcus Morris and also to Mel Powell.

When returning to Muswellbrook for holidays, past students continue to visit the Enrichment Centre inspiring current students.



Petra Franks [UNSW] with Year 9 girls

Michael Hutt [WAAPA, Perth]

The Muswellbrook Enrichment Centre is for aspiring Aboriginal students. If you would like your child to apply for this program or you have any questions regarding the program please contact Mrs Debbie Douglass on 0447257851.

Proudly supported by:

#### The Hunt Family Foundation

#### Sara Halvedene Foundation







Muswellbrook High School

# Back to the Brook Twenty Fourteen





**Left:** Sarah Gurr, 2013 dux, Newcastle University, Petra Franks, Law UNSW, caught up with English Teachers Angela Westbury and Tracy Henderson.

**Right:** Sarah Gurr, Cody Scholes CSU paramedics Science Teachers, Wendy Wales, Elizabeth Moore and Emma Thompson Newcastle University

Former Muswellbrook High students gathered to talk to current students about study and career paths and to catch up with their former teachers as part of Back to the Brook Twenty Fourteen. Over twenty ex students from as far away as Townsville Mikaela Callinan, Canberra Nick Logan and Wagga Talia Gageler, as well as a number from local industry such as Macquarie Generation's, Jayden McCarthy and Lachlan Watts took the opportunity to visit the school.

Left: The fab four, Jason Elphick, Josh Davis, Lachlan Watts and Jayden McCarthy





**Right:Class** of 2008 Emily Prowse, Psychology Honours and Sophie Hartley Policing caught up with 2013 HSC graduate Tahler Connolley, Upper Hunter Shire Trainee.

The most impressive thing about this year's 'Back to the Brook' was the wide range of students in terms of graduating year which included 2008 HSC students Sophie Hartley, Policing and Emily Prowse, Psychology, the range of courses and careers as well as the geographic regions from James Cook University Townsville to ANU Canberra and CSU Wagga. We are very grateful that our former students are willing to come in and talk to current students, catch up with each other and the teaching staff and we are proud of them all.

Amongst the 'blasts form the past' attending were Sophie King 2008 Policing, Josh Davis 2013 Graphic Design, Cailtin Henry 2013 deferred Psychology Newcastle University, Cody Scholes, Paramedics Charles Sturt University, Tahler Connolley Trainee Upper Hunter Shire, Sarah Gurr Newcastle University, Jason Elphick deferred Music degree, Chloe Barwick pre uni program Newcastle University, Jayden McCarthjy, MacGen, Lachlan Watts, MacGen, Emily Prowse, B Psych grad with first class honours, Steven Garrett UNE Science, Caitlin Bray Visual Communication Newcastle University, Emma Thompson HSIE Teaching Newcastle University, Mikaela Callinan Exercise Science James Cook University Townsville, Petra Franks UNSW Law and Social Research, Taya Elphinstone, PDHPE and Special Ed. Newcastle University, Luke Carey Muswellbrook Council, Nick Logan Advanced Science ANU, Talia Gageler CSU and Grace Rodham student tutor.

Mr Anthony Borg Careers Advisor

## Starstruck 2014

On Wednesday 12th June, 32 students form Muswellbrook High School ventured down to Newcastle to participate in Starstruck a production that involves hundreds of public school kids from infants through to year 12 students across the Hunter region. Mr Foy, Miss McGrath and Mr Kelly accompanied the excited group from MHS, making sure we were on correct trains and allowing time for hair and makeup as we all had to look beautiful! We had a very big day the first day catching the 6am train from Muswellbrook to Broadmeadow with each student having a least 2 bags of luggage. Then getting off the train and walking to the Newcastle Entertainment Centre ready for rehearsals all day. On Thursday, we had another big day of rehearsals including a dress rehearsal. Thursday night, we shopped till we dropped at Kotara, We were all very excited as we awaited our first real shown on Friday!

On Friday morning we travelled from out accommodation at the Newcastle Beach YHA to Broadmeadow to perform a matinee and a night show. Finally, on Saturday morning we were woken by the yummy smell of pancakes. All bags were packed and rooms inspected before we went for breakfast along Hunter Street Mall.

Saturday night, MHS groups 1 & 2 left Starstruck 2014 with a big bang! On behalf of the 32 students that participated, I would like to thank Mr Foy, Mr Kelly and Miss McGrath on their first Starstruck experience.

As a Year 11 student, I could not have asked for better memories to finish the trip.

Thank You again!

Taylah King Student

https://www.facebook.com/mhscapa/photos\_stream





We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, the **Aboriginal people** and pay our respect to the elders both past, present and future for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and hopes of Aboriginal Australia.

We must always remember that under the concrete and asphalt this land is was and always will be traditional Aboriginal land.

Believing we can walk together to a better future, we meet today, taking it on.

# **NAIDOC Week**





NAIDOC celebrations were held at Muswellbrook High School in Week 8 of Term 2 to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The National NAIDOC theme for 2014 is: Serving Country: Centenary & Beyond.

This year's NAIDOC theme honours all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women who have fought in defence of country.

From our warriors in the Frontier Wars to our warriors who have served with honour and pride in Australia's military conflicts and engagements across the globe.

We proudly highlight and recognise the role they have played in shaping our identity and pause to reflect on their sacrifice. We celebrate and honour their priceless contribution to our nation.

The whole school was involved in a variety of activities starting with the touch football match that is based on the NRL version of the Indigenous All Stars vs Non-Indigenous All Stars.

The school and wider community were invited to attend the student-centred special assembly focused on the themes of recognition, celebration and achievement. All students enjoyed a sausage sizzle which followed the quality presentation.





















# **Upper Hunter NAIDOC Week Awards**

On Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July the Upper Hunter NAIDOC Week committee in conjunction with the Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Land Council held the Upper Hunter NAIDOC Week Awards for 2014.

These awards are for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are achieving in all areas of society including, education, art, industry, community, sport, youth and deserve to be recognised for their achievements.

Muswellbrook High School is pleased to announce that we had 4 worthy recipients from our school nominated for an award.

Tyrell Roadley - Year 11 student received 2 awards - Youth and Senior Male Scholar of the Year

Joaby Stevens - Year 9 student who received the Senior Male Sportsperson the of Year

Marcus Morris – Year 8 student received 2 awards – Junior Male Scholar and Junior Male Sport person of the Year

Melisa Powell - Community Contribution of the Year Award

Congratulations to all the recipients on their Awards – This acknowledgement and achievement is very well deserved.





Melisa Powell Aboriginal Education Worker (02) 6543 1033 email: melisa.powell@det.nsw.edu.au



# **Upper Hunter AECG**

Cordially invites you to our

#### 3rd AECG MEETING for 2014

Our AECG's focus is on communities having input into Aboriginal Education.

We strive to empower our communities to become involved in all levels of Education & Training.

On: Thursday 14th August 2014

Start: 4pm

# At: Muswellbrook Public School Roger St, Muswellbrook

Parents and Community members are encouraged to come along.

The AECG is an Aboriginal community based organisation made up of volunteer members. Your Local AECG is your link to bettering Aboriginal Education outcomes.

All people involved or interested in Aboriginal Education are encouraged to be members of their Local AECG. This will empower our people and will contribute to improving outcomes for our students.

Youth are our future and should be recognised as an important part of our network.

If you would like an item added to the agenda please RSVP with details as soon as possible to allow time for the agenda to be distributed.

RSVP:

David Newham | (m) 0477 354 466 | David.Newham@bhpbilliton.com

Melisa Powell | (m) 0409 692 785 | melisa.powell@det.nsw.edu.au

#### **NSW SCHOOL VACCINATION PROGRAM 2014**

School vaccination clinics continue into terms 3 & 4

Insert vaccination clinic dates for remainder of 2014

#### WHAT IF MY CHILD HAS MISSED A VACCINE

If your child has missed any vaccinations they will be offered any missed doses at the next clinics at their school.

#### WHAT IF MY CHILD HAS NOT RECEIVED ALL HPV VACCINES BEFORE THE END OF 2014.

Any year 7 student will be caught up for HPV only in 2015. Any Year 9 boy who has not received all 3 doses of HPV can attend their local doctor to receive any missed doses.

Additionally – any year 8 student who commenced HPV vaccination while in year 7 and are yet to finish all 3 doses (and who has not received any from their local doctor) can still receive these at the next clinic at their school.

Don't forget a Record of Vaccination is given to each student for each vaccination. Parents/guardians should ensure that this record is kept for future reference and should not assume that their child has been vaccinated if they do not receive this Record of Vaccination.

Any questions, visit the NSW Ministry of Health website at:

http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/schoolvaccination.aspx

#### Measles Catch-up Campaign

You may have heard through a media campaign about the school based measles catch-up program due to the recent measles outbreaks in NSW. Details are at: <a href="http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/measles-catchup.aspx">http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/measles-catchup.aspx</a>

Due to high measles coverage rates in the Hunter New England Local Health District not all schools will be participating in this school catch-up campaign. However if your child's school is not participating in the measles program and your child needs vaccination, you can take your child to their doctor to receive free MMR vaccine (you may be charged for the consultation).

To check if your child has received two doses of MMR:

- Look in your child's Blue Book for a record of two doses of 'MMR vaccine' or 'Priorix vaccine' OR
- Check with your child's doctor



#### THREE DAY INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP TRAINING



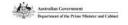
Are you stuck or in your own personal leadership journey?

Then this training is for YOU!

tree5 global in partnership with a rut and haven't your community are combining to thought deeply about help you gain skills, competence and confidence to improve your personal effectiveness: whether it is about negotiating with your school over an issue to do with your children or applying for that job.

**Venue:** Muswellbrook Council, 157 New England Hwy, Muswellbrook, NSW Date: 25-27 August 2014 | Time: 9.30 - 2.30pm

- Leading with Integrity: How to lead you and your family with



This program is being funded by the Australian Government, Department of Prime Minister and Cobinet under the Parent and Community Engagement Program.



# OCHRE

Providing Aboriginal young people with the confidence and knowledge to follow a supported pathway through secondary school to post-school education and sustainable employment.

Opportunity Hubs are networks which facilitate local management strategies to develop personalised transition planning from school into tertiary education, and into training and/or employment for Aboriginal young people, through the use of existing services.

To find out more, visit www.aesoh.org.au or call 1300 363 757



Upper Hunter OCHRE Opportunity Hub Singleton Youth Venue Singleton NSW 2330



**Introducing Upper Hunter Family Support Service's** 

"KID"S CORNER"

# AT RED DOOR COMMUNITY KITCHEN

Play helps to develop children socially, mentally and physically.

'Kid's Corner' provides a safe place for children to learn and play in a supported environment.

Don't let the kids keep you at home; we'll look after them while you enjoy a home cooked meal.

Bring along a friend and enjoy a nice day out with great company.



Uniting Church Hall (Near Holden)



Every Thursday Noon-2pm



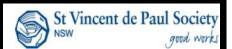








This service is proudly provided to you by:
Upper Hunter Community Services Inc.
QEII Community Centre • Cnr Bridge & Market Sts • Muswellbror
Phone: 02 6542 3555 • www.uhcs.org.au







Ability Links aims to assist people with disability to be valued and equal members of their communities and help build a society where people with disability enjoy inclusive lives in all spheres: community, public, private and social. It is about building a person's informal networks to support them to achieve their goals and have their needs and interests met. It is also about promoting community inclusion and participation for people with disability, so that people with disability are able to access and participate in activities available to the general community. Ability Links coordinators, known as Linkers, work with people with disability, their families and carers to plan for their future, and help people become more confident, supporting them to achieve their goals, break through barriers and access support and services in their community. Linkers also work alongside communities and mainstream services, supporting them to become more welcoming and inclusive to any person who would like to connect with their community. Please phone Debbie Camps - Ability Links Coordinator Muswellbrook LGA to find out more 0428 169 248 or drop in at our office in the QE11 Building CNR's Bridge and Market Streets,

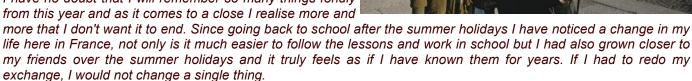
Muswellbrook

#### WEP Student Exchange - A Once-In-A-Lifetime Opportunity!

World Education Program (WEP) Australia is now accepting applications from students who wish to participate in 2014 summer or 2015 semester and year exchange programs. Students can choose to study and live life with a carefully selected host family in more than 25 countries.

Exchange students return to Australia with maturity, confidence, and in many cases, proficiency in another language. If learning another language is not for your child, excellent programs to the USA, Canada and Ireland are also available.

I have no doubt that I will remember so many things fondly



- Jonathon, year program to France



Early Bird Specials are available for programs commencing in August 2015! WEP is offering students in years 9 to 11 a \$500 discount off the 2014/15 program fee towards a semester or year program to any of the following countries departing in July - September 2015: Brazil, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Mexico, The Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Norway, Thailand or the USA.

#### Find out More!

Request an information pack online or attend one of WEP's information sessions with your parents. Visit www.wep.org.au to find out more

Web: www.wep.org.au

Phone: 03 9598 4733 / 1300 884 733 (cost of a local call)

Email info@wep.org.au

# Daylight Sportswear - Uniform Shop

# Muswellbrook High School Uniform Shop

ITEM	PRICE	SIZE	QTY	TOTAL
Girls				
Junior Blouse	27.00			
Senior Blouse	27.00			
Tartan Skirt	48.50			
Navy Stretch Slacks	39.00			
Everyday Unisex				
Junior Polo	30.00			
Senior Polo	30.00			
Sports Shorts Std	25.00			
Sports Short Sup	25.00			
Sport/PE/Football				
Sports Polo	35.00			
Football Shorts	18.00			
Football Socks	08.50			
Warmth				
Fleecy Jumper	38.00			
Wool Knit Jumper	72.00			
Microfibre Jacket	65.00			
Microfibre Trackpants	38.00			
Other				
Navy Scarf	12.00			
Navy/Gold Cap with Emblem	12.00		1	
				\$

#### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

**SMS text messaging** – Daily attendance of your child is sent to your family mobile number. This can also be used for important information regarding parent teacher meetings, issue of reports etc. The school SMS number is: **0427 016 460.** Please add this as a contact in your mobile phone. You CANNOT phone this number, please phone using 65431033. You may send a text message at any time to this number to explain your child's absences. Please let us know if you have any problems with this texting service.

**Email** – The school newsletter is distributed via email to as many families as possible, approximately twice a term. If you have an email address that you use regularly, please contact the school.

**Websites** – The school website holds a great deal of information and is a useful place for you to find out what is happening at school.

**Millennium** - The Millennium website contains all of your child's school information. This includes attendance, school reports, assessment tasks, timetables, behaviour information.

Families are able to see the whole family at a glance with your private login. This will be sent to you via an email if you have one listed with us, if not please phone the office with a current email address.

Students can also access this site through a separate login.