School News

Dear Parents / Caregivers,

As another year draws to a close I would like to thank you for your participation and support of Mawarra and your child’s education. Our school is lucky enough to have parents, family members and other community members who volunteer in our classrooms and with special programs, help as sporting coaches, become weekend lawnmowers and gardeners, successful fundraisers, and helpers in so many other forms. Without you Mawarra would not have been able to do what we have done this year. Thank you!

Gold Medallion and Presentation Assembly

What a wonderful assembly last Tuesday, where we congratulated our award winners and the students who were elected to represent the students on the SRC next year.

School Captains for 2014: Sarah Howlett & Lachlan Taylor
Vice Captains: Monique Munro & Oliver McDonald

Councillors: Emily Buttifant Libbi Kynaston Marcus Battistuzzi James Whithurn Brooke Holman Gabby Bradley Caitlin Falk Hailee Wright Nick Zelesco

Gold Medallions: Georgia Cunnion Libbi Kynaston Cassandra McMurdo Hannah Morecroft Taylor Churchin Ivy Maglis Adena Toribio Jamie Warwick

This year at our Gold Medalion and Presentation Assembly, we also added some new perpetual trophies to recognise consistent long term commitment and achievement.

Congratulations to:
Sportsperson of the Year: Lachlan Roberts
Public Speaking / Debating Award: Georgia Cunnion
Attitude and Application Award: Allysia Heyward

Light Up Mawarra

What a fantastic community event!! Last Wednesday night the feel at Mawarra was one of real community. It was lovely to see families on picnic blankets and camping chairs, children shining in their performances, Santa visiting, and everyone having a good time. It’s nights like this that make Mawarra a special place. Thank you to the children for their wonderful performances and to the parents for being a great audience.

Classes for 2014

At this stage we are not able to announce classes for 2014. As I have said in the last two newsletters, we are extremely close to forming our 17th class; in fact, we have just enough children. If however, just a couple of students leave during the break, we will be in 16 classes next year, as we have now.

These two options look very different and we would not like to announce next year’s classes then have students disappointed when they return next year to find the situation changed due to numbers. I hope you understand the difficult situation we are in. When the year begins, students will remain in their 2013 classes for a couple of days until we have a clear picture of our numbers.


Next year we will once again be a part of Camden’s Australia Day celebrations!!!!

Children who wish to participate need to be dressed in their full summer school uniform, with a hat, and will walk behind the Mawarra school banner in the parade. If they have a small Australian flag, they can also carry it in the parade. Mrs Cronshaw and myself will be walking with the students. (Last year was quite hot so a drink bottle may be a good idea)

Students who wish to participate are to meet near the Mawarra banner at 10:30am, near the Cawdor Road entry to Camden Showground, (not the main entrance). Mrs Cronshaw and I will stay with students at the conclusion of the parade near the intersection of Elizabeth Street and Argyle Street until they are collected by parents.

School Development Days Thursday 19th & Friday 20th December, 2013

Once students finish school today, the staff will be adding to their own ongoing professional development on Thursday and Friday. This will include further sessions on “Focus on Reading” and the introduction of the new English Syllabus. We will also look at MULTILit and MINILit, two of our support programs, and work on a number of student welfare issues.

All of these will add to the quality of teaching we provide here at Mawarra in 2014.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and safe new year with your families. I look forward to working with you all once again in 2014 at this very special school.

Mr Paul Mallia
Principal

K-2 Social Dance

Thank you to all the parents who were able to bring their children back to school to participate in our K-2 Social dance last Friday. Everyone had a wonderful afternoon and the children’s behaviour and dancing skills were fantastic.

The teachers were very pleased and proud with the entire afternoon. Mrs Steinweiss, Mrs Napoleon, Miss Wallace, Mrs Hume, Mrs Kidd, Mrs Harloff, Mrs Rampe, Mrs Fairweather, Mrs Morley, Mrs Hordern and Mrs Took.

Student News

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Phone (02) 4658 0990 Fax. (02) 4658 0223
Mawarra Movers
Our final ‘Club Zero’ was held last Friday with over 95% of students able to attend. We have been thrilled this year with the positive response from students and feel this is in no small part due to having 4 smaller celebrations at the end of each term. I would like to thank all the parents for their ongoing support of our Mawarra Movers Program and look forward to its continued success next year.

Mrs Dianne Crosslaw
Student Welfare Committee

School Band 2013
After losing half the band to high school last year, this year we have been rebuilding. It has been a very successful year and the Band has exceeded my expectations. Each member is to be congratulated for their commitment and achievement. 2014 is looking to be a very promising one for Band.
Thank you to all the wonderful, supportive parents. I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a great holiday.

AMEB Exams
Each year we have students sitting for these external music exams. The students I know of are; Sarah Howlett – Grade 2 Clarinet, result A. This is amazing as Sarah plays Saxophone in Band. Amelia Wood – Grade 1 Piano, result C. Amelia plays clarinet in Band. Another clever girl who has mastered two instruments. Libbi Kynaston – Grade 3 Flute, Chenoa Brimble – Grade 3 Flute. These girls are still awaiting their results. Congratulations for the extra commitment required to sit for these difficult exams at this busy time of year.
Well done!

Mrs B. Reeves

3KB Excursion to Elderslie High School
On Wednesday 20th November 2013 students from 3KB visited Elderslie High School to complete a tour of their Agriculture area.
We were met by Ms Megan Atkinson the High School Agriculture teacher and some of her year 7 Agriculture students.
The children were put into groups and were able to explore everything with their own special helpers. This was an excellent way to get up close to all the different animals that are part of the Elderslie High School Agriculture program.
Students really liked grooming the pony and leading the pony and making it jump over the pole on the ground. Some of them absolutely loved holding the new baby chickens – they even went to sleep in our hands. Patting the soft fur of the rabbits and leading the calves was terrific.
We thought the sustainable duck pond area was amazing and the ducks were so cute. George the sheep was lots of fun and really liked being patted. The goats Billy and Bobby were very shy and the cows were enormous.
We took particular interest in looking at all the different chickens Elderslie High have. We are hoping to get our own chickens next year and we learnt a lot about all the things they need to be healthy and happy.
We were very impressed with the layout of Elderslie’s Agriculture area and with the extensive knowledge each of our group leaders had about all the animals. We even got to feed one week old baby goats.
All the children in 3KB agreed that they all want to do Agriculture as a subject when they get to Elderslie High School, but the quote of the day belongs to Kyle Ritchie who said:
“This was the best day of my whole life this year!”
We agree Kyle, it was one of our best days. Many thanks to Ms Atkinson and her helpers who gave up their afternoon time to show us around. We have written thank you letters to Ms Atkinson and the High School to show our appreciation. There are lots of great photos to be viewed on the website.

School Performance at Bunnings
On Thursday 5th December, 2013 our students were invited to be part of Bunnings Family Night. The evening opened with a performance from our year 6 Boomwhacker group led by Mrs Took.
The children entertained the crowd tapping out various rhythms to an African Christmas carol. The senior dance group performed two fantastic dances; “Can You Feel It?” and “Roar”. Certainly entertaining the crowd their choreography and enthusiasm. It was terrific to see so many senior students take part in this event.
Well done to all our fantastic performers. We were all very proud of you. Thank you to all the families who took time from their busy schedule to support the school.
A very special ‘Thank you’ to Mrs Fairweather and Mrs Took, for giving up their time to work with the students and also for their support at the performance.
We really appreciated the invitation from Jo Ann Gibbs, Narellan Bunnings Activity Organiser, to be part of this community event. Any opportunity to showcase the talents of our students is welcome.
Through collaboration with Bunnings, Mawarra has received a donation of a water pump that will be used on the water tank near the year 3 classrooms. This will allow us to use the water that is collected to irrigate our vegetable gardens. Bunnings is also supplying materials that we need for the installation of this irrigation system. Valuable contributions from organisations such as Bunnings, allow us to implement effective programs for our students to be involved in.

School Banking
Thank you to all those students who have banked with us this year.
We will resume banking in 2014 on Wednesday 5th February, 2014.

Silver/Gold Awards
Congratulations to the following students, who received their silver/gold awards at the Gold Medallion assembly, held on Tuesday 10th December, 2013.

9/12/13
SILVER
Indiana Lee 1K
Samuel Gelder 2/3H

Can You Help?
Are there any children in 2014 that will be walking from Mawarra Primary School to Elderslie High School, to meet older siblings? If the answer is “yes”, please call Megan Miller on 0400 829 607 so that we may arrange for my child to walk with yours for company.
Thank you.

Sports News
A huge thank you to the Hay family for donating the soccer equipment to the school. It is very much appreciated.

Mrs N Scott
Sports Coordinator

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P&C News

School Uniforms

Uniform Shop will be open on the following days in the school holidays.

**Tuesday – 21st January, 2014 @ 10.00am to 12noon**
**Thursday – 23rd January, 2014 @ 10.00am to 12noon**
**Tuesday – 28th January, 2014 @ 10.00am to 12noon**

Entry to the school will be via the Merriman Close entrance.

Community News

Creative Camden Holiday Program

Camden Council are offering creative events throughout the holidays at Narellan Library. Information flyers for the Creative Camden Holiday Program are also available from the school office.

REGISTER ON NRL

January Holiday Clinic Picton on the 21st January, 2014. For boys and girls between the ages of 5 and 16. Cost is $25. All participants will receive a football, drink bottle and boot bag as well as lunch. All Group 6 JRL clubs will be there taking registrations for the upcoming season on the day.

For more information please contact Scott Borg NRL Game Development on 0409 814 873 or e mail sborg@nrl.com.au

Please follow the link to register.

Register online at - www.sydneywestdevelopment.leaguenet.com.au

Orienteering During School Holidays

It’s part fun run, part treasure hunt, part amazing race… and you’ll explore parts of the Macarthur area you never knew existed!

- Bring the family, bring a buddy, or go solo. Go at your own pace.
- Navigation is easy – if you can read a street directory you can do it.
- Beginners are always welcome and receive basic coaching as part of their entry fee.

Format: (i) choose from a ‘score’ course of about 6km (get to as many checkpoints as you can in 30 minutes), or
(ii) a short ‘line’ course (set order) of about 2km suited to anyone out for a stroll.

Start: Registration is from 5pm, with starts between 5.30pm and 6.30pm.

Cost: $12. ONSW club members $8.

Series organiser: Lyn Malmgron 0414 397 584

Narellan Anglican Church

“Welcome to Christmas”, hosted by Narellan Anglican Church, is the opportunity to experience what life was like in the time Jesus was born. It includes a Bethlehem walk, farm animals, games and a café. Join us for this fun family event on Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd December, 2013 5.30pm - 8.30pm at 172 Richardson Rd, Narellan. Further details call 4647 2195. Free admission.

Upcoming Events

- **Wednesday 18/12/13**
  *Last day of term for Students*
- **Thursday 19/12/13**
  *Staff Development day*
- **Friday 20/12/13**
  *Staff development day*

2014

**Tuesday 28/1/14**
*Staff development day*

**Wednesday 29/1/14**
*Students return to school*

**Monday 3/2/14**
*Kindergarten start*

**Wednesday 19/2/14**
*Swimming Carnival*

**Thursday 27th & Friday 28th February 2014**
*Zone Swimming Carnival*