

Mount Kuring-gai Public School Newsletter



Education &
Communities

Mount Kuring-gai Public School
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Term 3: September

Principal's Message:

Mountain Festival: On behalf of the students and staff of MKPS I offer our huge thanks and appreciation to the community of Mount Kuring-gai and surrounding suburbs for your support of our great school. The 2014 Mountain festival demonstrated the community spirit in action. Staff, children and visitors getting dunked, relatives and family enjoying the rides and our students children smiling and laughing through the day. Leanne Johnson and her wonderful team, BRAVOOO!!!! Abby West and the Team BRAVOOO!!!! The sponsorship and support for our community was truly heartfelt and warming.

Please read the next page, which adds a more perspective to our great day.

School facility Program: You will have noticed that our old pink container has been replaced with a new green container with a roller door. We are now awaiting on the department to contract works for the concrete outside the canteen. I put a hold on works until after the Mountain Festival. The works will commence on or shortly after my return from leave. At the completion of this works, all major construction and infrastructure projects will have been completed for the school. I look back through my diaries from Term 4, 2010 and can appreciate the support and patience demonstrated by the student body staff and community. A lot of projects have certainly been ticked off and our school and community is so much the better for them.

School Staffing: After many conversations with staffing I am pleased to announce that our substantive class teacher vacancy has been filled by the appointment of a Targeted Graduate. A Targeted Graduate is a 2013 graduate student who performed within the top 1% of their University and was deemed suitable for immediate appointment by a panel of current school principals through an application and interview process. Our new teacher will be introduced to the community on my return. I am sure our community will support this appointment.

Teaching and Learning:

NAPLAN: Principals have been informed that the student reports will be available by to the community by October 15. I apologise for the delay on behalf of the DEC. As mentioned during my September P&C report, I submitted a response to the call for papers concerning the Federal Government's Senate inquiry into the procedures and reporting of NAPLAN. I was very pleased to see my submission was part of a joint response that was tabled before the inquiry.

I and the staff have viewed the overall results and will be convening a professional learning session to disseminate the areas of celebration, consolidation and those where further investigation is required.

Reporting: Your child received a detailed report regarding their individual performances in Literacy and Numeracy through Terms 2 and 3. These reports are the culmination of an authentic, ongoing and summative assessment program completed by every class teacher. These reports now form the basis of an individualised learning plan that will be discussed in the upcoming 3 way interviews. These interviews will provide the opportunity for feedback and to set further goals in literacy, Numeracy and general welfare areas. Please see the information note to make an appointment.

Classes for 2014: I have received a number of requests regarding class structure and sizes for the 2014 year. Many rumours are abound. As with every year and every school, principals submit a 'guesstimate' of future enrolments. This number then sets the anticipated staffing and resource allocations principals work with. I re-iterate the word 'guesstimate'. Numbers can fluctuate over the final term and up till February 23, where final numbers are submitted. This is a time of 'Dynamic Planning', where principals work with a number of scenarios. Classes will be formed on the best model of resource and support allocation across the whole school, not just a particular grade.

I hope this gives you a better picture of the demands placed on the leadership team during Term 4 and through February. I also hope that if our community hears rumours about staffing, they will now be in a better place to question them.

Regards,

Glenn

From our wonderful community

Election Day.

On Saturday 7th August 2013 in line with the Federal Election 2013 we held an Election Day BBQ and mini cake stall. Amongst the chaos of also organising the Mt Festival which followed the next day the day was still a great success. I would like to express huge thanks to all the Mums and Dads who assisted with the smooth running of the canteen, barbeque and baking for the cake stall on the day. Without our wonderful volunteers we would not have had such a successful day. I would like to personally thank the following people, Kate and Neil Gow, Stuart Guthrie, Francis Morgan-Keith, Stephen Floyd, Jeanie Brown, John Beckett, Adam Todd and Martin West. The canteen made a profit of \$617.30 - what a wonderful effort! These funds were directed into the P&C account.

Mt Festival.

If Election Day was not busy enough the following day, the canteen fell into full swing for Mt Festival. The canteen launched into a massive catering effort for the festival. This effort was huge to say the least. This event would have not been possible without the help and support of so many people.

Firstly, the front line workers. The ex-year six students who joined the party and assisted in the canteen on the day were nothing short of wonderful. It just goes to show what fantastic children we are sending out into the world. The students included, Zoltan Snead, Heather Wood, Elenor Henderson, Isabel Cant, Felicity Harrison, Maravel Conte, Lily Tancred, Jack Argent, Harrison George, Jonah Moon and Mason McKenzie-Wood. These students were supported by our great hardworking MKPS Mums and Dads, Sandra Brown, Sally Henderson, Murdina McKenzie Wood, Amy Cheng (for all her tieless washing up at the end of the day!) Martin West and Chris George.

I would also like to thank the wonderfully talented Harrison George who supported the festival before the event was even underway. He turned his graphic design skills on the computer for the canteen and designed the banners and menus for the canteen. He is a seriously talented young man who will go places. A huge thanks from the canteen Harrison you are a champion.

Thanks also goes out to the men of Apex who came to the festival and diligently turned flipped and hundreds of sausages to feed the hungry hoards. The BBQ was also supported by the MKPS volunteers, Mel Conte, Ben Bowden, Troy Crozier, Chris George, Martin West and the Saunders Family.

Also, I need to thank Mr Garth Douglas from Vittoria Coffee what a legend who churned out hundreds of cups of coffee, tea and hot chocolate. A huge thanks for the wonderful, delicious and amazing hamper donated to the festival from Vittoria Coffee. Garth was kindly assisted by Kim Austin on the day.

Lastly, and certainly not least I need to thank the clean up crew, Kate Gow, Emma Coffey and Georgie Simpson-Lee. I certainly could not have completed the day without you. I managed to get myself extremely exhausted and feeling very unwell immediately following the festival. The Mum's mentioned showed what true MKPS spirit is and took over doing an amazing job in the canteen cleaning up after an exhausting day. It was nothing short of a miracle and I can't thank-you enough. If this wasn't enough on Wednesday 11th September the girls ran a Sushi, Slushie and Cupcake Day making a further profit for the canteen of \$324.40. What a wonderful effort!

The final profit for the day is approximately \$1800.

Canteen Volunteers.

The canteen is in urgent need of new volunteers for the canteen roster. If we do not get sufficient volunteers for 2014 the canteen may have to lose a day. Even if you can only do one shift a term that is still very helpful. It is a wonderful way to get to know the Mum's of MKPS and can be lots of fun. Please see me in the canteen or playground if you are keen to put your name down.

Band Performances.

The band has performed at two major events this term, the events were the Book Week Parade (20/8/13) and The Mt Festival (8/9/13). Both these performances were absolutely fantastic and were an excellent display of the musical expertise we offer at MKPS. It was especially rewarding to see so many community members who visited Mt Festival appreciating and enjoying the band performance on the day of the festival. A huge thank-you to Miss Harvey and all the band members, you certainly did Mt Kuring-gai proud!

I would also like to personally thank Mrs Janine Van den Tillaart and Mrs Cathy Beckett for their assistance in ensuring the band was changed into their band uniforms and ready for their tune up session at the appointed time on the day of the festival.

From the DEC

Getting off the lounge

It's never been more important for children to get off the lounge and take a break in the great outdoors. You'll find the benefits aren't just health-related .

Find out more: <http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/development/why-your-child-may-learn-better>

Premier's Spelling Bee app

The app is free at Samsung Apps and features two categories for junior and senior primary school aged children, with a number of levels that increase in difficulty. Most adults would find the high levels in the senior category a challenge!

Find our more: <http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/about/mobile-applications/premier-s-spelling-bee>

Getting organised

Mid-way into the month, you may be in need of a planner; or if you're super-organised why not download October's?

Find out more: <http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/homework-tips/2013-homework-planner>

Kids' holiday camps

Do your kids have technology overload? Challenging adventurous activities - like rock climbing, kayaking and archery - help children and teenagers develop independence, self-esteem and social skills. Watch the video for inspiration.

Find out more: <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=615882415134701>

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SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Wednesday 25 September

- 11am Free Kids Bingo (Dobbers \$2)
- 12noon \$5 Kids Meals
- 1pm FREE Kids Movie – **Life of Pi**

Wednesday 2 October

- 11am Craft Day
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- 1pm FREE Kids Movie – **Tad the Lost Explorer**



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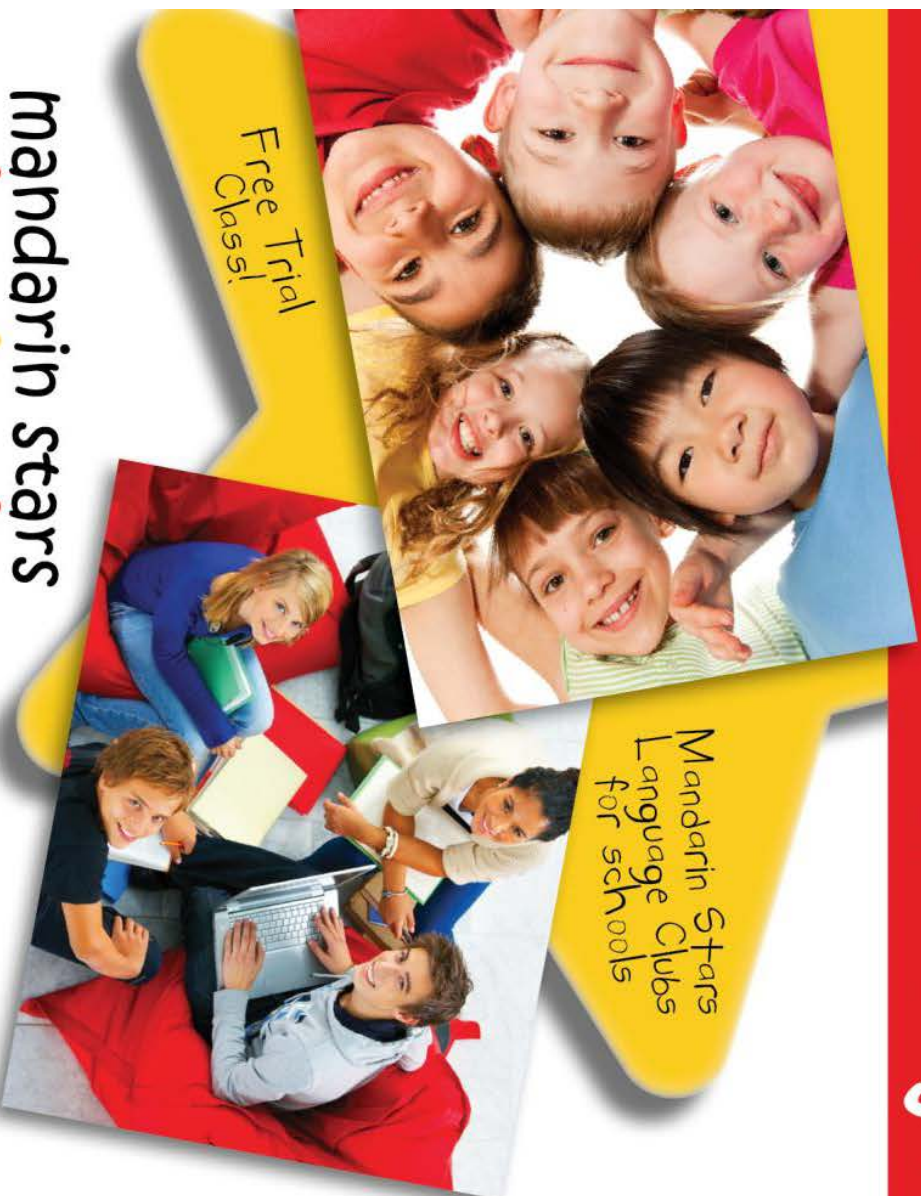
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