Welcome to the 2015 school year. This year we welcome 26 prep students and four other students new to the school as well. This year marks a further change in Qld education with no Year 7 students at our school. Because of increasing enrolments in the lower school the loss of the senior year level will not affect our total enrolment numbers.

The change in primary school grades means that for the first time in many, many years we have the same number of classes as we have grades meaning that nearly all of our classes are straight grades. The only exception to this is the Year 3/4 class.

Our teaching staff remains relatively stable. Ms Costa has taken up a position at Innisfail S.S. and Mrs Kathy Hunt has moved from Relieving Teacher to the Year 3 class. Mrs Jaala Pedley has been appointed to the school for Semester 1 as a District Relieving Teacher working three days each week.

As I said in the letter sent home yesterday, I have accepted a position as Small Schools Coach for Far North Region and will finish up at Mourilyan on Friday February 6. My replacement will be Mr Alex Neilson, who is presently principal at El Arish S.S. The six years I have spent at Mourilyan have been some of the most professionally and personally rewarding of my career. This is due to the efforts and friendship of a very supportive school staff and school community so thank you all.

Continued next page...
Responsibility at a regional level for the school has passed from Assistant regional Director Richard Huelin to ARD Stephen Bell. School Chaplain Mark Hellemata will be unable to work at the school this term but we look forward to his return later in the year.

During 2015 our school priorities will remain the same: LITERACY, NUMERACY, LEARNING TO LEARN and LEARNING TO GET ALONG. Over the last few years we have made some significant improvements in Spelling and Grammar and Punctuation as well continuing to improve in Literacy and Numeracy. In 2014 we began a new writing program ‘Seven Steps to Writing Success’ and this will continue in 2015.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Meetings</th>
<th>Date and Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 6—Mrs Haigh</td>
<td>Tuesday 10th February @ 8:15am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5—Mr Neil</td>
<td>Thursday 12th February @ 3:10pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3/4—Miss Enright</td>
<td>Wednesday 4th February @ 3:10pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3—Mrs Hunt</td>
<td>Thursday 12th February @ 8:15am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2—Mrs McDermid</td>
<td>Thursday 5th February @ 8:15am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1—Mrs Wyatt</td>
<td>Thursday 5th February @ 3:10pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Resources Needed

If you have any of the following items, kindly donate them to the Year 2 class;

- Magazines
- Newspapers
- Large ice-cream containers
- Small yoghurt containers
- Small boxes like sultana and jelly boxes
- Milk bottle tops

*Please ensure that all items are clean!*

THANK YOU

School Banking

Please note that the first school banking day this year is;

Tuesday 3rd February 2015
The start of the year is a great time for reflection, and setting new directions and goals. We do so at work and in our personal lives, so why not set some goals to become a better parent in 2015.

Here are some very different ideas below to guide and inspire you to reinvigorate your parenting this year.

1. **Build redundancy into your parenting.** You don't want your kids living with you when they're forty so you had better start making yourself redundant right now. Expect kids to help at home without being paid and develop their self-help skills from the earliest possible age. If your kids are dependent on you then start small and work from there.

2. **Build self-belief in kids.** It is self-belief rather than ability that holds many kids back from really achieving their best. Parents mirror back to their children how they see themselves. If you are naturally negative start by focusing on children’s strengths, let them know how they can improve and give them real responsibilities so they learn that their parents have faith in them.

3. **Talk less when kids misbehave.** Do you repeat yourself when your kids don’t do as you ask? Perhaps you raise your voice to be heard. Don’t. It leads to parent-deafness. Act rather than repeat yourself or shout. Put the meal on the table rather than remind them to come to dinner. Turn the TV off if they are fighting rather than shout for some peace and quiet. This year talk less when kids are less than perfect.

4. **Choose your battles wisely.** If you always seem to be fighting with one or two of your kids sit back and assess what’s important and what’s not, and then only fight over major stuff. Fighting over minor issues burns up parent energy and damages relationships. Make a list of minor and major issues as a reminder.

5. **Help kids appreciate what they have.** Some children have a default mechanism that is both negative and self-centred. They are never happy and they always want more. You can change their way of thinking with effort. Start by encouraging him or her to look on the bright side and be thankful for what they have.

This article was written by Michael Grose, from the parentingideas blog and the remainder of this article plus lots more information can be found at www.parentingideass.com.au
Miss Kerryl's Craft Group

Craft group for year six girls will start next week. If you would like to join please talk to Miss Kerryl.

Receiving the Newsletter via email

If you would like to receive the newsletter via email simply send a short email to the.principal@mourilyass.eq.edu.au and we will add you to the list!

Little Fish Playgroup

The theme for next Tuesday’s playgroup is Pirates and Princesses. Children can come dressed up if they like, and you can make pirate hats and/or crowns plus there will be other crafts and activities.

Playgroup is starting soon! Come to Mourilyan State School’s Little Fish Playgroup and meet others in a relaxed and friendly environment.

No membership fee, just $2 per week

Starting Tuesday 10th Feb 9-11am

Bring hats, morning tea and a smile! All welcome - just turn up at the school and find the Playgroup Sign

Contact: Melissa 0419 663 525

Playgroup is a place for you and your children to have fun, make new friends and develop new skills through PLAY!!!

Give me a fish and I eat for a day. Teach me how to fish and I’ll eat forever.