

Leeming Street, Mount Kuring-gai NSW 2080

Issue 5, Term 3

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22nd August, 2014

Dear Parents and Community,

Thank you for the parents who attended our parent teacher interviews. At a feedback session conducted by the staff we identified some areas that we could improve on and those that did improve the process markedly.

Our reporting system was adopted by the Northern Community of schools this year. The feedback from the other principals was extremely positive. I have been given feedback where changes could be made, however, much of the reporting framework is determined by the Board of Studies and schools can 'tweak' where appropriate for individual needs. An area that will be a focus is where your child will head next with their learning, along with goals. These issues have been raised with the staff and I am awaiting the reporting team's feedback.

Last week saw interviews for the substantive Assistant Principal position at our school. Many high quality candidates applied for the position through a merit Selection and interview process. A candidate has been selected and has accepted the position offer. Due to the confidentiality policy and the appeals process. Thank you to Neil Gow for being a member of the selection panel. I am sure the process highlighted the efforts and professionalism of the candidates and the panel members from the Department of Education and Communities.

I have received a question regarding the role and code of conduct regarding the volunteers and paid employees from our community that either work or give of their time at MKPS. All staff, whether paid or volunteer must satisfy the new working with children checks initiated in 2014. I do not conduct these, the department conducts the checks. I am then notified of the results.

As part of the Government's Local Schools program, the school Principal is tasked with assisting and enhancing the social welfare and community programs within. An important part of this role is assisting community members gain valuable work experience and opportunities for supervised TAFE programs at school. To date, our school has assisted 9 community members (some of whom do not have children at our school, but live in our community) gain fulltime or part time employment in the private and government sector. In addition, principals are charged with the responsibility of encouraging and assisting teachers wishing to re-enter the profession to do so. Having teachers local to our community provides an excellent opportunity for a school to develop flexible part time work hours (thus assisting in budget management) along with exposing them in a warm and supportive manner to the new curriculum and proficiency standards all teachers must work towards from 2016.

All staff, paid or otherwise are bound by the NSW DEC and school Code of Conduct legislation. The requirements are outlined fully in the staff member's induction process. Breaches of this code can result in a warning process or and through to dismissal. I must stress that allegations against staff members from within the school or from external must be put in writing and

addressed to the principal. Code issues are legal issues and are dealt with at a legal level.

There has been considerable discussion in the press (again) regarding the NAPLAN assessment program, in particular the 2014 writing assessment and the suitability for primary aged students. I re-iterate my belief that NAPLAN is a snap shot at a day, at a time and usually with sniffles. The data gathered is important forms one part of a complex planning process. If there are any questions, please feel free to ask.

The NSW DEC is implementing a new planning framework that will be in operation at the start of the 2015 school year. This process is all encompassing of finance, curriculum and resource development and procurement. Within this is our involvement in the trial Business Intelligence Program. I have and will be attending many meetings to ensure my knowledge of the change process will allow a seamless transition through 2015-17.

A significant change of the new process is the easing of schools being measured on NAPLAN performance and a more holistic approach to student development, such as emotional and social growth through the years. In the near future I will be discussing the new planning process with the P&C executive and outlining a new defined role for the community in the process.

Glenn O'Neill

Principal

Swim Scheme

Please get your swim scheme notes and money into the office asap. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to develop water safety skills and increase their confidence. We are fortunate enough to be apart of this program at only \$101.



Band News!

Beginner Band Members.

Term 2 saw the induction of our three new band members; Jaz Todd (guitar), Elliot Cant (guitar) and Lyla Coffey (keyboard). Now as Term 3 is well and truly underway these three new band members have proved themselves to be very talented and are now full band members. I know Miss Harvey is very proud of you all.

Band Recruitment.

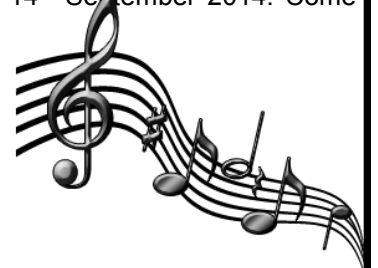
Our band is always on the lookout for any new talent within the school. So if you play a musical instrument and have done so for at least 6 months and would like to join the band please contact Abby West on 0421 922 537 or abbywest1@bigpond.com and I will pass your details onto Miss Isabella Harvey (Band Director).

The Ryde Eisteddfod.

On Wednesday 6th August 2014 our wonderfully talented band performed at The Ryde Eisteddfod at the Ryde Civic Centre. It was the first Eisteddfod our current band has taken part in and was a wonderful experience for them.

Band Performances.

After such a wonderful performance at the Ryde Eisteddfod the MKPS Concert Band are now practising for their next major event. This is the Asquith Boys Family Fun Day scheduled for Sunday 14th September 2014. Come along and enjoy the day with you family and support our fantastic band.



Canteen News!

Athletics Carnival.

On Thursday 25th July we had an action packed day with the running of the annual Athletics Carnival at Foxglove Oval. What a great success the day was. I would like to express to 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. The canteen made a profit of \$723.60 - what a wonderful effort!

Bunnings BBQ.

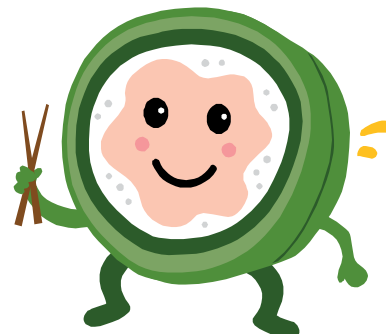
On Sunday 10th August MKPS held a fundraising BBQ at Thornleigh Bunnings. This event raised a total of \$498.95 A huge thank-you to all who volunteered on the day your generosity is overwhelming and as always appreciated greatly.

Sushi Days.

The last Sushi Day for term 3 is as follows:

Orders due: Thursday 4th September 2014.

Sushi Lunchtime: Wednesday 10th September 2014.



STAGE 3 AT CANBERRA

On Wednesday 30 August, students from Year 5 and 6 headed off to sunny Canberra. Upon arriving in our Nation's capital, we all went MAD. That is, we went to the Museum of Australian Democracy, where the children participated in a guided tour, "Who's the Boss?" This concluded in a role play held in an historic chamber, Australia's original House of Representatives!

Then from Old Parliament House, we bustled over to New Parliament House. As part of the guided tour, the students debated a Bill in a mock Senate about whether commercials should be banned from children's TV shows. Following this, the children enjoyed the marvellous displays at the War Memorial, observed the closing ceremony and heard "The Last Post" as the Australian flag was lowered.

As the sun set, we drove to the top of Black Mountain and ascended Telstra Tower for amazing 360 degree views of Canberra. Gale force winds made it a hair-raising experience for many.

Thursday saw us making the long drive to the snow. Despite a wind chill factor of minus 7 degrees, we managed to scramble up the mountainside, sinking into the snow up to our knees, and throw multitudes of snowballs at our friends. One student kindly shared a large snowball with Mr Johnson's head. His sunglasses will never be the same again!

Back in Canberra, the coach driver gave us a tour of Embassy district and shared some interesting stories regarding some of the embassies.

Early Friday Morning, we made our way to the Electoral Education Office where the students learnt through role play how an election in a representative democracy is run. Afterwards, we joined a guided tour of the Australian Institute of Sport. The children enjoyed testing their skills in Sportex, an interactive sports exhibit within the AIS.

The final highlight was Questacon. Here, students explored the magic of science in over one hundred hands-on exhibits. The loved the earthquake house, the 300 million volts of caged lightning – and the gift shop! I hope they got you something nice.

After three action-packed days of adventure, fun and learning, 34 children wearily returned to Mt Kuring-gai. Although we'd all had a lovely time away, it was nice to back in slightly-less-cold Sydney.



SPORTING CARNIVALS

This year we have had three extremely successful and fun sporting carnivals. These would not be possible without the dedication and hard work from staff and parents and the enthusiasm and participation of our great students. Congratulations to everyone for their part in such successful days. Well done to all the students that have represented MKPS at zone level and to those that have represented at a state level.

Swimming Carnival

1st– Farrer

2nd– Sturt

3rd– Namatjira

4th- Patterson

Cross Country

1st– Farrah

2nd– Sturt

3rd– Patterson

4th- Namatjira

Athletics Carnival

1st– Farrer

2nd– Patterson

3rd– Namatjira

4th- Sturt



Dancing and Singing Stars

This year has again seen the MKPS choir join with 8 other schools to perform in a mass choir at the Hornsby District Music Festival. In preparation for this event, the choir learnt 5 new songs.

The MKPS Dance group also participated in this event, performing in Wednesday's evening performance. This provided them with yet another opportunity to showcase their hard work and talent.

Both the choir and dance students have worked very hard in preparation for this event and should be proud of their involvement and achievements.

Well done!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Tuesday 26th August

- ◆ Book Parade

Wednesday 27th August

- ◆ Year 6 Fundraiser– Ice Block sale

Friday 29th August

- ◆ Star of the month assembly

Friday 5th September

- ◆ Footy Colours Fundraiser for Rhys
- ◆ Yr 6 Fundraiser– Disco

Wednesday 10th September

- ◆ P&C Meeting 7.30pm in 6J

Monday 8th September

- ◆ Swim School begins and runs everyday for 10 days

Friday 19th September

- ◆ Last Day Term 3

Tuesday 7th October

- ◆ First Day– Term 4

PARLIAMENT AND CIVICS EDUCATION REBATE

Students from our school have recently undertaken an education tour of the national capital. Students were given the opportunity to participate in a variety of educational programs with a focus on Australia's history, culture, heritage and democracy.

The Australian Government recognizes the importance of all young Australians being able to visit the national capital as part of their Civics and Citizenships education. To assist families in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government is contributing a fund of \$20 per student under the Parliament and Civics Education Program towards those costs. The rebate is paid directly to the school

MKPS TORCH RELAY/ COMMONWEALTH GAMES

When: Sunday 31st August

Have you got your registration forms in?????



HELP RHYS TRIVIA NIGHT

Sadly a talented former Mount Kuring-gai PS student has been diagnosed with Ewing Sarcoma, a rare and aggressive bone cancer. He is currently undergoing treatment and has intense surgery ahead. A small group of parents from Kuring-gai Creative Arts High School are hosting a trivia night to support Rhys and his family during this emotional and difficult time.

DETAILS

The night will be hosted by a professional trivia MC. We will also be running a silent auction and games that require a gold coin to play.

TIME: 7pm, for a 7:30 pm start.

DATE: Saturday, 30th August 2014.

COST: \$20 per person.

VENUE: The Bini (Main Hall), Ku-ring-gai Creative Arts High School
Bobbin Head Rd, North Turrumurra NSW 2074

BYO: Drinks & snacks. Coffe, tea & cakes will be provided.

CONTACT & RSVP:

To reserve your seat or table, please contact Carol Barlow.

Phone: 0403113115

Email: jeclb@bigpond.com

Reservations are essential - so please don't hesitate to contact us.

To make donations or to find out more information go to: www.helprhys.com

Community Notice Board



LEGO COMPETITION

First Saturday in September

Berowra Uniting Church

4 - 6 Alan Rd, Berowra Heights



Click here for Entry Details:

www.berowra.unitingchurch.org.au/lego

ASQUITH LEAGUES
SPRING SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
A day of activities to keep the kids busy!
Children must be accompanied by an adult

Wednesday 24 September
11am – Kids Movie **FREE BIRDS**
12noon – \$5 Kids Meals
1pm – KIDS BINGO

Wednesday 1 October
11am – KIDS MOVIE **ANIMALS UNITED**
12noon – \$5 Kids Meals
1pm – **Craft Day \$5 per child** (3 yrs and over) *Bookings essential*

11-37 Alexandria Parade, Waitara Ph: 9487 1066

Create. Perform. Produce.

We invite participants aged between 5 and 12 to embark on a creative journey to put on a theatrical performance at the end of a week-long workshop. Explore our theme of 'ARCADE ACTION' drawing inspiration from the movie 'WRECK IT RALPH' and popular video games including Super Mario Brothers, Pacman and Tetris.

Venue: 'The Light of Christ' Centre, Yardley Ave, Waitara

Dates: 29/9 – 3/10. 3 or 5 day bookings available

Time: 9am-3pm with extended care options

Cost: \$300 for the week/ \$200 for 3 days