**School News**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Congratulations to the P&C for the very successful Ladies’ Night, held last Saturday evening. From all accounts, parents and staff had a great night, won lots of prizes, and raised another substantial amount of money, which will come back to fund further improvements for our school. Many thanks to the organisers as well as the generous supporters of the night.

**Southern Stars**

Last Tuesday and Thursday I accompanied Mrs Fairweather and some of our senior girls to Wollongong to attend rehearsals for Southern Stars. What an incredible experience for our students, to be a part of such a large production. Southern Stars is a little like School Spectacular and will be held at the Wollongong Entertainment Centre on 29th and 30th August, 2014. A huge commitment from the girls and Mrs Fairweather that will be all worth it on the night!

**Athletics Carnival**

Mawarra enjoyed another successful athletics carnival last Friday. Despite the change of venue due to Onslow Oval being closed, we had a great day of competition and entertainment. There were some outstanding personal efforts and the relay events got everyone involved. Thanks to Mrs Scott for her organisation of a very full day.

**Afternoon Parking**

I have asked in previous newsletters that parents be considerate to our neighbours when parking to drop off or pick up students. It is unfortunate that neighbours have contacted the school to let us know that they are regularly being ‘parked in’ by cars blocking their driveway. Could you please assist in this matter by parking appropriately.

**Japanese Visit**

On Monday, we had our annual visit from some Japanese students from Kashiwa, which is the sister city of Camden. The visiting students performed at our special morning assembly, visited some of our classrooms and mingled with our students in the playground. It was great to have the opportunity to have a small taste of their culture while they got a glimpse of ours. Once again the CIFA organisers could not have been more positive about our students, the band and the experience that the visitors got while they were here. Thank you to Mrs Took for organising the day.

**Playground**

Our playground committee has been working very hard, making fantastic improvements to our school grounds. The children are enjoying using the new areas. We have, however, noticed children playing in these areas before and after school and some children have been observed climbing on the soccer goals, throwing the sand from the volleyball courts and behaving in ways which could shorten the life of this equipment. We ask that if you are in the school grounds for any reason you remind your children not to play in any of these areas.

**School Planning**

Today and tomorrow I will be at the Principals Conference, which is focusing on 21st Century learning. Next week, a small team will be attending courses to look at our planning process for the upcoming three years. Over the next term, parents will have the opportunity to provide input into the direction and priorities of the school for our 2015-2017 School Plan.

**Kindergarten Orientation**

On Thursday 16th October, 2014 we will be conducting our Kindergarten Orientation Day. Individual invitations will be sent out shortly to the families we know will be starting kindergarten in 2015. If you have not already contacted the school regarding next year, could you please do so. If you know of any families in our area with children starting school next year can you ask them to contact the school.

**Year 4 Camp – Teen Ranch**

Just a reminder this camp can be paid off either at the school office or through online payments. The camp needs to be paid in full ($270) by the end of November, 2014.

**Student News**

Congratulations to the following students who received their Silver/Gold Awards at today’s assembly.

**23/7/14**

**SILVER**

Amelia Coyle 1D
Riley Bentham 1H
Joshua Magpayo 1F
Livinia Whitelaw 2B
Harry Bennison 2B
Hannah Chelvanayagam x2 2P
Ruby Giles 3B
Joshua Dib 3B
Joshua Smallman 3H
Ally Block 4KN
Indiana Glancey 4SR
Cooper Auchterlonie 6K
Marcus Battistuzzi 6T

**GOLD**

Ally Block 4KN
Chelsea Perriman 4SR
31/7/14
SILVER
Cohen Field 2W
Jacob Darby 3H
Robert Taylor 3H
Caleb Whitelaw 4KN
Riley Fream x 2 6T

GOLD
Jacob Darby 3H
Joshua Pobje 6K

7/8/14
SILVER
Alana Rix 1D
Alicia Underwood 3B
Henry Rouland 3B
Matthew Greene 5K
Lucy Wood 5K
Lachlan Taylor 6K
Jorja Isherwood 6K
Lachlan Taylor 6K

14/8/14
SILVER
Sharmini Chelvanayagam 4SR
Alexia Davidge 5S
Liorah Miller 5S

Awards
To assist the volunteer ladies who type the merits, silver and golds, could you please place awards in an envelope/zip lock bag with name and class clearly marked on the front.

Student Welfare

Mawarra Movers
Children are enjoying receiving tokens for their positive playground behavior. In week 4 our winners were Brodie Sanders 2B and Bailey Smith 6K and week 5 winners were Samantha Roberts 1H and Lillian Gray 3B. Congratulations to these children.

Mrs D Cronshaw
Student Welfare Committee

Live Life Well @ School

Library News

Premier’s Spelling Bee
The school finals of the Premier’s Spelling Bee were held on Tuesday. Congratulations to the class representatives: Joel Heyward, Zack Battistuzzi, Jacob Darby, Ebonie Gittoes, Leah Maglis, Stephanie Taylor, Sharmini Chelvanayagam, Georgia Moore, Chelsea Perriman, Matthew Greene, Chelsea Bennison, Charlie Redman, Nicholas Whatmough, Lachlan Taylor, Gabby Bradley, Ryan Mills and David Truong.

The Regional Finals will be held on Monday 15th September at Thomas Acres Public School. Representing Stage 2 will be Leah Maglis and Georgia Moore and representing Stage 3 will be Charlie Redman and Lachlan Taylor. We would like to again congratulate these students on their fine effort and wish them well in the Regional Finals.

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. All validation slips must be entered by 22nd August, 2014.

Book Week Performance
On Thursday 21st August, 2014 we are having our Book Week performance. Mic Conway will be performing for the students K – 2 and Steven Herrick will be performing for the students 3 – 6. The cost of the performance is $5.00 per student and must be paid by Wednesday 20th August, 2014. If your child has lost their note they can go to the school office to get a copy or it can be downloaded from the school website. Payment can be made at the school office or online.

Book Fair
Also to celebrate Book Week we are holding a Book Fair on Wednesday 20th August, 2014. The books are from Central Books who offer a wide variety of books at very discounted prices. Children will have the opportunity to visit with their class during the day and the library will be open from 8.00am – 9.00am and 3.00pm - 4.00pm for parents. EFTPOS will be available for purchases.

Book Club
Issue 6 of Book Club went home this week. All orders need to go to the school office by Monday 1st September, 2014.

Mrs Dianne Cronshaw
Teacher/Librarian

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

Winter Gala Days
Approximately 150 students recently competed in the winter gala days. They are to be congratulated on their commitment to attend training and supporting their team mates on the field. Mawarra, even though a smaller school than others in our zone, posted some fabulous results. They are:

*1st Junior boys soccer
*2nd Junior boys rugby league
*2nd Junior A netball
*2nd Senior A netball

Thanks to the parents that assist teams with training and teachers who attend the gala days.

Summer Gala Days
The first summer gala day is Friday 22nd August, 2014. There is a short turn around between winter and summer gala days. If children have been selected in a team they should now have received their notes for cricket, league tag and softball/T-Ball by today. If your child has not received their note please ask them to approach their gala day coach for a note (not the office).

Community News

Camden Little Athletics
Registration days: 7th/14th/21st August, 2014
Time: 5:30-8pm
Ages: 4yrs-99yrs (All Ages)
Where: Narellan Town Centre
Info: camdenathletics.org.au

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

Friday 15/8/14
* Milo Cup Cricket

Monday 18/8/14
* Gymnastics Yrs 3-6
* P&C Meeting @ 7.30

Tuesday 19/8/14
* Year 1 vision screening

Wednesday 20/8/14
* Library Book Fair Sales Day
* Dance 2B Fit for K-2

Thursday 21/8/14
* Book Week Performances

Friday 22/8/14
* Summer Gala Day 1
* Premier’s Reading Challenge Closed

Monday 1/9/14
* Razorback Athletics

Tuesday 2/9/14
* Razorback Athletics

Friday 12/9/14
* Gala Day

Friday 19/9/14
* Gala Day

Friday 24/10/14
* K-2 Sport Day
Why praise can be a double-edged sword

The way we praise our children, even from a very early age, can have a lasting impact. When done effectively, it can really promote resilience.

It seemed to come out of nowhere. One day we had a happy, confident, thriving daughter who was doing really well at school and the next she was alternating between a quiet sullenness and loud arguments, telling us, “I just don’t care”.

The problem appeared to lie with her maths. She had previously found maths quite easy, and had got good enough marks to be put up into the ‘smart’ kids. The result: a very unhappy daughter and a significant slump (aka tailspin) in her performance.

Putting on our best parental hats, we tried to work out what was going on. Our daughter’s response to our gentle probing was “I should never have been put into the smart kids’ class because I’m dumb” and “My teacher just thinks I’m not “trying”.

Kids (and adults!) learn best when feeling confident and motivated to do well, even when the work is hard. The trouble is that in many instances our education system is set up to reward cleverness or smartness before effort. Those who excel in learning and passing exams often enjoy an elevated status and are held up as the example for others to emulate. There is much less recognition for effort alone.

What she needed was more of a growth mindset. Helping our children to develop a ‘growth’ versus ‘fixed’ mindset is what makes the biggest difference in determining our level of self-confidence, resilience and motivation. Professor Carol Dweck, in her book Mindset, describes how by choosing to develop a growth mindset we can start to learn from our mistakes, and feel we are succeeding when we master a new skill or piece of learning that has been challenging or difficult.

Tips for encouraging a growth mindset:
1. Look at learning as a way to stretch and grow the brain. Learning new things is great exercise for seeing new possibilities or ways of doing things. It encourages imagination and creative thinking.
2. When congratulating your child, use words that praise the outcome that has resulted from their putting in the work and effort.
... why praise can be a double-edged sword ...

When things go wrong, ask, “What could you do differently next time to get a better result?” Failure and making mistakes is normal. Learning to deal with them effectively helps build resilience.

Use the power of “Yet”. If your child tells you, “I’m no good at...” or “I can’t do that”, your response could be, “You’re just not there ... yet”. This implies that it is work in progress and success may come through perseverance. It’s not about false hope, but encouragement.

Other research is now uncovering additional benefits from adopting a growth mindset. It can:

- encourage a student to want to stay at school longer
- facilitate transition to university
- diminish bullying or aggressive behaviour
- develop resilience in the face of adversity
- help see challenge as opportunity
- develop tenacity in persevering to overcome obstacles
- help see effort as the route to mastery
- build the ability to use criticism as something to learn from
- promote inspiration and new learning from sharing in the success of others.

We all want our children to do well and one of the best ways we can help is to promote a growth mindset so they become more positive in their outlook as to their own capabilities, broaden their perspective of the world and elevate their resourcefulness.

Dr. Jenny Brockis is a brain health specialist. Her focus is on promoting optimal health and function for all brains. She is also an author and speaker, and mum to two young adults. www.drjennybrockis.com