PRINCIPAL’S REPORT
OPTIMINDS

Congratulations to our 3 OptMINDS Teams and their facilitators Ms Studden, Mrs Bowd & Mrs Neighbour who had a successful day at Caloundra at the Regional OptiMINDS challenge on Saturday. All of the teams performed to a very high standard and were pleased with their performances. The Science Engineering and Social Science teams have been invited to participate in the State OptiMINDS challenge. I would like to acknowledge the commitment of these students who have spent many Sundays practicing and to our teachers for providing their support and this very special opportunity for the students. I would also like to acknowledge our parents who provide ongoing support for our children.

Music Happenings

On Tuesday our Senior Choir will be participating in Choral Fest at Talara Primary College. Our Senior Choir will be conducted by Reece, one of our Performing Arts Captains. Advance Music Camp will be held on Wednesday to Friday of this week at Mapleton. A small number of our more proficient strings students and Ms Hutchinson will be in attendance at this camp. We wish our students and staff successful and enjoyable performance. Thank you to our parents who continually support our music students by transporting and accompanying them to these school activities.

Book Week

This week we celebrate Book Week. The theme for this year is “Books Light up Our World.” There are lots of activities for our students to be involved in during the week. Our Book Week Dress Up Parade will be held on Thursday at 9:00am in the school hall. Everyone is welcome to come along to our Parade.

Earn and Learn

The Woolworths Earn & Learn program gives Schools and Early Learning Centres around Australia the chance to earn new educational resources. Kuluin School is participating in this promotion again in 2015. Please remember to start collecting for your school and place your stickers or sticker sheets in the collection box in the school office. This promotion closes on 8th September 2015.

Alison Welch

P&C News

Caption: P&C President Ben Armsstone, Kuluin Student Andy and Lylah celebrated their birthdays at the P&C Birthday themed disco on the 13th of August.

Disco: Thank you to all the wonderful helpers and beautifully behaved students at our recent P&C Disco. It was Ben’s Birthday Disco and everyone celebrated with a free piece of delicious cake at the end of the disco.

Spellathon: All students have been tested and teachers will have certified any sponsorship sheets that have been returned to them. Students have these now to show their sponsors. All sponsorship money and sheets need to be returned to the Tuckshop by Thursday 3rd September to receive fundraising prizes by the end of term. Money can also be paid via EFT at the tuckshop or OSHC or by Direct Debit BSB 633000 , Account No. 151369113, Reference SPELLATHON Student’s Name. Tuckshop vouchers will be coming out soon to those children who achieved 100% on their test. These vouchers can be used on their own or as part of a tuckshop order. Please note that these vouchers are not redeemable for cash and change cannot be given when they are used. Thank you if you have already returned your sponsorship money with the sheet to the Tuckshop.

Bunnings BBQ Date Claimer: Keep Saturday 31st October free. The Kuluin P&C is looking for helpers for our BBQ at Bunnings.

Treasurer: We would like to thank Jenny Stewart for all of her hard work on our executive committee of the P&C for the past 12 months. Jenny, who has recently resigned as P&C Treasurer, will still continue as Treasurer for the Early Years Support Group. Thus the position of Treasurer of the Kuluin P&C has been declared vacant and nominations are called for the position.

Maree Brinkman
Opti– MINDS Challenge

The Opti-MINDS Challenge is an opportunity for those students with a passion for learning and problem solving to showcase their skills and talents in an exciting, vibrant and public way. The Opti-MINDS Challenge is an interschool event, which involves teams of students solving challenging problems through creative, dramatic presentations. The teams must work cooperatively within time, budget and performance constraints to solve both long-term and spontaneous challenges. Many hours of work, both during school time and outside of school time, are needed for the teams to solve their difficult problems. For Kuluin students, this includes a number of weekend meetings. Hard work and commitment are crucial!

Opti-MINDS OBJECTIVES...

- To foster creative responsiveness - a “CAN DO” culture
- To provide challenge, enrichment and stimulation
- To facilitate the ability to adapt to and harness change to advantage
- To foster flexibility, innovative thinking and functioning
- To promote complex thinking and creative problem solving skills
- To encourage reflective thinking and self-directed learning
- To facilitate empowerment and responsibility
- To promote an understanding and appreciation of self and others
- To develop effective communication and collaborative thinking skills
- To celebrate difference
- To foster cooperation and teamwork
- To promote enterprise and initiative
- To stimulate a spirit of exploration, investigation, experimentation and a love of learning
- To provide a collaborative link between all sectors of education, community and industry

To promote UNASHAMED EXCELLENCE!
The Opti-MINDS Challenge is an evolution of the program run by Opti-MINDS Inc for the past 26 years in Queensland and continues with the tradition of providing students with the opportunity to participate in open-ended creative activities and find solutions to exciting problems.

Kuluin’s Opti-MINDS Challenge teams for 2015:

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<td>Jasmyn Yr. 6</td>
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<td>Danika Yr. 6</td>
<td>Madison Yr. 6</td>
<td>Rebecca Yr. 6</td>
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Liz Stunden - (school co-ordinator & team facilitator)

Julie Bowd & Janelle Neighbour - (team facilitators)

Music News

Last Thursday children involved in the brass, woodwind and percussion instrumental program with Mr Lancaster were invited to attend a workshop at Immanuel Lutheran College. We hoped they enjoyed the experience and learnt more about ensemble playing with their instrument.

On Tuesday the 25th of August the Senior Choir are performing at Talara College in Caloundra as part of Choral Fest. Congratulations to all children who performed at the Eisteddfod recently. The Senior Choir was fortunate to gain a second in their section.

Music by Moonlight is on the 10th of September in our school hall. Please keep this date free. More details will be available soon.

Jenni Miller, Classroom Music Teacher
**Kagan Cooperative Learning**

Cooperative Learning is a successful and thoroughly researched educational approach in which small teams or pairs of students work together towards a learning goal. The use of Cooperative Learning Structures creates a classroom atmosphere of achievement where all students are actively and simultaneously engaged in learning.

Kuluin is strategically committed to the implementation of a wide variety of Kagan Cooperative Learning Structures in the teaching and learning process in order to maximise student engagement.

What are Co-operative Learning Structures?

Structures are simple, easy to learn, step-by-step instructional strategies that are content free. Some are designed to engage and develop specific types of thinking, others to engage and develop specific social skills, others to develop different intelligences, others to foster mastery of different types of academic content. All Kagan Structures are designed to increase student engagement and cooperation.

What are the Benefits of Using Kagan Cooperative Learning?

There are many well documented and researched benefits to the use of Kagan Cooperative Learning. Cooperative efforts result in students striving for mutual benefit so that all group members:

- Gain from each other’s efforts. (Your success benefits me and my success benefits you.)
- Recognise that all group members share a common fate. (We all sink or swim together here.)
- Know that one’s performance is mutually caused by oneself and one’s team members. (We cannot do it without you).
- Feel proud and jointly celebrate when a group member is recognised for achievement. (We all congratulate you on your accomplishment!)

**Academic Benefits:**
- It promotes critical and higher-order thinking.
- It involves students actively in the learning process.
- Classroom results are improved.
- It models appropriate student problem solving techniques.
- It can facilitate ‘Deep Learning’.
- It is especially helpful in motivating students in specific curriculum.
- It develops learning communities.

**Psychological Benefits:**
- Increases students' self-esteem.
- Cooperation reduces anxiety.
- Develops social skills.

Helps develop positive attitudes towards peers, teachers and learning itself.

“Research on cooperative learning is overwhelmingly positive, and the cooperative approaches are appropriate for all curriculum areas. The more complex the outcomes (higher-order processing of information, problem solving, social skills and attitudes), the greater are the effects.”

Bruce Joyce

Liz Stunden (Year 6 Teacher and Pedagogical Coach)

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**Before and After School Pick Ups**

Please be reminded of the importance of safety when dropping and picking up students from Kuluin School. Please do not park on yellow lines too close to the entrances, this causes road safety issues. Please respect our neighbours and do not park over, or in their driveways. This is very frustrating for them. Keeping our students and their families safe is important and we ask that you please watch young children closely whilst waiting outside of the school. If using the main entrance on Tallow Wood Drive, please use the school pedestrian crossing.
King of the Mountain Camp-Sept 21-25
Who-Grade 5-6 boys
Where- Dunethin Rock Scout camp
What- Jam packed activities-cable skiing, archery, rock wall climbing, canoeing, laser zone and heaps more of fun
Bookings- Go to www.sucamps.org.au
Contact- Brendan Henry 0403348792 or Chappy

Lost Property
There are lots of jumpers in lost property— 18 school jumpers and 19 other casual style jumper/jackets. Please come and check the lost property outside the health room, admin building. Any lost property at the end of term will be donated to second hand uniform shop or a charity.

Apple for the Teacher returns to Hot 91.1!
We wanted to take just a moment of your time to tell you about a Hot 91.1’s biggest competition to recognise and reward the hard working teachers of the Sunshine Coast.

Hot91.1’s Apple for the Teacher, with the help of NCIS Computers, is asking the families of the Sunshine Coast to nominate their favourite Primary School teacher and give one of the hardest working occupations the recognition it deserves.
The competition begins Monday 17th August and runs until the 17th September.
People are invited to nominate the teacher of their choice at www.hot91.com.au. There are some great prizes on the line for students, teacher and school.
For the winning teacher – an Apple iPad and a pack of indulgent vouchers and goodies.
For the students of the winning teacher’s class – an iPod Shuffle each! (Max 30)
For the school of the winning teacher – an Apple iMac computer, a welcome addition to any staff room or computer lab!
The Hot Breakfast with Sam and Edmo are also keen to get out and about and meet the students of the Sunshine Coast. If you’re interested in having them visit your school or have any questions about the competition, email Ash ash@hot91.com.au.
Thanks for your time
Hot 91.1

Opportunity for students to experience another culture, make new friends and improve their language studies at home
In January 2016 we will be receiving exchange students from Argentina, Bolivia, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, Sweden and the USA. Our new arrivals will live with a host family and attend a local school for 3, 5 or 10 months. As we plan for their arrival, we are keen to hear from suitable families who might be interested to host a student.
Hosting an exchange student can be a truly rewarding experience. It allows a family to experience a foreign culture first hand, be exposed to a new language and pass on a bit of our own culture. They might even make a friend for life!
If your students, families or language teachers have any questions about hosting an exchange student or would like to view profiles of students arriving from other countries, they can respond to this email, call our office on 1300 135 331 or visit our website. Our staff members will be happy to discuss which student might be best suited to their family. No obligation.
You can find out more about our organisation by visiting www.studentexchange.org.au.
Yours sincerely,
Sandra Harders
Hosting Coordinator
Student Exchange Australia New Zealand Ltd
BOOKWEEK – “Books light up our world”

What a great start to Bookweek at Kuluin. The year 3 and 4 children enjoyed the very talented Storyteller, Karen Gawen from the Maroochydore Library on Monday. All year levels have taken part in Bookswap, which will continue throughout the week. It is not too late to participate. If the children have a book at home which they no longer want they can bring it into the Library and swap it for someone else’s book. One voucher per book. Preps swap in the morning in the courtyard of the Library and Years 1 to 6 at first break in the courtyard. Thursday is DRESS-UP day. This will take the place of our normal lower parade. Children are encouraged to dress as their favourite book character and celebrate the wonderful books which have enlightened their world. Emphasis is on participation and it is not expected that they buy a new outfit. Parents are invited and most welcome to come along and watch our parade. The finals of Readers Cup will take place in the hall on Thursday middle session. Year 5’s and 6’s have been busy reading 9 books in teams over the past 9 weeks culminating in our Grand Final on Thursday. All competitions will continue to run throughout the week. Come on up to our illuminated Library and have a look at our displays, the children’s colouring and their lightbulbs. Thank you for your co-operation and participation in our 2015 Bookweek celebrations. The love of reading is the best gift you can give to your child.

“Happy Bookweek everyone.”

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