School News

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

What a mess! The building works have certainly changed the look of the school, but it will all be worth it in the end. Ramps between all the blocks and into rooms, as well as the covering of the dish drains around much of the school are works that will make huge improvements.

I have ensured that all noisy work ceases when the morning bell rings, and is only allowed again during the lunch break. The builder assures me that the majority of major work will be completed during the next week, with all the hand rails being installed in a few weeks, once they are manufactured to fit the slope of the concrete.

All attempts are being made to minimise the impact on the students’ learning.

In a different building project, our new demountable classroom for 2P should arrive late this week or early next week. Hopefully 2P will move in to their new home before the next newsletter.

New Assistant Principal

I am pleased to be able to inform you that our new Year 5 class teacher, and Mawarra’s new Assistant Principal, is Mr David Kidd.

Mr Kidd taught at Mawarra for several years, and was a Relieving Assistant Principal here on many occasions before earning a promotion to the position of Assistant Principal at Narellan Public School.

Mr Kidd was successful at interview here at Mawarra last week and has now been appointed as our Assistant Principal. Mr Kidd brings many skills and much experience to Mawarra, where he will look after Stage 3, as Mr Scott did.

I am sure you will find him most professional and approachable, and welcome him to the Mawarra community.

Class Structure

After reaching the numbers to form our 17th class, we have been able to structure classes across the school so that we have all straight classes and no composites.

The following is a list of our 2014 staff:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4KN</td>
<td>Mrs Sharon Kynaston (M/T/F)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4SR</td>
<td>Mrs Narelle Scott/Mrs Margaret Ruscoe (Wed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5S</td>
<td>Mrs Robyn Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5K</td>
<td>Mr David Kidd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6T</td>
<td>Mrs Kristina Took</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6K</td>
<td>Mrs Leigh Kidd</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Support Staff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teacher/Librarian</td>
<td>Mrs Dianne Cronshaw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Release Teachers</td>
<td>Mrs Vicky Steinweiss, Mrs Dianne Cronshaw, Mrs Margaret Ruscoe, Mrs Barbara Reeves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mr Paul Morrison, Mrs Jennifer Noakes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning Support</td>
<td>Mrs Sue Trenfield, Mrs Vicky Steinweiss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mrs Margaret Ruscoe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Recovery</td>
<td>Mrs Vicky Steinweiss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Counsellor</td>
<td>Mrs Judith Evans</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Administration Staff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Senior Admin Manager</td>
<td>Mrs Chris O’Gradey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Admin Officers</td>
<td>Mrs Jenny Rhodes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mrs Lisa Scaife</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Assistant</td>
<td>Mr Dennis Eagles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Learning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support Officers</td>
<td>Mrs Michelle Gimson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mrs Christine Mazurkiewicz</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Meet the Teacher Nights

A note has gone home with the times for this year’s Meet the Teacher Nights, to be held next week. These nights are meant to be informative sessions about the upcoming year, rather than to discuss individual students’ progress. The dates and times are:

- **Monday 17th February, 2014 at 5.30pm** - All Year 3 & Year 4 classes
- **Monday 17th February, 2014 at 6.30pm** - All Year 5 & Year 6 classes (followed by P&C meeting at 7:30pm for those who would like to attend)
- **Tuesday 18th February, 2014 at 6:00pm** – All Year 1 & Year 2 classes

Returning Notes

Just a reminder at the beginning of another year about how important it is for parents to return notes or payments for school events by the due date. This date is clearly marked on all notes and students are reminded as events draw closer. It puts the school in a very difficult position when we have an influx of money and notes on the morning of an excursion, when numbers, bookings, buses and supervision arrangements have already been organised. Sometimes we just cannot just ‘add another child’ on the morning.

Any cases of financial hardship can be overcome with a call to the office, and in these cases arrangements can easily be made, prior to the day. We really don’t like any child to miss out.
Peanut Allergy
At Mawarra Public School we have a few students who have an allergy to peanut products. Eating, touching, smelling or close physical contact with someone who has had contact with these foods can cause a fatal reaction.

In view of this condition, we are asking you to support our efforts to care for the affected student by choosing safe food items and spreads when making your child’s lunch and recess. While we cannot ‘ban’ peanut products, we ask that peanut butter spreads, peanut biscuits, cakes with peanuts, peanut butter cracker dips or nutella be replaced with other alternatives.

We also ask for your assistance in talking to your children about the importance of not sharing food or making close physical contact, especially if peanut products have been consumed or touched before school.

We are proud of the supportive spirit of our community and are confident that we can work together to provide a safe caring school environment for all our students.

Thank you for your support. If you require any further information, please contact the school.

Mr Paul Mallia
Principal

School News

Disposal of old walkways
In preparing the space for the chicken enclosure near the school veggie patch, we had to move the metal that used to make up the old walkway to the demountables. Much of this material is damaged, rusted, and most likely unable to be reused again around the school.

If anyone would like to make an offer on the material, please make an offer in writing by next Friday, 21st February, 2014 and submit it to the office. (This is a DEC requirement when disposing of school resources). The materials need to be removed from the school at the successful bidder’s cost.

Triple P Parenting Sessions
A reminder that Ruth Walters from Families NSW has agreed to come back to Mawarra this year and run the “Group Triple P Program”, a series of five very worthwhile sessions to assist parents in understanding their children and how to best deal with their development.

The program will be FREE and will be held on five consecutive Tuesday nights beginning Tuesday night 25th February, 2014 in the school Library, from 7:00pm. If you are interested in attending, please contact the school office and register. Numbers in the group sessions are limited so please respond as soon as possible.

Impetigo (school sores)
A case of impetigo (school sores) has been diagnosed in the school. Symptoms include small red spots which change into blisters, usually on face or hands. A child should be kept home until treatment starts and sores are covered with a watertight dressing.

Library News

Library borrowing will commence next week. All children K – 4 must have a library bag to borrow. I have some plastic shopping bags children can use but donations of more bags are always welcome. Soon I will need parents to cover new books with contact. This can be done at home. If you are able to help please pop into the library to see me or send a note with your child.

Mrs Dianne Cronshaw
Teacher/Librarian

Sport News

Congratulations to the following students for being elected House Captain or House Vice Captain for 2014.

House Captains
Kirkham – Caitlyn Cheshire, Riley Curnoe
Denbigh – Jorja Isherwood, Chad Landouw
Camelot – Sophie Fauvarque, Brandon Savage
Wivenhoe – Chenoa Brimble, Cameron Ryan

House Vice Captains
Kirkham – Sarah Jenkins, Jared Presland
Denbigh – Adam Talbot, Jordan Roffe
Camelot – Cassandra McMurdo, Brady Meisenhofen
Wivenhoe – Erin Holman, Lachlan Burrows

Student Welfare
At the end of last year we asked parents to fill in a Discipline and Reward System survey. The results of these have been collated and we have found there were a number of areas which parents weren’t aware of or didn’t understand how they worked. Through our newsletters we will address these areas and hopefully make areas of our Discipline and Reward System more understandable.

Minis and other Rewards
Minis are earned at class level and are given by the class teachers. This can be for a range of reasons and do differ from grade to grade depending on the age and needs of the children. For example a kindy child may earn a mini by consistently putting up their hand to speak rather than calling out, where a primary child may earn a mini for the constant completion of homework, home reading or completing a project. Gala Day sports awards and Report awards are equal to a mini.

Merit and Principal Awards are handed out at assemblies. These are earned for a specific reason, which is written on the award. Minis and Merits are not recorded at school level. It is the responsibility of the child and their family to keep these in a safe place at home.

When a child earns 5 minis they return them to school and give them to the child’s name and class (a letter box is situated in the school office). 5 minis are then traded for a merit which is given out at Friday assemblies. Similarly 5 merits can be traded for a Silver award and 5 Silvers can be traded for a Gold award. Silver and Gold awards are given out at whole school assemblies usually held in the middle and end of each term. Silver and Gold awards are recorded and tracked by the school. Earning and receiving awards is ongoing.
throughout the child’s time at Mawarra. An “average” child could earn their first gold award between years 2 – 4. Earning a second gold, and thus a gold medallion, can occur late in primary and is usually only achieved by a small number of students. A gold medallion is a culmination of all awards earned from Kindergarten.

We have had a great start to the year with all children remaining on Level Zero. The children need to be congratulated for their efforts and I would like to thank the parents for their ongoing support.

The Mawarra Movers Positive Behaviour Program will be focusing on the following behaviours over the next two weeks: “Use the toilets at recess and lunchtime” and “Care for the school environment.” Please discuss and reinforce these with your child at home.

Student Welfare Committee

Staff Parking Only
The staff parking area is for STAFF ONLY during the hours of 8:00 am – 4.00 pm.
In recent times a number of parents have ignored the sign at the front of the school.
For safety reasons we ask parents to support this request.
No cars are to be parked in the loading zone at any time.

P&C News

First P&C Meeting
The school’s P&C Association meets on the third Monday of each month. The first meeting of the year will therefore be held on Monday night 17th February, 2014 in the School’s Library, beginning at 7:30pm.

Mr Paul Mallia
Principal

Community News

Hockey for 2014
Harrington Park Hockey Club, the Hurricanes is looking for new players and their families to come and play hockey for the 2014 season. All players, new and experienced are welcome.
Registration days are:
Saturday 15th February, 2014 10:00am to 2:00pm at Narellan Town Centres as well as a “Come and Try Hockey Day” from 3:00pm to 5:00pm at Narellan Hockey Fields, Millwood Ave, Narellan.
For more details contact Sandy Parker: 0408 483 743 or see the website: www.harringtonparkhockeyclub.com.au

Macarthur Skylarks Hockey Club
Do you like to play Hockey? Then come along to our ‘Come and try afternoons’. If you join our great club all new players U9 receive a free starter kit. Juniors receive a starter kit for $40. (starter kit includes stick, ball, bag and shin pads). For more information please pick up a flyer from the school office front desk.

Campbelltown PCYC
Please find the following activities held at the PCYC in Minto. Some activities include junior boxing, gymnastics, taekwondo, archery, netball, etc. For more information please visit website: www.pcycnsw.org.au/campbelltown or phone: 9603 8229.

Macarthur School of Physical Culture
Opening on Monday nights starting 10th March, 2014. at Centre Stage Dance Studio, Unit 6,3 Yarmouth Place, Narellan, NSW, 2567
Register your interest online/phone/email to receive opening schedule and venue updates.

Upcoming Events

Monday 17/2/14
*Multilit Refresher training 9.00am-10.00am in hall
*P&C Meeting at 7.30pm in Library

Tuesday 18/2/14
*Captain Induction Assembly 9.30am

Wednesday 19/2/14
*School Swimming Carnival

Friday 21/2/14
*Textbook orders due

Monday 24/2/14
*Multilit training for new volunteers 9.00am-10.00am in hall

Starting Tuesday 25/2/14
*PPP Parent Workshop at 7.00pm in Library

Thursday 27/2/14
*Zone Swimming Carnival

Friday 28/2/14
*Zone Swimming Carnival