



NEWSLETTER



Established 1962

25 August 2014

Principal's Message

What an eventful and wonderful term we are having! Students and teachers have been very busy with lots of wonderful events to enjoy. I am sure we are all looking forward to a restful holiday in September/October before the commencement of term 4.

Education Week

Education Week was fantastic, with our dance groups and choir performing at Westfield's, Mt Druitt and at our special Education Week assembly and Open Day. Many parents, carers, grandparents and family members attended our assembly and then visited classrooms to see 'learning in action'. We also had a 'Kids Matter' morning tea during Education Week, this was well attended by parents and visitors. Thank you to everyone who was able to share this special day with us.

Athletics Carnival

Our Athletics Carnival took place on Thursday 7th August at Charlie Bali Reserve. The weather was perfect and we had lots of parents and visitors attend the carnival which was wonderful to see. I would like to thank Mrs Mitchell for her outstanding organisation of the day, the students from Doonside Technology High School who did a brilliant job assisting us, Mrs Mitchell's dad who gave freely of his time and Mr Bonello for providing delicious food and 'real coffee' for staff and visitors. Thanks also to our wonderful P&C mums who transported and set up the gazebos, then packed them up and brought them back to school. The students had a wonderful day and so did staff, parents and volunteers.

Book Week

What a wonderful week we had! Thank you Mrs Whitford, Mrs Jacobs and Mrs Garay for all your hard work and the many parents who assisted with our Book Fair. Thanks also to all the wonderful parents that supported the Book Fair and Book Parade. We also had a special Book Week performance on Wednesday that was enjoyed by all. The Book Week parade was a highlight. Everyone looked great and had so much fun!

Performing Arts Festival

Our performing Arts Festival was incredible. Our students were amazing on stage. They were enthusiastic, energetic and really enjoyed every moment of their performance. Students and teachers worked very hard in preparation for this event, and this was clearly evident in the high standard of all the performances. Thank you to Miss Patterson and Miss Holden who did an outstanding job coordinating this event. Thank you to all the wonderful parents who assisted with organisation of the concert and with costumes. Mr Joe Begnell, Principal of Doonside Technology High School, was absolutely fantastic. He organised for us to have use of the hall all day for rehearsals. He organised the holding rooms for students on the night. He made sure everything possible was done to support

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us and our children. He provided two members of his staff to assist us with lighting and sound, Nick and Jenny. They did an outstanding job and gave up their evening to help us.

Mr Begnell has shown his tremendous support of our school over the years through high school transition programs, staff professional learning programs and student leadership initiatives as well as organising for students to assist us with other school events. Thank you Mr Begnell, you are making a positive difference for our students and our school.

Father's Day Stall

Our Father's Day stall will be operating on Wednesday 27th August. All students will have the opportunity to buy a gift for their father, grandfather, uncle or another significant person in their life. Students will visit the stall in class groups during the day. Thank you to Mrs Coolen and all the parents who have (and will be) assisting her with this event.

Smart Start

Our Smart Start program commences on 28th August and will continue until 27th November. This is a Kindergarten transition program that aims to help preschool children prepare for their first year of school. We are really looking forward to working with our new kindergarten students and getting to know all the lovely new parents who will be warmly welcomed into our Marayong South Public School community.

*Warm regards,
Mrs Mandy Hollis
Principal*

ENROL NOW FOR KINDERGARTEN 2015 ENROL NOW FOR KINDERGARTEN 2015

If you know of any friends or neighbours that have a child turning 5



before the 31 July 2015 please ask at the administration office for an enrolment form.

Important information:

Smart Start: This program aims to help your child become familiar with the school environment and routines, and to develop their pre-skills in literacy and numeracy. Smart Start will run each Thursday from **9.15am to 10.45am,**

commencing in Term 3 - 28th August to 27th November. The program will run for a total of 12 weeks and finish late in Term 4. There is a limited waiting list of 25-30 children. See leaflet attached.

Teddy Bear's Picnic:

Thursday 18th September
Kindergarten Interviews will be conducted during October in Term 4, dates to be advised. Special appointments will be made for those parents who cannot attend at the appointed time. Letters will be sent late in Term 3. Interviews are very informal and a great opportunity for us to meet both the parent and child.

Kindergarten Orientation:

Thursday 6 November
Thursday 13 November
Thursday 20 November

Parent Information Night:

Date to be advised

Rock and Water

This year at Marayong South PS we have introduced a new program across Years 1 - 6 called Rock and Water. The Rock and Water program offers a framework of exercises and ideas to assist boys and girls in becoming aware of their purpose and motivation in life. Topics covered in *Rock and Water* include intuition, body language, mental strength, empathetic feeling and positive feeling. The building blocks of the *Rock and Water* program are self-control, self-reflection

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and self-confidence. Building on to this foundation, it is possible to pay attention to the themes of safety, assertiveness, communication and finding their own way that connects them to others and gives them direction. This program is being delivered by Ms Levis every Tuesday.

Ms Levis
Assistant Principal
Coordinator

Literacy Walk-a-thon

In Week 9 this term Marayong South PS students will be participating in the school Literacy Walk-a-thon. The aim of the walk-a-thon is to raise money for quality English resources and programs that can be used in classrooms K-6. For every \$12 raised, students will get to choose a prize from the 'Prize Box'. There will be book prizes presented to the highest fundraiser in K-2 and 3-6. The highest fundraising class will also receive an ice-cream party for their combined efforts. In addition to these prizes, Mr Ed Husic MP has very generously donated a brand new bike to our school. For every \$5 raised, students will receive a ticket to go into the draw for this wonderful bike. In order to win these prizes we ask that students hand their sponsor cards into the office by Friday 29th August (Week 7).

Ms Levis
Assistant Principal
Coordinator

Marayong South Peer Support Starts Monday Week 7

Week 7 and Week 8

We are commencing our Peer Support lessons this week. The whole school participates in
BE SAFE

Peer Support for 30 minutes each week (Monday 2:00pm-2:30pm). Two Peer leaders facilitate a small group of students, who work together through a number of structured activities. Each teacher will supervise 2-3 groups in their classroom. Lessons for these weeks will focus on getting to know each other and working together as a group.

Week 9

This week we will begin our module called *Keeping Friends*. This module aims in helping us explore the concept of friendship, build relationships and develop skills in empathy and critical thinking. The module runs for 8 sessions. Our first session enables the children to get to know everyone in their group, agreeing on how they will work together and interact cooperatively with others. They will also begin to think about the meaning of friendship. We encourage you to talk to your children about Peer Support every week as it will help to reinforce the concepts learned in each session.

Week 10

During Peer Support this week the children will look at qualities their friends may have and the concept that we choose friends based on the qualities we admire in them. They will also explore the skills of friendship, specifically those of cooperating and listening. During the week encourage your child to show they are interested in the person they are talking to by being an active listener.

Mrs Parsons
Assistant Principal
Coordinator

What's Coming Up...

August

- Mon 25 Newsletter home Canteen closed Mondays
- Tues 26 Scripture
- Wed 27 K-2 Assembly 11.30am host KJ. Yrs3-6 Assembly at 12.15pm host 3/4M
- Thurs 28 Smart Start

September

- Mon 1 Canteen closed Mondays
 - Tues 2 Scripture
 - Wed 3 K-6 Assembly 11.30am
 - Thurs 4 Smart Start
 - Fri 5 What's On home Weeks 9/10
 - Mon 8 Canteen closed Mondays
 - Tues 9 Scripture
 - Wed 10 K-2 Assembly 11.30am host 1/2P & 1/2H Yrs3-6 Assembly at 12.15pm host 3/4S BMF Rehearsal & Concert
 - **Thurs 11 Literacy Walkathon**
 - Fri 12 Year 3/4 Excursion
 - Mon 15 Canteen closed Mondays
 - Tues 16 Scripture Year 3/4 Camp 2 days Year 5/6 Camp 2 days
 - Wed 17 K-2 Assembly 11.30am host 11/2D No 3-6 Assembly
 - Thurs 18 Teddy Bears Picnic for Smart Start and Kinder.
 - Fri 19 Last Day for Term 3 Canteen Closed
- FOOTY FEVER DAY**

October

- **Mon 6 Public Holiday**
- **Tues 7 Staff & Students return** What's On home Weeks 1/2 Scripture
- Wed 8 NO ASSEMBLIES
- Thurs 9 Smart Start
- Fri 10 Summer PSSA continues
- Monday 13 Canteen closed
- Tues 14 Scripture
- Wed 15 K-2 Assembly 11.30am host 1/2H Yrs3-6 Assembly at 12.15pm host 5/6N Mt Druitt Public Speaking Comp
- Thurs 16 Smart Start
- Fri PSSA