Hello families, welcome to newsletter 3 and the halfway point of this term. I hope you have all been enjoying the rain? It certainly has cooled things down for us all. The school and staff have faced some challenges the past week, with lack of water and power, however, we are working towards repairing/replacing the school generator to minimise classroom disruption in the future.

Last week I spent some time in Toowoomba learning about the importance of oral language, phonemic awareness and reading in the early years and how these shape the future of a child’s school learning journey. We were also lucky enough to spend some time with our daughter Kaitlyn over the weekend. It was lovely to catch up but again sad to leave her behind. I can’t believe how much she has grown in five short weeks however boarding school is providing her with many amazing opportunities including gymnastics, swimming and violin. Paige has joined Dance West in Roma and is involved in Classical Ballet, Tap and Jazz.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Heather Crowther and Mrs Anna Sylvester for holding the fort while I was away. Also a big thanks to Nicole who ensures our classroom is looking spectacular every day ready for the students.

Leadership Ceremony: On Friday 23rd we are presenting our leaders with their leadership badges. This is an important part in their senior primary schooling years as they take on the responsibility of building strong community networks and represent our school across the many events that will occur throughout 2018. I hope to see you at the community Rec hall for a community BBQ from 4.00pm.

ARD visit: Mr Reid Thompson visited our school and was impressed by the manners, excitement and buzz around the classroom around learning. We discussed educational news and identified how to improve student outcomes relevant to our context.
**Camp:** Arcadia Valley State School will attend Mitchell 5th-9th March for a swim/arts camp. The children will engage in many activities and on the Thursday have been invited to Mitchell primary to watch the Commonwealth baton pass through. This is very exciting and ties in nicely with our Geography unit this term.

**Investing for Success:** Every year schools are allocated funding to lift student outcomes. This year funds have been allocated to building Mathematical reasoning skills, lifting NAPALAN results and creating opportunity for staff to attend professional development that helps build upon these strategies.

**Staffing:** We welcome Mrs Fiona Payne to our school on a casual teacher aide basis. Mrs Payne travels with Miss Murray from Injune on a Thursday and assists Miss Murray with the Preps. We welcome Mrs Deb Karger, who is our new grounds person and will undertake the roles and responsibilities of keeping our school grounds looking fabulous. Creating employment opportunities is an important part of building capabilities in our community and we welcome all new staff on board.

**Curriculum:** We have commenced our first group of assessment in Mathematics and English. All students have worked hard to improve on their final piece of comparing and analysing characters in a text. The Preps are still learning to talk about their “Favourite Story” and make a personal connection from a text. In Mathematics the Year 3/5/6 students have identified reasons why we collect data, how to interpret it and create meaningful results. We are currently focusing on chance and predictions of outcomes.

**Sports News:** Congratulations to Paige Emery who represented Arcadia Valley State School at the Roma Districts Swimming Trials, she qualified fastest in her heat and overall placed 5th fastest.
Leadership ceremony: Friday 23rd February.
Time 4.30pm/Place: Community Rec Hall.
Meat and a cake will be supplied by the school. We ask if any families may bring a salad to let the school know. Please RSVP to mreme0@eq.edu.au

CAMP: Please return all permission forms for Mitchell Arts/Swim camp by Friday 23/3.

Team Work: Students have been learning about UNITE. It helps build teamwork, self-confidence and encourages everyone to have a voice in a safe respectful environment.

Healthy Body, Healthy Minds.
Every morning 9–9.30 we will do some sort of fitness. It improves alertness, gets rid of any frustrations from the morning and gives students who may be running late not to miss learning time.

Homework Club
Every Tuesday 3pm-3.30 for those needing extra help for homework.

Afternoon Sports
Starting soon: After school sports on a fortnightly basis. 3pm-4pm at the school.

Show & tell
Will occur on a Friday
Week 2: Prep
Week 2: Year 3
Week 3: Year 5
Week 4: Year 6
Week 5: Prep
Week 6: Year 3
Week 7: Year 5
Week 8: Year 6