School News

Dear Parents / Caregivers,

What a fantastic morning last Wednesday, when Mawarra hosted a ‘Biggest Morning Tea’ for the Cancer Council. Thank you to everyone for your donations, to the children who decorated the amazing cupcakes and to everyone who voted with their coins. Altogether Mawarra raised well over $2000 for the Cancer Council. Mrs Morley once again organised the morning. Thank you Mrs Morley for instilling a wonderful sense of giving in our students, and for helping out this worthy cause.

40th Birthday .... Advanced Notice

Mawarra is 40 this year!

As a part of Education Week this year, our ‘Open Day’ will celebrate our 40th. We have lots planned, including the opening of a time capsule. Set aside Tuesday 29th July, 2014. While many ideas are already in the planning, if you would like to join the group organising the event, please give me a call or leave your name at the office. More information will be out before July.

Playground Improvements

Mrs Kidd and Mrs Napoleon, along with a group of committed parents, are continuing to plan the improvements to our playground. You will soon hear about a fundraiser to coincide with our 40th Anniversary in July. Playground improvements are all quite costly and I hope you can assist by spreading the word to “Past, Present and Future” Mawarra families.

As another improvement in our playground, we have planted two advanced ornamental pears in the area between the Year 3 and Year 4 rooms. These should be stunning specimen and shade trees in a couple of years. Many thanks to the Whatmough family for their donation and assistance with the planning of the area.

Morning Arrival Time

A reminder that morning supervision of students in the playground begins at 8:25am. Students should not be arriving at school before this time for safety reasons. Students are asked to sit in the assembly area until the ‘bag bell’ goes at 8:40am, when they proceed to their classroom area to drop off their bag.

School is Not for Selling or Trading

Many children bring belongings to school to play, compete, show, even eat, but school is not the place to trade, sell or swap. From swapping food to ‘playing for keeps’ to trading of collections, it would be of great assistance if parents could reinforce with children that school is not a place for trading. Many ‘deals’ are the cause of disagreement or in the case of food, could be a concern with regard to allergies.

Kids of Macarthur Final Result

Last term, on St Patrick’s Day Mawarra participated in a fundraiser for the Kids of Macarthur charity. Many other public primary schools across Macarthur also did fundraisers, and the tally for the entire fundraiser has now been tallied to $10859.60. A great news story! This money will now be used to purchase another much needed piece of equipment for the children’s ward at Campbelltown Hospital. Once again, thank you for your participation.

Mumps

There has been a case of mumps reported in the school community. Mumps is a highly communicable viral disease that is a highly contagious. Symptoms include fever, swollen and tender glands around the neck. Children should be kept home for at least 9 days after onset of swelling. The incubation period of mumps is around 14 to 25 days from contact until symptoms occur.

If you suspect your child has any initial symptoms, please keep them at home until a firm diagnosis is made. It would also be most helpful if you could inform the school of any cases.

Mr P. Mallia
School Principal

Mawarra Times
OUR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER
EDITION: 09/14 29th May, 2014

www.mawarra-p.schools.nsw.edu.au  mawarra-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Phone (02) 4658 0990  Fax. (02) 4658 0223
Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea
Thank you everyone for your fabulous support of our ‘Biggest Morning Tea’ last Wednesday 21st May, 2014. The lovely sunny weather allowed us all to have time enjoying the great outdoors & to raise valuable funds for the Cancer Council. Your generous donations helped to raise the grand sum of $2,301. Our cupcakes competition showed that we have many creative & talented students at Mawarra. There was a diverse range of decorative styles. Our overall winner on the day was Jasmine O’Reilly who raised just over $90. A fabulous effort by all. Thank you once again.

Judy Morley
Coordinator

Change to School Bus Operator
Neveill’s Bus Service, operating as Busabout, wishes to advise you that from 1st June, 2014, Busabout will operate all route and school services previously provided by Busways.

There will be no change to school routes and timetables, however during the transition of bus operators, buses will be a mixture of transport for NSW, Busways and Busabout. Therefore we strongly advise students to check the route number or destination signs to ensure they catch the correct school bus.

Students are also advised to continue to use their regular bus pass.

Parents and students should refer inquiries to transportnsw.info or call 131 500.

Student News
Congratulations to the following students who received their Silver & Gold awards at the assembly held on Thursday 22nd May, 2014.

1/5/14
SILVER
Ella D’Costa 1D
Scarlett Newton 1F
Ethan Clarke 1H
Keegan Wallace 2B
Alison Critcher 3B
Ruby Greenland 4KN
Matthew Howlett 4KN
Tori Marchiori 5K
Emily Giles 5S
Caitlin Falk 6T

GOLD
Lachlan Harloff 4KN
Holly Uljanic 4SR

8/5/14
SILVER
Brodie Sanders 2B
Ali Wilson 2P
Lleyton Grosse 2W
Faith Treble 2W
Lachlan Garde 3H
Samantha Rouland 5K

15/5/14
SILVER
Kaylah Dib 1F

3B & 4KN Eco classes & Eco – Schools News
Our school vegetable garden has had a recent makeover. On Friday, 2nd May, 2014 students in 4KN and 3B were very busy using buckets to move the 10 tonne of soil into the raised garden beds. The students worked together as a team to get the job done efficiently. It was amazing how quickly the garden beds were filled with soil. Once our beds were filled with new soil, it was time to plant out our seedlings. The students were able to have a go at planting, mulching and watering our gardens. They look fantastic. We cannot wait to see what our new gardens produce.

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Students in 3B found an alternative use for plastic milk bottles. Reduce, re-use, recycle. We cut off the bottom of the bottle and put a hole in the lid. We filled the milk bottles with soil, added a seedling and some mulch then using zip ties, tied them to a wire trellis to create a wall garden. It was amazing how quickly we collected enough milk bottles to create this project. Thank you to all the parents who supported this project.

Our next goal is to install an irrigation system to make watering our gardens easier. We have acquired a pump from Bunnings, however we still need to source materials needed to pump the water from the water tank near our BER classrooms across the vegetable gardens. This would create an efficient use of water.

We would like to acknowledge Leppington Speedy Seedlings for their donation of seedlings. We appreciate their continual support of our school vegetable gardens. We also would like to acknowledge Narellan Sand and Soil for the free delivery of our extremely large load of soil!

The Eco Committee have been just as busy. The student recognised that too many citrus peels were being thrown into our compost. So a poster was created and educational presentations were made at assemblies. It is pleasing to see that there has been a significant improvement in the reduction of citrus peel in the compost. Well done Mawarra and thank you for your help to make Mawarra an eco-friendly environment.

Our next goal is to reduce the amount of fruit and vegetable matter that is thrown into the bins at recess. The committee is working on its next campaign to reduce the amount of recyclable waste that is currently being thrown away into our rubbish bins and ending up as land fill.

May has been a busy eco-month at Mawarra. Last Wednesday Mrs Took participated in the official launch of Eco-Schools at Harrington Park Public School. She gave a presentation demonstrating all the eco achievements Mawarra has made so far in our Eco-Schools journey. This was very well received and is now part of the official Keep Australia Beautiful Eco-Schools website – a fantastic achievement.

Come down to our environmental area and check out our milk bottle wall and vegetable gardens and don’t forget to read about what we are up to on the eco noticeboard just outside the canteen.

Eco – Schools Committee
Theresa Beauchamp, Sharon Kynaston & Kristina Took

Sport News

Razorback Cross Country
Our cross country team participated in the Razorback cross country carnival last Friday. Congratulations to a wonderful group of students who represented Mawarra at this event and supported their team mates throughout the day. The following students placed in the top 20 (out of at least 80 other competitors) in their event.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ethan Roberts</td>
<td>2nd 10 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harry Gelder</td>
<td>4th 11 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emily Buttifant</td>
<td>6th 11 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nakeisha Brimble</td>
<td>7th 11 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhett Coe</td>
<td>13th 8/9 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooper West</td>
<td>17th 8/9 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jed Gveric</td>
<td>17th 11 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kai Wilson</td>
<td>19th 10 Years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Congratulations
Last week Ethan Roberts and Chenoa Brimble were members of Sydney South West teams at the NSW PSSA championships. Ethan was a member of the AFL team and Chenoa was a member of the basketball team. Congratulations to both students on their selection and efforts at these championships.
P&C News

P&C Mowing Roster
The next mowing day will be on Saturday 31st May, 2014. The following parents rostered for this day include: Deborah Warr, Greg Mottram, Brendan McMurdo, Lachlan Best & Dennis Eagles (Coordinator).

P&C Fundraising
Thank you to all the families that have supported the fundraising events to date. So far we have raised over $3,000. Which is wonderful. Just a reminder that we currently have our Boxed Card Fundraiser going and that all orders need to be in by Tuesday 3rd June, 2014. Dates to remember;

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education Week</td>
<td>29th July, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ladies Night</td>
<td>9th August, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Movie Night</td>
<td>16th September, 2014</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

We are looking for sponsors to help with the cost of the screen hire for our movie night. If there are any families or businesses that would like to help we are asking for donations of $100 or more. So if you would like to donate or can help in anyway please contact Deb Mills on 0433 813 376. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Student Welfare

Club Zero
For the next fortnight our Mawarra Movers focus will be on assemblies. We will be holding a points competition where classes will be awarded points for listening quietly and moving off from the assembly in a quiet, orderly manner. The Infants and Primary classes with the most points at the end of the fortnight will earn a sausage sizzle lunch on a day to be advised in the following week. Please discuss with your children the importance of respectful behaviour and having their best manners at assemblies.

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
Years 3 – 6 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.

Book Club
The latest book club issue went home this week. If you would like to order any books please send your orders and money to the school office by Monday 16th June, 2014 as this is the last day for book club orders.

Mrs Dianne Cronshaw
Teacher/Librarian

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Community News

Jodee Lee Fundraiser
Jodee Lee, dedicated Mawarra Mum and parent of Brock, Marcus, Jeremy & Zack Battistuzzi is now on the road to full recovery after a year long battle with breast cancer. It is her goal to now move forward and she is currently writing a book and volunteering at numerous events to help support those that have also had cancer invade their lives. To assist her in her goal, a private fundraiser has been organised by her family and friends. We would like to help her to be able to continue with her wonderful work! If you are interested in attending the fundraiser, details are on a separate flyer accompanying this week’s school newsletter. A raffle will operate on the night and anyone wishing to purchase raffle tickets can purchase them at the school canteen. (Books are also available if anyone would like to sell a book or two). Enquiries can be made to 0414 528 959 or see Emma at canteen.

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 1st June, 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
Cost: $10 per ticket
Tickets will sell fast so get in quick. To book, contact Rebecca or Gabbi Anderson via email: rebecca.anderson@det.nsw.edu.au
All bookings need to be paid before the night.

“Talking With Your Kids Seminar”
Talking with your Kids is a 21/2 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.am to 12.30pm.

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

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

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.

Upcoming Events

| Monday 9/6/14 |
| Thursday 12/6/14 |
| Public Holiday |
| *SWS Cross Country |

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Helping kids with homework

For many parents homework is that time of the day when they routinely harass, hassle and harangue their child to JUST DO YOUR HOMEWORK! Here are some ideas that may help.

Homework causes more headaches for parents than it does for children. Some parents worry because their children don’t seem to do enough while others are concerned because they do too much.

But for many parents homework is that time of the day when they routinely harass, hassle and harangue their child to JUST DO YOUR HOMEWORK!

Okay, what to do?

The first step is to know the homework policy of your children’s school and understand what is expected of you as a parent. Most schools have parent interviews and information sessions at the start of the year. Next year, make sure you get a good handle on how your children’s teacher expects you to assist your child.

It is also useful to find out what your child’s teacher will do if your child doesn’t complete set tasks. Homework is basically an agreement between a teacher and a child so it should be up to the teacher to ensure the homework is completed. That means the teacher becomes ‘the bad guy’ and puts some consequence in place if the homework is not completed.

Your role as a parent is to support the school if a consequence is put in place, such as completing work in recess or whatever the school deems appropriate.

Here are practical homework tips:

1. Establish homework time and stick to it each day. If children tell you they don’t have any formal homework then they can read, revise or organise their work. My feedback tells me sticking to a routine even when no formal homework is set is extremely useful and helps avoid battles.

2. Put the onus back on your children to take responsibility for their work. Ask children at the start of a homework session to state how much homework they will do. At the end of the session check it to see if the homework is completed. That means the teacher becomes ‘the bad guy’ and puts some consequence in place if the homework is not completed. That means the teacher becomes ‘the bad guy’ and puts some consequence in place if the homework is not completed.

3. Homework is as much a time management issue as anything else. Encourage children to work reasonably quickly and efficiently. Have a set time limit, which they should stick to. There is little point slogging away once they become frustrated or tired. Give them an egg-timer or use a clock and get them to work hard for small chunks of time. A little work each night is more productive than packing it into one weekly session.

4. Help children decide the best time to do homework and then encourage them to stick to those times. Maybe on some days homework is tackled after dinner for any number of reasons. If doing homework straight after school is important to you then consider feeding children ONLY after homework is completed. Food can be a huge motivator for some children! (As mentioned in point one, a homework routine is important but the timing can vary.)

5. Establish a good working environment for students. Make sure they have a quiet, well lit, well ventilated area away from distractions. A table or desk makes a good workspace, although don’t be surprised if they spread work all over the kitchen table. Some kids hate to be stuck away in their rooms and prefer to work at the kitchen table and can do so productively. Others are easily distracted and work in short bursts. Work out what is best for YOUR child.

6. Use the motivating factors of technology. The Internet and other forms of electronic learning are quick, convenient and give access to huge amounts of information. Nevertheless, children should still know how to access information from more traditional means such as books. Check with your child’s teacher as to their specific recommendations and preferences.

7. Encourage children to get organised. Help them think ahead to plan their homework around extra-curricular activities. A weekly planner or diary will help older students get organised. Assisting children to become organised is perhaps the best way parents can help at home.

8. If you are helping with a particular task, keep your explanation simple and practical. If you become frustrated or upset and the atmosphere becomes tense – stop helping.

9. Be realistic – don’t expect to solve all homework difficulties. When in doubt send a note to your child’s teacher letting him or her know the problem. The teacher will appreciate this good communication.

10. Communicate any concerns. If you have concerns about how much or the difficulty of homework your child is set, contact the teacher and arrange a time to discuss your worries. Such discussion is the basis of a true partnership between you and your child’s teacher.

The place of homework is routinely questioned by education authorities (now is currently one of those times in Australia) but my gut reaction is that children will always have homework. The name may change and the activities may vary but it will always be homework.

Schools generally try to make sure homework is varied, interesting, engaging and purposeful. Parents also need to be patient with both children (if they struggle) and schools that are trying to find a balance between too little and too much.
Dr. Steven Walker (Brief Therapy Solutions) in partnership with Community Links Wollondilly.
Funded by Camden Council
Managing Challenging Behaviours Collaboratively
8 Session Parent Workshop

You have tried everything else and nothing works? What will you learn?

- Child development and the relationship to seriously challenging behaviours
- You will consider the influence of the child, parent and the environment in the development of challenging behaviours over time.
- Looking for and identifying lost skills in AD/HD, ODD and CD. What’s behind the behaviour.
- Parents can be partners in managing a child’s challenging behaviour.
- Strategies to reduce outbursts and to teach new skills to your child.
- You will have the opportunity to think about your challenging child in a different light.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Where?</th>
<th>When?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Business Development Centre Macarthur 70 Topham Road, Smeaton Grange. These workshops are not for service providers.</td>
<td>From for 8 weeks 10:00 am—12:00 am 17th July 2014 and every Thursday morning after until 4th September 2014.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Cost?</th>
<th>Contact for registration?</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gold coin donation for morning tea Child care: None available</td>
<td>Wollondilly Community Links Ph. 46832776</td>
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</table>

For parents who may have children diagnosed with ADHD, Oppositional Defiant Disorder (ODD) Conduct Disorder (CD) or disruptive behaviour.