



# NEWSLETTER



Established 1962

16<sup>th</sup> March 2015

## Principal's Message

Welcome to Week 7 of Term 1, everyone! We are having a fantastic term with lots of great teaching and learning happening in all classrooms.

## Swimming Carnival

Congratulations and well done to all our swimmers. Our school carnival on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February was a great success and a most enjoyable day for everyone. Thank you to Mr Nash, Miss Hemphill, Mrs McKinder, Mrs Coolen and all the wonderful parents who came along and enjoyed the day with us. Seventeen of our students competed at the zone carnival on 5<sup>th</sup> March with two students, Tayla Atkins and Lachlan Taylor going on to represent our district at regional level.

## Harmony Day

This year Harmony Day will be celebrated at Marayong South on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March. Mrs Putica has planned an exciting day, we are looking forward to sharing this day with parents/carers and family members. Stay tuned for more information.

## Parent/Teacher Interviews

Parent/Teacher Interviews will take place on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March from 3:30pm to 7pm. Please take this opportunity to speak with your child's teacher and find out how things are going at school for your child.

## Emergency Drill

We will be having an emergency drill later this term. We have emergency drills so that everyone knows how to keep themselves and others safe. It is very important to have these drills so that in the event of an actual emergency, students and staff know exactly what to do. Emergency drills are mandatory and must be done regularly throughout the school year.

## **HOW TO RAISE CARING CHILDREN**

What does it take to raise a compassionate, moral child? Researchers have found that, worldwide, this is parents' number one priority – instilling caring is more important to them than their children's achievement. But how much difference can parents make? Are some children born good-natured and others mean-spirited? Studies of twins suggest that up to half of people's propensity to be kind is inherited – which means that parents and the environment account for the rest.

**Praise is more effective than rewards.** If we want to reinforce caring, rewards run the risk of leading children to be kind only when a carrot is offered, whereas praise communicates that sharing is intrinsically worthwhile for its own sake.

**Praise character, not actions.** Say "You're a very nice and helpful person", which helps children internalise being helpful as part of their identity.

**Nouns work better than verbs.** It's better to encourage a child to "be a helper" than "to help", and it's better to say, "Please don't be a fibber" than "Please don't fib". When our actions become a reflection of our character, we tend to choose the moral. In time it becomes part of us.

**With bad behaviour, evoke guilt, not shame.** Shame is the feeling that I am a bad person, whereas guilt is the feeling that I have done a bad thing. Shame makes children feel small and worthless, and they respond either by lashing out at the target or escaping the situation altogether. When parents get angry and seem to withdraw their love, children feel shame and believe they're bad people.

In contrast, guilt is a negative judgment about an action, which can be repaired by good behaviour. When children feel guilt, they tend to experience remorse and regret, empathise with the person they have harmed, and try to make it right.

**Say you're disappointed.** Expressing disappointment, explaining why the behaviour was wrong, how it affected others, and how they can rectify the situation, enables children to develop standards for judging their actions and feelings of empathy and responsibility for others, which are conducive to becoming a helpful person.

Expressing disappointment communicates disapproval of the bad behaviour, coupled with high expectations and the potential for improvement: "You're a good person, even if you did a bad thing, and I know you can do better."

**Model caring and generous behaviour.** Children pay more attention to what adults do than what they preach. Children learn generosity not by listening to what their role models say, but by observing what they do.

Acknowledgement: "Raising a Moral Child" by Adam Grant in *The New York Times*, April 13, 2014.

*Warmest regards*

*Mrs Mandy Hollis*

*Principal*

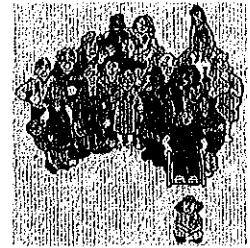
*16<sup>th</sup> March 2015*

# ENROL NOW FOR KINDERGARTEN 2016

If you know of any friends or neighbours that have a child turning 5 before the 31 July 2016 please ask at the administration office for an enrolment form.



**PLEASE NOTE**  
**THE DRIVEWAY IS CLOSED**  
**FROM 8AM - 4PM TO TRAFFIC**  
**FOR THE SAFETY OF YOUR**  
**CHILDREN**  
**STAFF & DELIVERIES ONLY**



Harmony Day – Marayong  
 South International Food  
 Festival activities:

## 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 - dates to be advised. 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. Applications will be offered to all enrolled students for 2016 and will be sent by mail during early Term 3.
- **Teddy Bear's Picnic:** In September dates to be advised.
- **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:** During November dates to be advised.
- **Parent Information Night:** Date to be advised

# CANTEEN CLOSED ON MONDAYS



## STUDENT RECOGNITION:

Congratulations to the following students who represented MSPS at the Zone Swimming Carnival on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2015:



Lachlan Taylor, Henry Branson, Thomas Formosa, Daan Coolen, Boston Stewart, Jeremy Bassine, Samuel Salazar-Vasquez, Ella Beggan, Lily Whitelaw, Dani Duffy, Maddison Heggen, Angelina Bassine, Shoshana Galbraith, Mariah Camilleri, Tayla Atkins and Annalise Ahmad.

Congratulations to Tayla Atkins and Lachlan Taylor who will represent Blacktown District at the Sydney West Swimming Carnival today, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2015.

## LAST DAYS .....closing day this Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March for International Competitions

**ICAS:** The Australian Schools English, Mathematics, Computer and Spelling Studies competitions are here again this year and will be available to Years 3-6 students. Parents of students in Years 3-6 may elect to have their children sit any or all of the competitions. There is a cost of \$8 each for English, Mathematics and \$11 for Spelling. All students will receive certificates and a full analysis of their results.

These competitions are not compulsory.

- Spelling Comp Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June
- English Comp Tues 28<sup>th</sup> July
- Maths Comp Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> August



Order forms are available at the office. No late entries are accepted.

## When

Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> of March 2015

## Bring a plate to share

We ask that all students bring a plate of food, from their cultural backgrounds, to share with their class. We kindly ask that nuts are excluded from these foods and that recipes be provided with the food.

## 1.00pm to 1.30pm

Parent and carers, you are welcomed to stay and eat with your children and have scrumptious discussions about the foods.

## 1.30pm to 2.00pm

Parents and carers, you are welcomed to stay during lunch. If your child(ren) are participating in the parade, we kindly ask that you can assist them in dressing in their national costumes.

## FYI.....2015 TERM DATES

Term 1 ends Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April

### Term 2

One Staff Development day to be held during vacation - Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> April  
 One Staff Development day to be held on Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> April  
**All Students return from vacation Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> April**  
 Term ends Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> June

### Term 3

One Staff Development day to be held during vacation - Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> July  
 One Staff Development day to be held on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> July  
 All Students return from vacation Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> July  
 Term ends Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> September

### Term 4

All Staff and Students return from vacation Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> October  
 Term ends Wed, 16<sup>th</sup> December.

