School News

Dear Parents / Carers,

It has been a busy start to the term, but with the building works now all behind us and all areas now open, it seems so much more settled than the beginning of Term 1.

I hope all the mums had a great Mothers’ Day on Sunday. A huge thank you to the large group of parents who assisted at the very successful Mother’s Day Stall last week.

Gala Days/Athletics Carnival

The term calendar that went out at the beginning of the term had the set dates for our gala days and athletics carnival. Unfortunately, we have been informed that Onslow Oval was so badly affected by Camden Show that the grounds will be unusable until September. The local PSSA, Council and local schools are busily trying to find alternative venues and dates for gala days and athletics carnivals. Please note that there will be changes to the planned dates. We will keep you informed as soon as we know the details.

Rugby League Knockout

Next week Mawarra will enter a junior and senior team into the local Razorback All Schools rugby league knockout competition. Best wishes to our boys for the day and many thanks to our trained coaches, Mr Redman and Scott Borg from Country Rugby League, who are assisting Mr Kidd with the training of the teams.

Canteen Licence Renewal

As the licence agreement for our current canteen draws to an end at the conclusion of Term 2, we are currently beginning the tendering process for the new licence to be set up. Advertisements for the tendering process will appear in local papers over the coming weeks.

NAPLAN

Students in Year 3 and Year 5 completed their NAPLAN tests over the past three days. This national test is just one measure of a student’s progress. Results will return to the school much later in the year for distribution to parents.

Asthma

This week staff did a refresher course regarding symptoms and management of asthma. It is timely to remind parents that students with asthma should carry their puffer, if required, with them every day at school. There should also be a puffer, (within use-by date), left in their classroom. Students who have an asthma plan should have this reviewed by their doctor regularly.

Uniforms

Traditionally, Week 3 of this term is the time when all students should be wearing their winter uniform. Please be aware that students take their jackets off as the day warms and the number of jackets in lost property, without names, is growing. Could you please help by clearly marking your child’s name inside their jacket so that lost ones can easily be returned.

Mr Paul Mallia
Principal

Student News

Class Captains for Term 2, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Captains</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KJ</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ella Malcolm &amp; Ashton Gittoes</td>
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<tr>
<td>KN</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mikayla Whitelaw &amp; Jayden Rawlings</td>
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<tr>
<td>KR</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mackenzie Begman &amp; Joel Uljanic</td>
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<td>1D</td>
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<td>Ella Dunford &amp; Haddon Palmer</td>
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<td>1F</td>
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<td>Reese West &amp; Max Soire</td>
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<td>1H</td>
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<td>Lilly Ockers &amp; Caleb Gasgoigne</td>
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<td>2B</td>
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<td>Makayla Crick &amp; Lachlan Dooner</td>
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<td>2P</td>
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<td>Indianna Burgess &amp; Joshua Attard</td>
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<td>2W</td>
<td></td>
<td>Felicity Day &amp; Xavier Laundess</td>
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<td>3B</td>
<td></td>
<td>Isabella Newton &amp; Cooper West</td>
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<tr>
<td>3H</td>
<td></td>
<td>Leticia Toribio &amp; Jacob Darby</td>
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<tr>
<td>4KN</td>
<td></td>
<td>Leah Maglis &amp; Matthew Howlett</td>
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<tr>
<td>4SR</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sharmini Chelvanayagam &amp; Sam Warwick</td>
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<tr>
<td>5K</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lucy Wood &amp; Matthew Greene</td>
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<tr>
<td>5S</td>
<td></td>
<td>Liorah Miller &amp; Charlie Redman</td>
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<tr>
<td>6K</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ella Day-Johnson &amp; Travis Rae</td>
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<td>6T</td>
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<td>Brooke Holman &amp; Nicholas Zelesco</td>
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Chess Club at Mawarra

It gives me great pleasure to announce that a Chess Club will be starting shortly at Mawarra. Initially this club will be available to Year 5 and 6 students only. It is expected that this club, once established, will include younger students. Chess Club will meet each Tuesday at lunch time in the library. The students will be supervised by Mrs Noakes.

If you are a year 5 or year 6 student who is interested in chess, whether you are new to chess or an experienced player, please lodge your interest with Mrs Noakes.

If you are a parent or grandparent who has an interest in chess and would like to support the students of Mawarra each Tuesday, to learn more about chess, please contact Mrs Noakes.

I look forward to updating you on the progress of Mawarra’s first Chess Club.

Mrs Noakes

What Matters 2014 Writing Competition

The 2014 ‘What Matters’ Competition is presented by the Whitlam Institute within the University of Western Sydney. It is a competition designed to encourage school children, (Years 5 to 12), to reflect on what is important to them.

www.mawarra-p.schools.nsw.edu.au  mawarra-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Phone (02) 4658 0990    Fax. (02) 4658 0223
The following Year 5 and Year 6 students entered the 2014 ‘What Matters’ Writing Competition.

**Year 6**
- David Truong – Saving The Environment
- Gabrielle Bradley – Weeping For Whales

**Year 5**
- Alexia Davidge – Books, Family and Pets
- Stephanie Fiorentino – Kids Should Daydream
- Molly Skinner – Animals Habitat
- Charlotte Mottram – Animal Extinction
- Abby Reid – Helping The Poor
- Abby Lenard – The Soccer Star
- Tori Marchiori – Family

Each of these entrants will receive a ‘Certificate of Participation’ from the Whitlam Institute at the University of Western Sydney. The overall What Matters 2014 category WINNER will receive $350 and will attend a full-day creative writing workshop conducted by Bernard Cohen. The category runner-up will receive $200. The overall competition winner (Year 5 to Year 12), will receive an iPad.

I commend each of the students listed above and look forward to advising you of the outcome.

Jennifer Noakes, Sharon Kynaston and Judith Evans
The Enrichment Team

**Student Welfare**

**Club Zero**
For the next fortnight our Mawarra Movers focus will be on “The Toilets”. Many children like to play in and around the toilets and as most of our toilets are not in direct view from the playground and where the teachers are on duty this can prove to be dangerous. Please discuss with the children to use the toilets for their intended purpose and not as a play area.

**Live Life Well @ School**

Why is breakfast important?
- children who miss breakfast are often reported as having poor behaviour and poor concentration
- children who miss breakfast are often unable to meet their daily nutrient requirements
- children who miss breakfast are more likely to have a greater risk of being overweight or obese
- eating breakfast helps children learn and establish healthy eating habits early in life.

Live Life Well Coordinators
Sharon Kynaston & Narelle Scott

**Library News**

Thank you to the parents who sent in spare plastic bags. This allows more children to borrow each week.

**Premier’s Reading Challenge**
It’s not too late for children in yrs 3-6 to register for the Premier’s Reading Challenge. Students must go online to register and log in to the books they have read. Please go to the following website: www.premiersreadingchallenge.nsw.edu.au

Students use their school username and password to log into the site and enter the details of the books they have read. Premier’s Reading Challenge books are kept in special containers in the library making it easier for children to find and borrow these books, however many lexile books and other books in the library are also Premier’s Reading Challenge books. If you have any difficulty logging in or entering books please see me in the library.

If your child has read and entered the required 20 books please fill in the validation slip at the end of this newsletter and send it to me. I will then go online and validate their records so they will receive their certificate at the end of the year.

**Students in Kindergarten – Year 2** will participate in the Premier’s Reading Challenge with their class teacher. Parents need to ensure they have returned the permission note to their child’s teacher in order for your child to receive a participation certificate at the end of the year.

**Book Club**

Friday 16th May, 2014 is the last day for book club orders and money. Please take orders to the office.

Mrs Dianne Cronshaw
Teacher/Librarian

**P&C News**

Our Mother’s day stall was a busy but enjoyable event. The gifts were beautiful and the children had fun choosing the perfect gift for their mums. We raised approximately $1272.50 from the stall and $292.40 from the raffle, so in total we raised $1564.90. I would like to say a really big thank you to all the parents that helped. And to Helen Whitelaw who made and donated the amazing scarves for us to sell, Jo Wheeler for donating the gift voucher and Kim Gascoigne who donated tea from her business Vintage, for the raffle. Hope all the mums had a wonderful mother’s day. Thanks, Deb and Michelle.

**Reforms to P&C Federation**

The NSW Parliament has introduced legislation to reform the NSW Federation of Parent and Citizens Associations, which has suspended operation pending Supreme Court action. While these reforms will not affect the day-to-day operation of individual school P&Cs, they will introduce a new executive structure which will ensure the Federation operates as a modern and representative body on behalf of school P&C Associations. Each school’s P&C Association will be asked to vote for councillors and delegates who will represent their electorate at the Federation’s Annual General Meeting and councillors who will serve on the Federation’s Board of Management. More information will be available on the Department’s website at http://www.schoools.nsw.edu.au/gotoschool/a-z/involvement.php

Regards
Mr Paul Mallia

**Sport News**

**Assistance for a State Carnival Required**

We have received a request for assistance to help out a student from the Sydney North Boys Football (soccer) team. The NSW State PSSA Boys Football carnival will be held at Camden Soccer Club, Ron Dine Oval, Camden from 27th May to 29th May, 2014.

mawarra-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
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Mr Paul Mallia
A young boy from the northern suburbs has been selected to represent Sydney North at the carnival, however for this to occur he requires billeting with a family close by. It is envisaged that this would include taking him to the ground each day and picking him up when required.

We have been asked to ask our school communities if they were able to assist in this matter. If you are able to assist, please contact the school office.

**NSW Tennis**

Cameron Ryan has just returned from competing in the NSW PSSA Tennis Championships. The Sydney South West boys’ team came sixth at these championships. Cameron was the number one ranked boys’ player in this team. Congratulations Cameron on this fantastic achievement.

**Gala Days**

At this stage it looks like the winter gala days will be held in term 3. The dates will be published in the newsletter once they have been confirmed.

**Razorback Cross Country**

Congratulations to the following children who will be competing at the Razorback cross country carnival on Friday 23rd May, 2014.

8/9 Years
- Leticia Toribio
- Isabella Newton
- Livinia Whitelaw
- Poppy La Hay
- Rhett Coe
- Cooper West
- Billy Redman
- Kaiden Vandersteen

10 Years
- Nakeshia Brimble
- Tarryn Troy
- Georgia Moore
- Jasmyn Barry
- Ethan Roberts
- Ben Kynaston
- Kai Wilson
- Henry Key

11 Years
- Emily Buttifant
- Lucy Wood
- Amelia Wood
- Tori Marchiori
- Lachlan Hammond
- Harry Gelder
- Jed Gveric
- Ben Hancock

12/13 Years
- Hailee Wright
- Chenoa Brimble
- Monique Munro
- Libbi Kynaston
- Riley Fream
- Mohammed Haider
- Cameron Ryan
- Jared Presland

**Community News**

**CAMDEN PET FAIR**

The Camden Pet Fair is on again! Join in the fabulous all-day family entertainment and see how a first-class veterinary hospital works!

**WHEN:** Sunday June 1 2014

**TIME:** 10am - 2pm

**COST:** FREE

**WHERE:** University Veterinary Teaching Hospital and Avian, Reptile and Exotic Pet Hospital
410 - 415 Werombi Rd, Camden NSW 2570

**Alzheimer’s Australia**

**Memory walk & Jog (the race against dementia)**

You are invited to a fundraising movie night. Come and see ‘Maleficent’ while also raising money for team ‘Joggin’ 4 Jan.’ (Jan King was a well-known and respected teacher at Campbelltown North PS for many years).

**WHEN:** Wednesday 4th June, 2014

**WHERE:** Dumaresq Street Cinema, Campbelltown

**Time:** 6pm for 6.30pm movie start

**Premiers Reading Challenge Validation Slip**

I certify that my child_________________________of class_________.
Has completed the Premiers’s Reading Challenge 2014 and has abided by the set rules and conditions.

Signed_________________________ Date________________

Parent/Guardian

**Upcoming Events**

- **Monday 19/5/14**
  * P&C Meeting @ 7.30pm

- **Tuesday 20/5/14**
  * State Knockout Soccer (Game 1)

- **Wednesday 21/5/14**
  * Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea @ 11.00am
  * SSW Regional Netball

- **Thursday 22/5/14**
  * K-6 Assembly @ 12noon

- **Friday 23/5/14**
  * Razorback Cross Country

**Talking With Your Kids Seminar**

Talking with your Kids is a 2 1/2 hour Seminar that assists you as a parent to talk with your kids about difficult issues that arise such as parental conflict, carrying messages, financial issues, taking sides, their understanding of your separation, relationships and loyalty, and dealing with step-parents.

This free seminar will be held at Campbelltown Family Relationship Centre Level, Shop L105 Macarthur Square Shopping Centre on Tuesday 27th May, 2014 from 10.00am to 12.30pm.

Please contact 4629 7070. For more information and to reserve your place!

**1st Camden Scout Group**

If you love having fun, playing games and outdoor activities, we have openings for boys and girls aged between 8 and 14.

Cub Scouts (aged 8 to 11) meet Tuesday from 6:30pm to 8:00pm.

Scouts (aged 11 to 14) meet Monday from 6:30pm to 8:30pm.

For more information contact Valli Turner on 0417522688, or send an email to 1st.camden@gmail.com.

**www.mawarra-p.schools.nsw.edu.au**
**mawarra-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au**

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Playground Committee

Playgrounds provide space and structure for children’s socialisation, imaginative play and physical activity. With this in mind last year an invitation went out to all parents via the newsletter to establish a Playground Committee with teachers to help improve our existing playground. Our goal is to make the playground a more interesting and stimulating place to play for the students of Mawarra.

The Playground Committee was formed towards the end of last year with Mrs Kidd and Mrs Napoleone being the teacher representatives and Mrs Landouw, Mrs Searle, Mrs McLaren, Mrs Burford, Mrs Fenner, Mrs Darby and Mrs Jones the parent representatives. If any parent would like to join our committee you will be very welcome. All ideas and inspirations are much appreciated.

Research shows that adult designed spaces are increasingly unsuccessful in meeting children’s needs or expectations in relation to outdoor play. Therefore our first initiative was to survey the whole student body to find out what they liked about the existing playground and what changes they would like to see made to improve the playground. Listed below are the results of the survey. Most popular requests:

- Marked soccer fields with soccer nets
- A place to play with their cars in the dirt and be able to build tracks
- A special area to play with dolls
- A bigger sandpit
- A volleyball court
- More places to sit quietly with tables and chairs for drawing

As a committee when designing the playground we wanted to ensure that the playground would be effective so it;

- includes natural elements, (e.g. sand, water)
- encourages interaction and socialisation
- is highly accessible and caters to a variety of student’s needs
- provides risk and challenge, however is safe and free of hazards
- has pleasing aesthetics
• stimulates children’s imagination and creativity
• includes space for active play.

Taking into consideration the student’s requests and the Playground Committee’s considerations we have established a plan to improve our playground. We will :-

• Mark soccer fields and provide nets for the soccer fields. (The soccer fields have already been marked and permanent markers have been placed in the corners to ensure ease for further marking. The soccer nets are being ordered)
• Build a digging pit to provide a play area for toy cars, making car tracks and digging.
• Build a fairyland to encourage imaginative play
• Construct a volleyball court
• Make a large decking area outside the year six rooms with permanent tables and chairs for drawing and quiet sitting areas

As you can imagine to make our plan achievable we will require help and support from the parents. If you are able to donate your time to help construct any of the above items or if you can donate materials or have contacts that can donate materials please contact Mrs Kidd or Mrs Napoleone. You can leave a message at the front office and we will contact you if that is easier. Or come along to the next P & C meeting Monday 19th May at 7.30pm. Playground improvements and initiatives will be on the agenda. We will need timber, road signs for digging pit, old tyres, items for the fairyland, nets for volleyball court or any other materials that you think will help achieve our goal.

Looking forward to working together to make our playground a challenging, interesting, happy and enjoyable place to play.

The Playground Committee
Making school drop-offs hassle-free

“One common transition challenge occurs at school-drop-off time. Some kids are passive resisters on a deliberate go-slow. Others more actively resist their parents’ efforts to get them to school with tears, tantrums or tiredness.”

There are a number of trouble spots for parents, and they have one thing in common. They all occur around a child’s transition from one activity or place to another.

Transitions from play to dinnertime, television to bedtime or from bed to the breakfast table are common battlefields for parents. Kids want to do one thing, yet family requirements mean that they have to do something else.

A battle can ensue with children dawdling, whining or refusing point blank to budge! Parenting is always hard work at these times.

One common transition challenge occurs at school-drop-off time. Some kids are passive resisters on a deliberate go-slow. Others more actively resist their parents’ efforts to get them to school with tears, tantrums or tiredness.

Children’s tears at drop-off time play at the heart strings of compassionate parents, particularly those who feel guilty about leaving their child. Tantrums are another way children keep parents busy and their complaints about being too tired indicate that perhaps an earlier bedtime is in order.

Usually it’s children in the early years of primary school who present most difficulty at school drop-off times. Essentially these drop-off problems are separation issues that can easily be resolved by supportive teachers and some tough love parenting.

It’s worth remembering that a developmental task for children is to separate from their parents, so that they can benefit from being around other adults. Parents who resist this imperative, allowing their child to cling to them are doing their youngster a disservice.

If dropping kids off at school in the morning is a problem here’s a few ideas that may help. Your aim as a parent is to establish a new pattern of behaviour for your child in the morning, particularly as you approach the school gate or classroom door.

1. Go through the morning and drop-off routine with your kids. Make sure everyone knows what’s expected. Work out your jobs and those that the kids need to do then stick to this arrangement. For instance, it may be your job to make school lunches but it’s up to kids to put them in their bags.

2. Drop kids off, turn around and go: If you have a child who likes to keep you busy each morning with tears or tantrums then you may have to take the ‘tough love’ approach. Say goodbye using a firm voice, turn around and leave. Don’t look back. Most kids settle down at school within five minutes of being dropped off. Parental lingering only makes matters worse for children and teachers. Teachers are experienced at helping kids settle into the school routine, so allow them to take over.

3. Reaffirm their efforts later: If your child begins to go off without tears or tantrums after a long period of difficult departures then make a bit of fuss when you see them later in the day. Don’t go overboard with tangible rewards or bribes. Parental recognition, genuinely given is a huge driver for most kids.

4. Wean your child off you: If your normal habit is to drop your child off at the classroom door each morning, try saying goodbye at the school gate every now and then. The aim is to make your child less, rather than more reliant on you.

If problems continue then it’s worth consulting your child’s teacher or welfare coordinator, carefully outlining the issue. Be prepared to be coached on this issue, trusting the approach that your school advises.

Teachers generally have experienced this type of separation anxiety before and understand when it’s within children’s capacities and when they may need extra help to cope. It makes good sense to trust their judgement. From my experience, it’s usually spot on!