



NEWSLETTER



Established 1962

21 October 2013

Principal's Message

Welcome to Term 4 everyone! We are looking forward to a great term, filled with lots of learning and exciting events including our school discos, stage 3 camp, Kindy Smart Start and orientation sessions, swim school, special maths days as well as our end of year presentation days, games day, our principal's morning tea, parent helper's morning tea and our year 6 farewell. Student reports will be sent home Week 10, Friday 13th December.

Mt Druitt/Minchinbury Public Speaking Competition

Congratulations to Jeremy Bassine, Rylea Conlon, Siddhika Garg and Hannah Duncan. I was fortunate to be able to attend the public speaking event at Hassall Grove Public School on 16th October and see all of these wonderful students present their speeches. There were 14 schools represented there and the standard of all presentations was extremely high. Our students were outstanding! Marayong South Public School won the highest achievement trophy for stage 2 and Rylea Conlon won the Year 4 competition. Congratulations to you all, you represented our school beautifully and I could not be more proud of you.

Marayong South Public School Facebook Page

We now have an official Facebook page for our school. Please have a look at it. It is updated with posts most days and many parents are now accessing valuable and up-to-date information through the page on a daily basis. We also continue to update our school website every 2 weeks with copies of the 'What's On', School Newsletters, Term Updates and student notes.

Zone and Regional Athletics

Congratulations to all the students who represented our school at the Zone and Regional Athletics events last term. All students competed very well, giving their very best. As always, our students were respectful, well behaved and showed great sportsmanship at these events. Thank you to the teachers who organised and assisted with these events.

Footy Fever Day

Footy Fever Day was held on Thursday 5th September and was great fun. Thank you Mrs Parsons, Mrs Gaynor, Mr Nash and all our stage 3 students for your hard work organising and running a very successful day. All money raised will go towards our year 6 farewell.

Literacy Walkathon

Our Literacy Walkathon was also a great success. We raised over \$3000. Thank you to Miss Levis and the School Literacy Committee for your organisation of this event. Thanks also to Ed Husic for donating the fabulous bike which was won by Rylea Conlon. The children really enjoyed participating in the walkathon. All money raised will be used to purchase literacy resources for our students.

Oracy Competitions

Last term we held Oracy competitions for K-2 students and Year 3-6 students. Congratulations to all our students for participating. The standard of the speeches delivered was outstanding. Special

congratulations to our finalists and winners. Our winners from Years 3-6 will be completing in two district public speaking competitions this term. We wish them all the very best of luck!

Unsupervised Students

There is a beautiful playground just near the Woodcroft entrance to our school. Parents have informed me that a number of our students go to this playground after school and play there unsupervised for 30 minutes or so before they are collected by parents at about 3:30pm. Concerns for the safety of these children have been expressed to me and I share these concerns. Some of the students are very young and should not be left in a park unsupervised. This area is known to be a regular dumping ground for glass bottles, broken glass and used syringes among other unsafe things that have very frequently been left on the ground there. There is also the possibility of 'strangers' entering this area knowing that there are unsupervised young children there.

I ask that children are collected promptly by parents at 3pm. Please do not tell children to play at the park until they are collected, as this puts them into a very unsafe situation. Even if they are supervised by older siblings, they are still at risk. I thank you for your cooperation with this serious matter. As always, the safety and wellbeing of our beautiful children is our highest priority.

Supervision of Students in the Playground Before School

We have a teacher on playground duty every morning from 8:30am under the COLA area and the area surrounding the sandpit. We would very much appreciate all students and parents staying in this area in the mornings before school starts to ensure that close supervision of all students is able to be managed effectively. Unfortunately games with large balls (soccer balls, basketballs and footballs) cannot be used in this area. This is for safety reasons. Games using large balls can be played at recess and lunch when the netball court and field areas are open and fully supervised by staff. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding with this matter.

Blacktown Music Festival

I was very happy to be able to attend the Blacktown Music Festival Concert last term on Wednesday evening, 11th September at Bowman Hall. Our Senior Choir and Junior Dance Group were fantastic and performed beautifully. I felt so proud of them all. Well done to all the students who performed on the night and thank you Mr Butterfield, Mrs Mitchell and Miss Fowler for helping our students achieve such a high level of skill in music and dance.

Complaints, Concerns and Issues

Occasionally parents or members of our school community may be concerned about an incident or issue or may have a complaint they would like addressed.

A complaint can simply be an expression of dissatisfaction or it can be a problem that you want fixed. Sometimes things do not go the way you expect. Sometimes the decisions made or the actions taken need to be explained better. At other times, we need to look more closely at what we did or how we are doing our work.

The DET has a policy to assist in the dealing of complaints. The policy aims to:

- encourage the resolution of problems by informal means wherever possible
- ensure that concerns are dealt with quickly, fully and fairly
- maintain good working relationships between all people involved with the school
- provide effective responses and appropriate redress
- be confidential
- be unbiased

How to make a complaint

- Discuss your concerns with a member of our staff or make an appointment to discuss the matter with the Principal
- You may bring a friend or relative to support you.
- If a complaint cannot be resolved in an informal way, you may be asked to put your complaint in writing.
- It is important that your written complaint includes specific details of the situation/issue and an indication of what you would like to happen as a result of your complaint.
- We can assist you to put your complaint in writing, if you require it.

What can you expect?

- Most complaints can be resolved quickly and informally to everybody's satisfaction simply by talking to the person concerned or the Principal.
- Some complaints are covered under another policy or by special legislation e.g. OH&S or anti-discrimination policies. You will be advised if this is the case with your complaint. You will also be told how and by whom your concerns will be addressed.
- Occasionally more serious or complex complaints require investigation. These can take a longer time to resolve. If this happens, you should be informed of the progress and outcome of your complaint by phone or in writing at regular intervals until the matter is resolved.
- If you have not heard from the person handling the complaint within a reasonable time, call to ask them what is happening.

What are the possible outcomes?

1. Your complaint is upheld (in part or in full) and, where appropriate, one or more of the following actions may be offered to you:

- action to remedy or amend the situation
- an apology
- an explanation
- an admission that the situation could have been handled differently or better
- an assurance that the event complained of will not recur
- an explanation of the steps that have been taken to ensure that it will not happen again
- an undertaking to review our policies in light of the complaint.

2. Your complaint is not upheld. The reasons for this should be clearly given.

If you are not happy with the outcome, you may request a review of your complaint.

I encourage all parents or member of our school community who have a concern or an issue to approach a member of staff or myself so that matters can be resolved as quickly and effectively as possible.

Warm Regards

Mandy Hollis

Principal

PLEASE NOTE

THE DRIVEWAY IS CLOSED

FROM 8AM – 4PM TO

TRAFFIC

FOR THE SAFETY

OF YOUR

CHILDREN



ENROL NOW FOR KINDERGARTEN 2014

If you know of any friends or neighbours that have a child turning 5 before the 31 July 2014, please ask at the administration office for an enrolment form. If you have an enrolment please return to the school office asap.



Important Dates:

Kinder Orientation no 1
28/10

Kinder Orientation no 2
5/11

Kinder Orientation no 3
14/11

Kinder Parent Info Night
2/12

PBL News

Welcome to our second edition of PBL news. A big welcome back to staff, students and parents for what looks to be a very busy and exciting Term 4.

A few small reminders for our PBL community to help to continue promoting our Safe, respectful learners at Marayung South:

- Students are to remember that there are to be no basketballs, netballs and footballs on the playground in the mornings prior to the 9am bell. The netball court is closed before school. All students must ensure they are in the COLA area before the 9am bell rings.
- We have had a number of incidences this term involving students being caught out of bounds. A friendly reminder that students need to be in bounds and within the sight of the teacher on duty.
- Our first extra play for Term 4 will be held on Friday 8th November from 2-2:30pm. This is for any student who has not received a green slip during the first 5 weeks of Term 4.

What's Coming Up...

TERM 4

October

- Mon 21 Canteen closed
Newsletter home
- Wed 23 K-2 Assembly at 11.30am Host KC Years 3-6
Assembly at 12.15pm Host 4B
- Thurs 24 Smart Start
- Fri 25 PSSA
What's On home Weeks 4/5
- Mon 28 Canteen Closed
Kindergarten Orientation 1
- Tues 29 5/6 Camp for 3 days
- Wed 30 K-2 Assembly at 11.30am Host 1/2C Years 3-6
Assembly at 12.15pm Host 3/4N
- Thurs 31 Smart Start

November

- Fri 1 PSSA
- Mon 4 Canteen Closed
- Tues 5 Kindergarten Orientation 2
- Wed 6 23 K-2 Assembly at 11.30am Host 2K Years 3-6
Assembly at 12.15pm Host 3P
- Thurs 7 Smart Start
Disco K-2 5-6.15pm 3-6 6.30-8pm
- Mon 11 Canteen closed
Swim School commences
- Wed 13 K-6 Assembly 11.30am
- Thurs 14 Smart Start
Kinder Orientation Day no 3
- Mon 18 Canteen closed
Kinder 2014 interviews
- Tues 19 World of Maths
- Wed 20
- Thurs 21 Smart Start
- World of Maths
- What's On home Weeks 8/9

