Term one is well and truly underway with both classes fully engaged in quality learning every day. It is a timely reminder that McDonnell Creek SS is striving for an attendance record of 95%. Both the junior and senior classes are currently sitting on 94% attendance for week 3. If your child is absent from school we require either an email, letter or phone message to indicate the reason for absence. Remember that every day counts.

Goal Setting Interviews
Sandra and Christie will be conducting individual goal setting meetings with parents on March 1, Tuesday of week 6. A letter will go home next week to confirm your interview time. The purpose of these interviews is to establish a partnership between school and home to help students realise their learning goals.

Book Packs
Attached to the newsletter is a letter providing information and payment details for the student book packs. All students have received their resources and texts in week 1. Prompt payment before the end of term 1 would be much appreciated.

P & C AGM
The P & C meeting has been postponed until Thursday February 25. We look forward to seeing many faces at the first meeting.

Parade
A reminder that McDonnell Creek SS holds parade every Thursday afternoon from 2:30pm in the undercover area. This provides an opportunity for the school community to celebrate student success. Parade is run by our three student leaders; Lauren, Aaron and Esa.

SWPBL
Each week both classes participate in explicit teaching of expected behaviours and school routines. This fortnight’s focus was on “The Friendly 5”. This is a strategy students can use both in the classroom and the

“Every day, in every way, every child is learning and achieving....”
playground to positively deal with situations that may arise. The steps for the Friendly 5 are:

1. Ignore
2. Walk away
3. Talk friendly
4. Talk firmly
5. Report

Students created posters to represent the steps in the Friendly 5.

If the behaviour is one which causes physical harm, the students must jump straight to step 5. Students understand the importance of step 5 to ensure that the school can deal with incidences in a timely manner.

Student of the week

Grip Student Leadership

On Friday February 12 2016 the grade 5 and 6 students from all over Cairns attended the GRIP Leadership Conference at the Reef Hotel Casino. About 250 people came including myself, Esa, Aaron, Hein and Molly from Mac Creek.

We started by playing a game all about the number five. It taught us that the overall goal requires my contribution and that different people’s contribution is required at different times.

We learned how to grow as a student leader. Like a tree, there are four parts to growing as a leader.
1. The roots/core values. GRIP has its own core values of Generosity, Responsibility, Integrity, People.
2. The trunk; combine with others.
3. The leaves and branches; contribute to what is around you.
4. Water; constant input.

In all the fun I had, what I liked most was the loud noises sessions. Loud noises is were we got to have a heap of fun and make as much noise as we wanted. We also played a lot of games to help us become great leaders.

Lauren Hickmott (Year 6 Student Leader)
Preps, Grade 1 and 2 classroom learning
We are doing some great learning in the lower grades at present. Our history focus relates to life cycles and the concept of the past, present and future. We are looking at timelines and remembering things from the past. Our class will be identifying how things might have changed around us as well as investigating changes within us. The children have all been asked to bring along a baby photo to stimulate deeper understandings of the topic. Within the science curriculum we are learning about seeds and how they grow. I love exploring the living world with children and as part of this section of work we will also learn about how to care for living things. We have a classroom greenhouse just outside our door if you are interested to see how our plants are growing. We are very keen to establish a vegetable and flower garden as well. Hermy the hermit crab will take up residence in our classroom aquarium soon. The children have been busy learning about how we care for these interesting creatures and establishing the habitat in preparation for his arrival. All the children will participate in caring for our living things on a daily basis. The preps are doing a fabulous job of learning and identifying which letters create which sounds. So far we have focussed on S, A, T, P, I, N, C and K. They are off to a great start and are all very keen to learn. All the children are being respectful and engaged learners.

Ms Sandra
Date Claimers

25/02/2016  P & C AGM
04/03/2016  Clean Up Schools Day
09/03/2016  Teddy Bear’s Picnic (P-2) Bartle Frere State School
11/03/2016  AVA PetPEP visit
12/03/2016  Red Cross Cent Sale GSS Hall 2pm
20/03/2016  Feast of the Senses - Innisfail
24/03/2016  Easter Bonnet Parade
             Last day of Term 1
11/04/2016  First day of Term 2

Friendly 5 Poster created by Esa Ronland
(Year 6)