Dear Parents,

I look forward to working with you for another successful term in Blue Class. Breeanna Parker has joined our class this term and we welcome her to the school as well as the wider Cloncurry community. The year 4 assessment tasks for this term will include the completion of QCATs for English, Maths and Science.

Library borrowing will continue Mondays on a weekly basis. Homework this term will be allocated on a Monday and due on the Friday of the same week. It is expected that homework is neat, complete and handed in on time each week. I also strongly encourage students to attend homework classes and to change their library books and home readers regularly. Weekly spelling tests will take place each Friday.

Calling all parents, carers and family members, if you can help out with weekly reading groups this term, it would be greatly appreciated. Reading groups will take place on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays between 11:40am and 12:40pm, so if you can help out please let me know.

Mathematics

Problem solving and mental computation strategies will be a continued focus this term. We will be building on the fraction work we did in term one by investigating equivalent fractions, mixed numbers and improper fractions as well as counting by quarters, halves and thirds and locating and representing these fractions on number lines. Connections will be made between fractions and decimal notation. Tenths and hundredths will be introduced and explored as we delve into decimals. We will continue to work with numbers up to 5 digits in a range of situations. A variety of scaled instruments will be explored and used to measure capacity and length. We will continue to develop fast and accurate recall of multiplication facts as well as learn our related division facts.

English

In English this term we will be exploring a variety of traditional stories from different cultures. Folk tales, fairy-tales, fables and stories from the dreaming are all traditional stories. Students will be responding to comprehension questions relating to traditional stories focusing on language features, themes and messages in stories as well as working towards writing their own stories. If you have any traditional story books at home we would love to have a look at them, so don’t hesitate to send them in with your child to share with the class. Spelling will follow the same format as in Terms 1 and 2 whereby different spelling knowledges will be taught each week as outlined in the school spelling program. Contextual and personal spelling words will be taught at different intervals throughout the term.

Science

In science we will be examining the properties of familiar materials and considering the difference between natural and processed materials. We will be conducting investigations in order to understand the properties of fabrics, metals and plastics. Revision and consolidation of the topic of erosion will take place in order to prepare for our QCAT assessment task. We will consider how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples use natural materials and we will investigate Australian natural ochres as part of this assessment task.

SOSE

In SOSE this term we will be working from the time, continuity and change strand where we will be learning about the Olympic Games in both recent and ancient times. We are particularly excited about completing this unit as the London, 2012 Olympics are due to commence very shortly. I would encourage families to keep an eye out for Olympics media items in the newspaper or on television and to discuss these with your child. Later on in the term students will be required to choose and present an Olympics newspaper or internet article to rest of the class as an oral presentation.
Please stay tuned for Blue Class updates in the weekly newsletter. Your help providing a healthy lunch for your child and reminding your student to bring a broad-brimmed hat to school daily is also appreciated. I also strongly encourage students to bring a set of coloured textas and / or gel pens to school as we love to add colourful details and pretty designs to our school work (and Miss Madigan's pens are running out! 😊) If you have any queries or concerns, or can help out with reading groups please don't hesitate to contact me on the school phone number or via the email address below.

Yours in Education,

Katrina Madigan
Blue Class Teacher

kmadi3@eq.edu.au