Welcome to Week 10. This term has flown and the second last week of Term 4 was a busy one.

On Monday 28th November Justin Elstob, the Regional Coordinator from Save the Children Australia, visited Mary Valley State College with the early years education van to showcase the ‘Play 2 Learn’ Program. Justin and his team provided a lovely breakfast for all of our children and Mrs Ford’s Prep students were immersed in the play van’s education toys. Thank you to Justin for the scrumptious breakfast and the opportunity to see your program in action. It is great knowing that non-government organisations are now recognising Mary Valley as an important and valuable hub to visit. We hope to see you on ‘Team Mary Valley’ in 2017.

Our amazing Chappy Bek organised a wonderful thanksgiving afternoon tea for our students last Monday. It was a lovely gesture to give thanks and to be grateful for all that we have in our lives. Thank you Bek for organising this important event.

We said farewell to Justine Penny from Anglicare last week as she finished up the final week of the ‘Mary State College Girls’ Group’ program. Thank you to Justine for her commitment to building the social skills and the tool kit of strategies for our girls and young women. Your support has been very much appreciated this year. We are hoping to have Justine back in 2017.

Friday 2nd December was full of celebration. Our normal Friday parade was transformed into the Year 6 Graduation and special morning tea. Each of our graduating students received a certificate and small gift. It has been an absolute joy working with these students this year. The majority of our Year 6s are staying at Mary Valley for 2017 which is very exciting. I’d like to wish all of our Year 6s the very best for 2017. Thank you also to their classroom teachers (Mrs Kurtz, Mrs Jasper, Mr Davey and Mr Reed) for their dedication and hard work.

I attended my very first ‘Christmas Mini-Fete and Concert’ on Friday night. I was impressed by the stalls, the presentations organised by our staff for our children and the number of parents and families who came for the afternoon even though pending storms were potentially on the cards. It was a positive and festive way to end the school year. Thank you to everyone for their hard work and support for this event.

Our weekly PBL (Positive Behaviour for Learning) focus is - We are respectful when we let teachers teach and students learn. This is particularly important with many activities occurring and the finalisation of school work happening this week.

And finally, as I reflect upon the last eight months, I can confidently say 2016 has been a fabulous year for Mary Valley State College. We have been committed as a school to providing a holistic, quality program. Thank you to justine for building the 'Mary State College Girls' Group' and our amazing Chappy Bek for her wonderful thanksgiving afternoon tea. Thank you also to their classroom teachers (Mrs Kurtz, Mrs Jasper, Mr Davey and Mr Reed) for their dedication and hard work.

So, what have been some of our successes this year? The successes that I will outline below are all measurable by Regional Office and Central Office and are part of our improvement agenda. Our first area of success has been in NAPLAN improvement – Our improvements in the NAPLAN domains have been pleasing this year.

- Year 9 NAPLAN results showed substantial improvements in reading, writing, spelling, grammar & punctuation and numeracy.
- Year 7 NAPLAN has showed growth in the areas of spelling and numeracy.
- Year 5 NAPLAN data indicated growth reading, writing, spelling and grammar & punctuation.
- Year 3 NAPLAN saw quality movement in our reading statistics...and reading this year has been one of our key priorities.

We are excited to build upon these successes to continue improving for 2017.

Our second area of success that needs to be celebrated is our 2016 School Opinion Survey Data. Our

Please update your email address, along with phone numbers and residential addresses.

Wanted/ For Sale
Second-hand Uniforms: Please contact Mrs Dixon to sell and buy second-hand uniforms.

Please ensure all school fees are up to date. EFTPOS available.

No Smoking Zone
Please remember that all government property is a no smoking zone.
recent school opinion survey data saw the majority of our key improvement areas increase. These results go above the Department of Education’s North Coast Region’s targets and the targets for ‘like schools’ across the state. Some of the statements that saw 100% of our surveyed parents ‘agree’ included:
- My child likes being at this school
- My child feels safe at this school
- Teachers at this school expect my child to do his/her best
- Teachers at this school provide my child with useful feedback about his/her school work
- This school takes parents opinions seriously
- This school works with me to support my child’s learning
- This school has a strong sense of community

The staff and student survey data also saw many positive shifts in the right direction. This data is very pleasing to me as Principal because it not only measures the level of morale in the school community, but it also informs the future direction for the school.

Thirdly, we have witnessed our first positive shift in enrolment data in 4 years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>End of Term 4 2012</th>
<th>End of Term 1 2016</th>
<th>Term 4 2016</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>190</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>153</td>
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For us a staff, this is very humbling. Our staff work exceptionally hard and are passionate and driven people whose desire is to make a positive difference in the lives of our children and adolescents, and is at the forefront of everything they do. And to know that confidence in our community is growing, means that their hard work is valued and appreciated. Thank you on behalf of all of us for this.

Our achievement data across all key learning areas (KLAs) is another success we have experienced in 2016. Our results have shown a marked improvement since the end of the 2015 data cycle. One example of this is the Year 7 data for Semester 1 2016 - it is something that we as a school are very proud of.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Mathematics</th>
<th>Science</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Level of Achievement 100% received a ‘C’ or higher</td>
<td>Level of Achievement 100% received a ‘C’ or higher</td>
<td>Level of Achievement 81.8% received a ‘C’ or higher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effort 90% received a ‘C’ or higher</td>
<td>Effort 100% received a ‘C’ or higher</td>
<td>Effort 100% received a ‘C’ or higher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Behaviour 100% received a ‘C’ or higher</td>
<td>Behaviour 100% received a ‘C’ or higher</td>
<td>Behaviour 100% received a ‘C’ or higher</td>
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This increase in pass rates across KLAs can be seen across the whole college. This too, is something we are very proud of. We have also seen greater representation of Mary Valley State College in local and regional academic, cultural and sporting competitions which has seen our students succeed with flying colours.

One such sporting example is the Cooloola Triathlon. Our students competed against small and large schools from around the Cooloola coast including Gympie and our students shone brightly.

Academically, our students participated in the Primary Math’s Team Challenge at Gympie West State School. Our students fought an intellectual battle and came first in the ‘Small School Relay’ section of the competition and third overall.

And culturally, our students have been successful in the Mary Valley Artslink Festival and the Gympie Youth Art Gallery display by achieving places and recognition of their artistic talents. And this next slide shows the vast array of other ways students have represented their school. Other 2016 competitions included:
- 2016 Gympie District Cross Country Trials, Premier’s Reading Challenge, Queensland Country State Junior Championship (Show jumping), Mary Valley State College Inter-house Athletics Day, Mary Valley Public Speaking Competition, Bronze award in the Language Perfect English Championships, Kids Spartan Race, Maryborough Technology Challenge – 2nd and 6th at the state titled PLUS first at the National finals, Wide Bay Cricket star.

The upgrade of facilities at our school is the second last standout I’d like to mention for this year. This year alone, we have received the following financial support from Regional Office to improve our facilities –
- Pool upgrade - $30,000; Prep Building Upgrade - $150,000;
- Piping/Drainage - $200,000; Tennis courts - $45,000

I am completely overwhelmed by the support we have received from Regional Office and for this I am very grateful. Finally I’d like to share our local community engagement successes this year. As a school we are very proud of our direct links and participation in and with the local community. The below lists are of the community events we have been involved in throughout 2016…either directly as a whole school or as small groups of representatives –

Term 2:
- ANZAC Day Ceremony – Kandanga, Mother’s Day morning tea and parade, Mother’s Day Stall, Cooloola Student Leadership Day, International Rally of Queensland, Crime Stoppers Imbil Bowls fundraiser,
- Annual Gympie Regional Council Careers Expo, Gympie Regional Youth Forum, Mary Valley Artslink Festival.

Term 3:
- Annual Mary Valley Schools Athletics Day, Mary Valley State College Annual Work Experience Week, Mary Valley Show, National Science Week – Guest scientist, Mary Valley Public Speaking Competition, Bee Open Day, Pirates vs Mermaids Mini Musical, ‘Kindy Kids Come to Prep’ morning, Cleanaway’s/Gympie Regional Council’s Educational Officer Elli Webb, Anglicare’s Girls’ Program.

Term 4:
- Remembrance Day Ceremony, School Camp at QCCC Mapleton, Prep Information Evening and ‘Kindy Kids Visit Prep’ morning, Mary Valley Scarecrow Festival display, Day for Daniel fundraiser, ‘Hi Artworks’ student art display/ Gympie Regional Art Gallery, Imbil Heritage Park Development Project Selection Panel.

As you can see, the list is amazing. Passionate driven staff, committed and willing students and very supportive parents and community members, have ensured that we as a college have been well received and well supported by many this year.

I would like thank our fabulous staff for all that they do. I’d like to congratulate and commend our students for their hard work this year. Thanks also to our parents for your constant support and our local community for believing in us….your local state school.

Wishing all of you a safe and merry Christmas, and I looking forward to seeing everyone in 2017.

Best wishes,

Allison Wright
Principal

Safe, Respectful, Responsible, Proud Learners.
Congratulations to all our Yr 6 Graduates

Safe, Respectful, Responsible, Proud Learners.
From The Head of Department

**Change of Routine 2017:** From the start of Term 1 secondary students will be starting and finishing the day on the secondary campus. All students will assemble on the Primary Campus and at 8:45am move over to the secondary campus for Care Class and roll marking. Buses will still leave from the primary campus and this will continue into 2017. For student safety and effective management of traffic if you are picking your student up by car we ask that you do this from the Primary campus as well.

If students need to sign out or sign in this will still be processed through the main office. Any monies that need to be paid will still need to be processed at the main office. Thank you for your assistance as we start the transition period.

**End of Year Celebrations:** Students will be on an alternative study program this week and will have their celebration day on Thursday. Some of the time will be spent cleaning up, preparing and organising classrooms for 2017.

Thank you all to the students, parents and caregivers who have supported the college throughout 2016 and we look forward to your ongoing support in 2017. Have a wonderful break and we will see you in the New Year.

Craig Wilson

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**PBL Secondary**

**We are responsible when we follow instructions.**

This week we focused on how we can be responsible when we follow instructions from teachers, as well as our peers. Teachers might ask students to wear a hat for sun safety or to walk on concrete to prevent being hurt. Our peers often give us instructions as well, like asking for help with class work or guiding each other with daily school tasks.

To test how well we can follow instructions we blind folded students and lead them around the school grounds, keeping them safe from harm and danger. We had a lot of fun. Overall most students felt safe and trusted the instructions of their peers.

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**P & C News**

The next and final P & C Meeting for the year will be on the 7th December, we hope to see you all there. Bookpack Collection dates are the 18/19 January 2017 for those that have ordered them for the new year. Thankyou to all that helped out or supported the P&C this year.

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**Notices**

There will be No Homework club or Tuckshop this week Wednesday 7th December.

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**Humanities**

During this term Year 7 Geography studied the unit: Landforms and Landscapes. To end the term students made their own volcanoes, they had a lot of fun making them and being very creative. On our last Geography lesson we took them outside to watch them erupt. Well done Year 7

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**Home Economics**

The last few weeks of this term have been a busy one. The Year 9/10 Hospitality students did a wonderful job preparing food for Awards night, Teacher lunch, Year 10 Morning tea and Year 6 Morning tea. During this time some of the Year 8 students stepped up and helped out as well. Well done students, you worked hard and the food looked and tasted amazing. Year 8 had there Prac assessment for cooking, students had to make a breakfast wrap making sure they clean up as they go, aware of hygiene and presentation.