Welcome to a new term and another exciting ten weeks of learning. I love working at El A, where we see our core belief about holistic education living in so many ways. At this week’s staff meeting, we locked in lots of exciting dates such as:

- the joint reading workshop with the staff from Feluga SS next Tuesday where we will be looking at our current reading practices;
- our Goal Setting Meetings in week 3;
- El Arish’s centenary celebration on August 1 which our school will play a part in;
- excursions planned to support the learning without our classrooms;
- our school’s Sport Days on Tuesday & Wednesday 18-19 August;
- Year 3-6 camp at Mungalli Falls in week 10;
- the return of the senior class’ Open Mic Poetry Night.

At the start of a new term, and especially a new semester, I always like to think about what our next steps are, and reflect on the bigger picture of what school, especially primary school, is for; as I said at today’s staff meeting ‘What is our Why?’ The greatest gift that an education can give is a love of learning. A key aim of primary education is to solidify that by ensuring that students try everything, find success, and begin to identify not just their strengths, but also the things they really like to do. As adults, I guess we would call that your passions. The thing is, sometimes the things you are really good at are not necessarily the things that energise you, and this is a good thing to start knowing about, even when you are young.

Finding the things you really like to do requires a bit of ‘clear air’ or headspace. The one thing that can provide that is a strong routine. Motivation is a fuzzy concept, and doesn’t really exist in the way we typically talk about it. Truly successful people are often not the ‘best’ or the ‘smartest’, but the ones who have built strong habits and routines. Habits and routines clear headspace to do the real work. Seeing progress brings motivation.

At a primary school level, this means clean and organised school bags (packed and carried by children themselves sooner rather than later), clean and organised school desks, being independent enough to walk themselves into school and get set for the day, knowing and understanding their weekly and daily schedules, and having some free time to plan their own adventures.

Continued over page....
These are all the foundations for the real work of learning, which is applying what you know in new and different situations. It is a shame that all too often conversations about student learning circle to achievement standards and marks on tests, and report cards. The best conversations are about application, improvement, seeing new possibilities, making connections, and most importantly, being able to apply what you have learnt in new and unfamiliar situations.

All learners, of all ages, must be stretched and challenged. Otherwise, we all become rather too good at following the rules and jumping through hoops, instead of thinking how else we can use the hoops! Stretch and challenge does make learning uncomfortable, but that is where the learning happens – on the edge of what is next.

Remembering the conversation between Alice and the Queen in *Through the Looking Glass* is a good place to start thinking about what is next.

Alice laughed. "There's no use trying," she said: "one can't believe impossible things."

"I daresay you haven't had much practice," said the Queen. "When I was your age, I always did it for half-an-hour a day. Why, sometimes I've believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast."

**GOAL SETTING MEETINGS**

Please check your child’s bag for a note coming home this week from your class teacher about our Goal Setting Meetings being held in week 3. These are an imperative component for your child’s academic success and I would strongly urge each family to make themselves available. This is the class teacher’s opportunity to meet with each family, student included, and discuss last semester’s successes and areas of improvement and to jointly construct learning goals for semester two.

**EL ARISH TOWN CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS**

Our school has been invited by the El Arish Town Centenary Committee to be involved in the town’s celebration on Saturday 1 August. It has been planned to hold a ceremony at 11am at the cenotaph whereby the Queensland Governor, His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, will attend along with Federal Member for Kennedy, Mr Bob Katter, and Queensland Member of Parliament, Mr Shane Knuth. Our students have been asked to form the guard of honour for the arrival of the dignitaries whilst singing Waltzing Matilda. This is an enormous milestone for our town and I am grateful for the committee in inviting our school to play a large part in the celebrations. Please lock this date into your calendars.

**School Banking Co-ordinator** : Romina Ash

*Picking up student banking each Thursday.*

If you are new to school banking & interested in starting, just pop into your nearest Commonwealth Bank to set this up.

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**Athletics Carnival**

**Tuesday 18th & Wednesday 19th August**

(spectators are welcome, however social distancing measures will apply)

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**Go Toft! Go Massey!**

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Many hands make light work as they say, so please consider coming along & supporting our school.

We will be ‘breaking ground’ on our Nature Playground project!
Next Tuesday our school will be hosting the staff from Feluga SS. Our two schools will be embarking on a combined project looking at our current reading practices as well as our moderation processes. This work was born out of our staff data meetings last term, whereby we as a team, identified that reading across the school will be our major focus for this semester. It is my hope that this day will open up further opportunities for our two schools to work closely together on other projects.

As a further commitment to our school’s reading priority, I have employed Ms Deb for an extra day each week to work one-on-one with selected students across both classes to help improve their reading skills.

**LIBRARY NEWS**

Book borrowing will occur again for the P-2 class on Tuesdays & the 3-6 class on Wednesdays.

Book Club will be recommencing this term, with brochures due to arrive shortly.

A BIG thank-you to Colleen Barns for covering our new library books!

Please remember to save your eligible cans & bottles to donate to our school recycling. All funds raised go into our Kitchen Garden project.❤️
‘The sunflowers are flowering!!’ These were the words I was greeted with, walking into school at the beginning of the week. It is amazing the affect these beautiful flowers have had on the students – and staff. You can’t help but smile and feel happy seeing all of the sunny blooms.

It’s not just the sunflowers thriving - our whole kitchen garden is looking fantastic. All of the time we spent, preparing, planting and mulching last term, has paid off and we are now seeing the fruits of our labour.

Now comes the fun of preparing and sharing them. This Friday students will be making a stir-fry with carrots, purple beans, pak choy, green beans, coriander and ginger. For dessert we’ll be making Ms Jill’s Passionfruit Flummery, using the delicious, sweet yellow and purple passionfruit we are continuing to harvest.

There is a saying ‘Bloom where you grow’, so when a random pumpkin plant sprouted up near the front steps of the school, that’s exactly what we allowed it to do. As a result the vine has thrived and students have enjoyed helping with the fertilisation process, meaning we now have a number of pumpkins nearly ready to harvest. Pumpkin soup and pumpkin scones, will definitely be on the menu!

More photo’s featured on the back page…….

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P-2 CLASSROOM NEWS

I hope everyone enjoyed their school holiday break! Last term, our class did a little science experiment in making their own unique crystal snowflake. We study the seasons every term and we have had many discussions on what winter looks like around the world. They were fascinated by snow and how there are no two snowflakes that are alike. They really enjoyed seeing how each of their snowflakes turned out and comparing the differences to others. Just before break up we had our pajama party and movie day. The kids drank hot chocolate with marshmallows, while lounging in their pj’s and watching a movie. I loved seeing the senior class interacting with our juniors, everyone had so much fun!

This term our focus in Literacy will be on information texts and the different features of that type of text. Your child will be choosing an animal they would like to research and with that information, create and present a project to the class on their animal. This will also tie in with our Science, as we are studying of biology this term. Your child will have a fun little at home project, where they will create a habitat diorama for their animal. More will go home about this in a few weeks. In Maths this term we are learning about Australian money, time to the hour and half hour, simple addition and subtraction and skip counting. Lastly, in History this term we will be exploring the stages of life and our family tree, as well as the history of technology and communication.

Yesterday I sent home a letter to sign up for our second round of goal setting meetings that will take place in week 3, July 28th & 29th. If you would like to sign up for a time to meet, fill out your top three time/date choices and I will respond as soon as I receive them. I am looking forward to our meetings and all of the fun things planned for this term!

Miss Meg
WELCOME BACK!

How good is it to be back to normal? It’s great for the kids to be back in the classroom learning and playing with their friends.

While our daily lives were disrupted the staff at El Arish State School continued to teach our children. I am sure we appreciate all the hard work that they have done!

The P&C now have their own office. It is the old SEP room. We were lucky enough to have this as a surprise upon our return this week. A huge shout out to Jodie & Jill for all the effort put in to make it happen!!

We have a few things coming up this term, check out the rest of this newsletter to find out what’s going on!!

NATURE PLAYGROUND

We are commencing the Nature Playground project on Saturday 8th August at our school working bee. If you can spare some time, please come along & support our school.

PIE DRIVE

The annual Pie drive is happening again with notes going home on Wednesday. Let us know if you didn’t receive the note or need any more information!

TUCKSHOP NEWS

The P&C are pleased to announce Scott Withers as the new Tuckshop convenor. We thank Scott for taking on the role and are sad to see Denise leave but we are excited to see some changes! We are planning to have tuckshop up & running by week 3 with an all new way of ordering. Ordering will now be online through the app QKR! It’s easy to download and pay via debit or credit card.

This will reduce the handling of cash on school premises and will reduce the risk to any illness.

More information will come home next week and of course if there are any concerns please feel free to come and see us.

UNIFORMS

It’s cold right now so let us know if you would like a school Jacket!

These items will also be available to purchase through the QKR app in the coming weeks.

Volunteering at school is a great way to meet new people, make friends and your kids get a kick out of seeing mum/dad/grandparents or any other special per-
“FROM WAR HORSE to PLOUGH HORSE”
CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS PROGRAM
SATURDAY 1ST AUGUST 2020

Due to Covid our Centenary Celebrations have been compromised, so we are just having a pared back event, please feel welcome to come along. This will be a special day, as the 1st of August 1920 was the first ballot held at the Innisfail Court House to choose the very first group of soldier settlers!

Location - The El Arish Cenotaph Park, corner of Ryrje and Monaafa Streets, El Arish and later at the RSL Memorial Hall 17 Koynston Street, El Arish.

10.00 to 10.30 am - Arrival and preparation for the Ceremony.
11.00am - The Master of Ceremonies, Mr. Wayne Kimberley will make a speech of welcome. He will mention the Cenotaph Park Refurbishment Project funded by the Queensland Dpts. Of Premier and Cabinet Queensland Veterans Memorial Program Grant and the Cassowary Coast Regional Council Community Assistance Grant.

We will unveil the plaque, along with Mr. David Martin OAM, in honour of the Superintendent of The Settlement, Mr. F.P. Martin. The Hon. Bob Katter MP and Shae Knuith MP, Mr. David Martin OAM, the CCRC Mayor Mr. Mark Nolan and Councillor Mrs. Teresa Millwood will also speak. The MC will thank these present and conclude formalities and invite guests to Luncheon.

12.30pm - A BBQ lunch at the RSL Memorial Hall at a minimal cost will be catered by the kind ladies of the Tully CWA as a fundraiser for them.

2.00pm - After lunch the El Arish Diggers Museum will be open, and visitors may like to view our biographical street signs which comprise the “Saluting our Generals” project.

Our contact is the Secretary, Marie Carman
Telephone 0438 248 412 (text is best!) Email: carmanmarie@yahoo.com.au

SCHOOL CENTENARY 2022

We are seeking expressions of interest from previous students of El Arish State School or community members, to form a committee for the 100-year anniversary of our wonderful little town’s school.

At
The Pocket
9:30am
28 July 2020

If you are interested but unable to attend, please contact
07 4068 5176 or email
admin@elarishss.eq.edu.au