

Mount Kuring-gai Public School Newsletter



Education &
Communities

Mount Kuring-gai Public School
Leeming Street, Mount Kuring-gai 2080
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E-mail: mtkuringga-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au



December

From the Principal

Dear Community,

I trust you are having a restful and welcome holiday break.

I am posting this holiday advertisement newsletter for your viewing. Please remember that the financial support offered by our local businesses, either through donation to the newsletter, prizes and financial support through events such as Mountain Fest or just a small donation cheque here and there provides a valuable income stream for our programs.

I would also like to take this opportunity to address a number of concerns that have been raised with me during the last fortnight of the year and into the break:

Student Reports: The reporting timelines and when we report on English and Mathematics will be changed for the 2014 year. As I stated through the 2013 year to the P&C and in this forum, the staff were trialing a new format and timeline to help guide a more informed teaching a learning program. I believe we can still do this, whilst providing a more standard reporting to parent framework. A more detailed presentation of our assessment and reporting policy will be provided at the beginning of the new school year.

Celebration of Learning and Awards: As with all presentation ceremonies, there will always be a divergence of views regarding the type, number, recipients of awards and the duration. I fully understand this and will be discussing many of the concerns raised to date with my staff during Term One of the 2014 school year.

I am sure you will appreciate, I will never please everyone with the decisions, that are ultimately ratified by me, however, be assured that the concerns raised thus far have been noted and will be discussed.

School Security: To date I have been notified on three occasions and have been on site for reports of intruders and possible vandalism. To date they have been false alarms. However, this does not mean we should be complacent. If you see or hear of any inappropriate actions in or around our school grounds please call **School Security** on 1300 880 021.

Surveys: Thank you to the community members who have completed the current School Life Surveys. New surveys on Certificates and Awards will be published in January. I will email and text the link when appropriate.

I am also attaching a Parenting Ideas note on holiday thoughts. As a father just about to embark on this journey from today on, I found a couple of ideas quite good.

Kind regards,

Glenn O'Neill.

INSIGHTS

by Michael Grose - Australia's leading parenting educator

Making the most of these holidays

Often family differences are contained during the year but spill over when normal routines cease over the holiday period.

You don't need an instruction manual to make the most of the school holidays. After all, holidays are about kicking your feet up, relaxing and getting away from the usual routines. Right?

But the festive season can be stressful for many. For parents the prospect of keeping children occupied for up to six weeks can be daunting.

Christmas can also be a difficult and lonely time for some. Sole parents and step-parents usually experience particular challenges at this time of the year as family catch-ups cause conflict, and disputes can arise over who children spend their time with.

Often family differences are contained during the year but spill over when normal routines cease over the holiday period.

Here are some ways to help reduce tension over the festive season and make the holiday season enjoyable and fruitful for all:

1. Be creative with how festivities are organised.

If you are flexible with your arrangements as well as your thinking then the potentially tricky times will flow more easily. For instance, two or more Christmas dinners may be needed so everyone is included.

2. Mix up the routines.

The best part about holidays is the change from the routines of school-life. Some kids feel comfortable with the routines of school-life and can feel a little lost until the new holiday routine kicks in. Be patient with these routine-junkies! Also make sure you begin adjusting the routine as returning to school comes closer so kids are prepared for going to bed and getting up at earlier times.

3. Mix 'me' time with 'them' time.

Plan a mixture of outdoor activities or trips with quiet at-home activities where you can relax and recharge your own batteries. The holidays give you a chance to spend time as a family but you also need to take some time for yourself each day. It helps to let your kids know that you are having some timeout too.

4. Resist being your child's home entertainment machine.

Give children opportunities to keep themselves occupied or think of inexpensive, fun ways to keep themselves amused. "I'm bored" is an invitation for kids to keep themselves occupied rather than for you to keep them amused.

5. Team up with other families.

Whether it is sharing celebrations with other families or just holidaying with friends, holidays offer the chance to broaden your child's social circle.

Make sure you provide the three types of activities that children want with their parents – i.e. **rituals and celebrations**, including family mealtimes; **one-on-one activities** where you spend some time alone with each child; and **unstructured, impromptu activities** such as playing simple games, storytelling and walks around the neighbourhood. These are important relationship-building activities that bind families

together and enable you to build up emotional collateral with kids as they move into adolescence.



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For more ideas, support and advice for all your parenting challenges visit: www.parentingideas.com.au


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Hall)

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*JFH = Jazz, Funk, Hip Hop

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4.15-5pm - Yr 3-4 JFH

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Expression of Interest

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- * Small group - limited vacancy
- * Instrument not required initially
- * Competitive rate - \$25 per session
- * Convenient at-school venue
- * Music material provided



Smart Kids Love Music!

**Please complete section on right and return
to school office before Wed 4 Dec**



Violin Incl. Piano (VIP) Music est. 1984 Tel: 9411 3122 (during school term)

I am interested in my child/ children learning
music on keyboard at Mount Kuring-gai PS:

Child / Children's name Class
_____ | _____
_____ | _____

Mobile: _____

Postal Address: _____

Parent's Signature: _____

Date: _____



Carols in the Carpark

SUNDAY Dec 15th from 6:00pm



The fun starts at 6:00pm. Carols by glowlight from 7:30pm.
There's a Live band, a free sausage sizzle,
jumping castle, dunking machine & face painting!
There's Espresso coffee & cake!
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Wednesdays

4.30pm-6.30pm. Starts 5th February

Thursdays

4.30pm-6.30pm. Starts 6th February

Tuesdays & Thursdays (2x per week)

4.00pm-6.00pm. Starts 4th February

WHERE

Hornsby PCYC – Performing Arts Centre

22 Waitara Ave, Waitara

Fix Australia

319 Penshurst St, Chatswood

North Ryde RSL Youth Club

Magdala Rd, North Ryde

Pittwater Sports Centre

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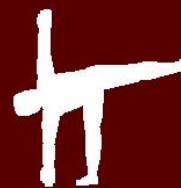
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YOGA



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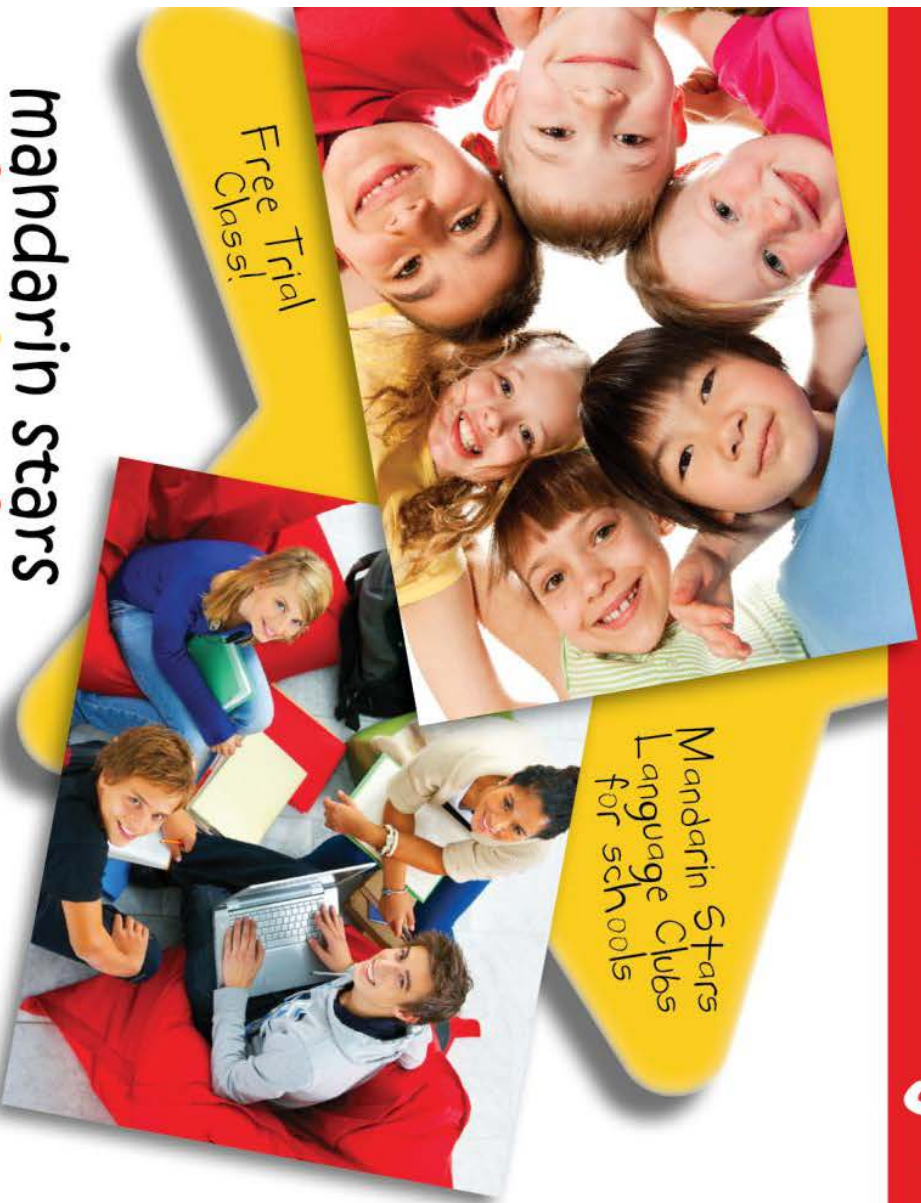
Steelworx Fitness 7a Gundah Rd, Mt Kuring-Gai
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Kids!! Have fun learning to speak Mandarin

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School Terms & Holiday Intensives

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