School News

Dear Parents / Caregivers,

It is that very busy time of year when school functions and activities are almost on a daily basis. I urge you to check the school calendar to make plans so that you are ready for everything that’s coming up. It is amazing how much we always seem to fit into the last half of Term 4!

Congratulations Mawarra Band

Last Saturday afternoon I was very proud to see such a dedicated professional band of musicians represent Mawarra at Light Up Camden. The band looked and sounded wonderful, only to be interrupted by a downpour. True professionals, they moved under cover and kept playing…… the downpour turned to torrential rain…… and they kept playing….. all while Mrs Reeves stood in the rain conducting…… and getting very, very wet.

A huge thank you to our performers, to Mrs Reeves, and to the parents and staff who turned out to support them.

Mr Scott’s Farewell

Mr Scott has asked for his farewell here at school to be on the same day as we farewell his class. This will be as a part of the ‘Final Year 6 Assembly’, which is to be held on Thursday 12th December from 11:15am. The Year 6 students will celebrate their year and time at Mawarra, followed by a celebration of Mr Scott’s time at Mawarra. Following the assembly, parents and community members are invited to stay for a morning tea with Mr Scott and Year 6.

Active After School Communities

Earlier this year Mawarra applied to be on the Commonwealth Government’s ‘Active After School Communities’ program, which provides after-school sporting and recreational activities run by qualified coaches, to promote healthy living and an active lifestyle. We have been notified that we have been approved as a venue next year, and will provide one afternoon for K-2 students and one afternoon for students in Years 3-6. Sessions will be free of charge and limited to 30 students each. This will be an exciting activity to add to school life at Mawarra. Further information, including which sports we will have in Term 1 next year, will be announced very early in the year.

Thanks to 3KB

Later in this newsletter Mrs Kynaston has written an article about the Eco-audit conducted at our school last week by 3KB. They did a fantastic job!! I ask parents to reflect on the findings about rubbish in this article and discuss the concept of ‘food waste’ with your children.

Light Up Mawarra!

On Wednesday 11th December, 2013 we are having our annual ‘Light up Mawarra’. Gates will be open from 5.30pm for a BYO picnic dinner and the items will begin from 6.00pm. We anticipate the night will end around 8.00pm. All children are encouraged to attend as they are involved in their stage item and many children are involved in items from the band, junior choir, dance group and more. It promises to be an outstanding night. Bring your picnic blanket and chairs to enjoy sharing the Christmas spirit with our school community.

Morning Tea Appreciation

We are in the process of sending out invitations to our annual helpers thank you morning tea. Schools are very busy places and would not be able to provide all the opportunities we do without the dedication and support of our parent and community helpers. From Multilit tutors to scripture teachers, classroom helpers to transport helpers, mowers to painters, A HUGE THANK YOU on behalf of the staff and children of our school.

A morning tea is only a small token to thank you for your efforts. It is always a possibility that someone has been overlooked, and if this has occurred, we apologise in advance, but please let us know.

In a way it is testament to how many helpers we actually have doing positive things in our school.

Classes for Next Year

Although I wrote the article about next year’s classes in last fortnight’s newsletter, a number of parents are still asking about who their child will have as a teacher next year. Unfortunately we cannot answer that question yet, as we do not even know if we will have 16 or 17 classes, being only a couple of students away from forming the next class. Also, we don’t yet know who will come in to replace Mr Scott, and we are still awaiting advice about how much staffing we might be entitled to under the new Department of Education funding model. With so many variables, it is almost impossible to form a clear picture of classes just yet.

Once again, parents can assist in three ways:

- If you know of a friend, family member or neighbour who will be applying to come to Mawarra next year, ask them to contact us now so that we can include them in our planning.
- If you will not be returning to Mawarra next year, let us know now to assist us with our planning.
- If you would like us to consider any special needs or exceptional circumstances (social / academic) when placing your child in a class next year, let us know well in advance so that this can be taken into account when forming classes. Don’t leave it until next year’s classes are announced, as it will be far more difficult and unlikely that they can be moved.

I hope you can understand the difficult position we are in.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming functions.

Final Gold/Silver Awards

Each year we have a ‘cut off date’ for trading towards silver and gold awards. This year the last day will be Monday 25th November, 2013. Certificates cannot be accepted after this date so that awards can be finalised and medallions engraved. Orders need to be placed with the engraver by next Thursday.

The gold medallion assembly will be held on Tuesday 10th December, 2013 at 9:30am, where the last certificates for the year

http://www.mawarra-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

Phone (02) 4658 0990

Fax. (02) 4658 0223
will be handed out, along with the gold medallions and other special awards.

I hope to see many of you there for this special occasion.

Mr P. Mallia
Principal

K-2 Social Dance
The K-2 Social dance will be held in the school hall, on Friday 6th December, 2013. Starting at 4.30pm and finishing at 6.00pm, cost will be $2. Children are to dress smart but comfortable.

Year 4 Camp
Just a reminder that the final payment for the year 4 camp to Teen Ranch is due next Friday 29th November, 2013. Payments can be made through the school’s online payment system or at the office. Camp will not accept children who have not paid in full. Students will be at camp from Wednesday 4th to Friday 6th December, 2013. All medical notes need to be returned to your child’s class teacher as soon as possible. Both this form and the packing list can be found on the school’s website. If you have any further queries about camp please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mrs D Cronshaw
Teacher/Librarian

Student News

Macarthur Enrichment day
On Tuesday 12th November, 2013 I had the privilege of taking ten students to Narellan P.S. for an enrichment day where the students competed against other schools with solving problems in mathematics, general knowledge, spelling, debating and trivia quiz. There was a final with the schools that scored the highest in all the activities. Both the Mawarra teams were in the final and both came equal second by one point.

Well done Maddie McPherson, Nathanael Miller, Alyssa Heyward, Makenzie Skinner, David Truong, Marcus Batissuzzi, Lachlan Taylor, Keziah Holderness, Libbi Kynaston and Adena Toribio
Special thanks to Mr. McPherson and Mrs Heyward for helping with transport.

Mrs K. Took

Talent Show and Year 6 Fun Day
Last Friday, Year 6 entertained the whole school with a variety of acts for the Annual Talent Show. This is part of their fundraising for the school. The students did a great job writing their own scripts, creating music videos, organising their music and their own acts. The show went on with a few tiny hitches but considering they had no rehearsal I feel they did exceptionally well. We raised $275.
Congratulations to all involved. We had a very entertaining afternoon.

The Year 6 Fun day is on next Friday. The students have been busy preparing and it should be a fun and productive day. We have been discussing what to purchase for the school and we have a few surprises.

Mrs K. Took and Mrs Ruscoe
Year 6

Mawarra Movers
Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Responsible and Be a Learner
We are getting close to the end of term and our ‘Club Zero’ celebration. Most children are on track to be part of this day. Please continue discussing the four Mawarra Movers principles and expected behaviour with your children.

Student Welfare Committee

School Banking
Time to Trade in your Tokens for a Reward
If you have been saving this year with School Banking and collecting your silver dollarmite tokens, then now is the time to redeem them for a reward before you miss out. You need to use your tokens before the end of Term 4 as you will not be able to use them next year.

3KB Eco School Audit
On Monday 11th November, 2013 all students from 3KB conducted an Eco School Audit at Mawarra Public School. We were ably assisted by Mr Trench, Mr Matthews and Mrs Kay from the Environmental Education Centre. The purpose of the Eco School Audit is to collect data about the water, electricity, bio-diversity, litter and waste in our school and develop strategies to reduce expenses and increase our ability to re-use and re-cycle wherever possible.

Students became Eco scientists for the day. They worked in teams to count, tally, measure and record information. Each group was given a designated area on the school map which they had to explore and record their findings.

One group focused on water. They counted all the toilets, taps and bubblers in the whole school and then measured and timed any leaks they found. Mr Trench commented that 3KB are the only students he has ever worked with who correctly timed the leaks. Our stop watch and instruction following skills are awesome! This information was then collated and recorded into a spreadsheet by the students. As a whole class we then did a lot of real life maths to determine how much water is leaking each minute, each hour, each day, each week. We are happy to report we have little or no water leakage.

One group focused on electricity. They counted all the lights, appliances, computers and any equipment that used electricity. We also measured the luminescence of the lights in each classroom. We then entered this data into a spreadsheet and calculated our kWh usage for each appliance for each day it is used. Again as a whole class we used real life maths to make these calculations. Our calculations are ongoing as we continue to research the amount of kWh used by some appliances.

Another group focused on bio-diversity. Students counted and mapped the different types of vegetation we have around our school. These results were then recorded onto a master map. We will use this information when Mr Trench returns later in the term to assist use with a bio-diversity study on the different animals we have in the playground at school. We also filmed some of our process on GoPro cameras which the Environmental Education centre hope to use to teach other schools how to conduct an Eco Audit.

We all participated in a litter audit and are happy to report that minimal litter was found in the playground. Clearly our policy of sitting down to eat in the bottom cola area of the playground is also reducing the litter in our school. Also the students are litter wise and generally place all rubbish in the bin so well done Mawarra!
On Tuesday the whole class had the great pleasure of sorting through all school rubbish that was collected in one day. While it was at times yucky and smelly and high on the gross factor scale, we made some great discoveries. We found that the majority of the rubbish was from plastic wrapping and packaging. We are confident we can put some initiatives in place to reduce this in 2014.

We also found that there is an enormous amount of wasted food. Food that does not get eaten, but is placed directly into the bin. We discovered that Kindergarten waste little or no food – so well done Kindergarten! Unfortunately we learnt that Year 5 & 6 students waste quite a bit of food. We are confident that we can encourage them to eat the lunches they are sent to school with or at least take them home so parents know they are not eating.

We also found items in the rubbish that could be recycled or composted, so again we are confident we can put in place some recycling and compost bins so the children can learn these lifelong habits of reduce and recycle.

We are currently in the process of collating all our data and findings to present to Mr Mallia with some future action plan ideas for 2014. Special thanks must go to the students of 3KB for working so diligently and scientifically and overcoming the gross factor in rubbish sorting to find all this important information that will help our school become more sustainable.

Eco – School Committee
Mrs S. Kynaston, Mrs T. Beauchamp & Mrs K. Took

**Live Life Well**

*How Much Fruit and Vegetables do children need*

We are encouraged to go for 2 fruit and 5 vegetables every day. The amount children should eat depends on their, age, appetite and activity levels. With the emphasis on ‘Go for’ it is valuable if children learn they should be aiming to eat 2 serves of fruit and 5 serves of vegetables every day. The emphasis in education should be on eating a variety of fruit and vegetables (including raw, cooked and different colours). This provides a wide range of nutrients.

The Australian Guide to Healthy Eating recommends that children and adolescents eat the following number of serves of fruit and vegetables per day.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age of child (yrs)</th>
<th>Fruit (serves)</th>
<th>Vegetables (serves)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4-7</td>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>2-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-11</td>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>3-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-18</td>
<td>3-4</td>
<td>4-9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Live Life Well Coordinators
Sharon Kynaston & Narelle Scott

**P&C News**

**P&C Mowing Roster**

The next mowing day will be on Saturday 30th November, 2013. The following parents rostered for the this day include: Greg Mottram, Deborah Warr, Greg Whitleaw, Anthony Seymour, Rick Grubisa, John Whatmough and Dennis Eagles (Coordinator).

**School Uniforms**

The Uniform Shop now has EFTPOS. There will be a surcharge of 1.5% on VISA/Mastercard Transactions. 

EFTPOS & Pre 2014 Sale – 5% off Uniforms for next year. Why not start organising your child’s uniform for next year NOW.

If you are worried your child will have a growth spurt, there’s no need to be, as long as you keep the tags on and keep your invoice we will be able to exchange next year.

Opening Times for the holidays will be in next newsletter.

**PRE LOVED UNIFORMS –**

Quality preloved summer uniforms are available at very low prices at the school uniform shop. The uniform shop also has a layby service; you just need to pay a 20% deposit and regular payments. No Cash refunds will be given, Credit only and Returns must accompany a receipt.

**Trading Hours Are –**

Monday, Wednesday & Friday Mornings 8.30am – 9.15am
& Monday & Wednesday Afternoons 2.30pm – 3.15pm.

If you have any enquiries please call Brooke on 0411 957 716.

**Library News**

**Overdue Library Books**

Class borrowing has finished for the year. There are still some children who have overdue library books. If your child has an overdue book could you please have a look for it and return it to school as we are beginning our stock take soon.

**Second Hand Book Sale**

Thank you for the wonderful support with the second hand book sale. It was a great success raising just over $400.00. I will be using this money to buy replacement books and texts to support the new English syllabus. Any books that were left over have been boxed and will be sent to Cobbitty School, who are supporting a school in Cambodia.

Mrs D. Cronshaw
Teacher / Librarian

**Canteen News**

The canteen will be open between 5.00 – 7.00pm for ‘Light up Mawarra’ on Wednesday 11th December, 2013 to sell drinks, chips, ice-creams and tea and coffee. (No hot food).

Enquiries – Emma 0414528959.

**Upcoming Events**

Monday 18/11/13 – 29/11/13
*Swimming School

Monday 25/11/13
*Last day for trading of awards

Friday 29/11/13
*Yr 6 Fun Day

Wednesday 4/12/13 – Friday 6/12/13
*Yr 4 Teen Ranch Camp

www.mawarra-p.schools.nsw.edu.au  mawarra-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Phone (02) 4658 0990            Fax. (02) 4658 0223