**marayong south logo colourNEWSLETTER**

**23rd October 2017**

**Principal’s Message**

What a truly wonderful start to Term 4. Our students are very settled and have returned to school happy, positive and focused on their learning. All Term 4 programs were written before the holidays and implementation commenced day one of the term. Teachers are very busy teaching, assessing and preparing to write semester 2 student reports which will be sent home with all students on Friday 8th December. Our beautiful year 6 students are enjoying their very last term of primary school before they commence their journey through high school. We have lots of exciting events this term including Smart Start, high school transition activities, Thank You Morning Tea, Kindergarten Information Night, Games Day, Presentation Days, Year 6 Farewell, Year 6 Graduation and many, many more. I am sure this term will fly by very quickly and be very productive and happy for all of us. Although it is sad to see the end of the year approaching, it is also exciting to celebrate the achievements of our students.

**The Amazing Race Fundraiser**

I would like to thank our fantastic P&C parents, Mrs Mitchell and her wonderful team of teachers for planning, organising and running our Amazing Race school fundraising event last term. What an outstanding job you all did! Over $4000 was raised. This money will be used to purchase playground equipment. The day was thoroughly enjoyed by all. A tremendous amount of time and effort went into this event and we all really appreciate everything that students, staff and parents did to ensure its success. Special thanks to our peer support leaders who showed responsibility, respect and maturity beyond their years. Thank you to all our staff for their support of the event and all our beautiful students whose behaviour and application during the event was exemplary.

**Grandparent’s Day**

We celebrated Grandparent’s Day last Thursday and this day was a wonderful success. Many thanks to Mrs Mitchell, our school canteen ladies and all staff who assisted to make this day so special for everyone involved. The theme of the day was ‘Making Memories’ and the day was certainly a very beautiful and memorable one for our students and their grandparents.

**Playground Markings**

A number of teachers and members of our school community came into the school during the school holidays and painted the beautiful playground markings that our students have been enjoying so much this term. Bunnings at Blacktown were absolutely fantastic. They donated all the paint and materials, over $1000 worth. They sent two members of staff to help us with painting and they bought lunch for everyone on the day. Sincere thanks to everyone who gave their time. energy, expertise, dedication, commitment and care to beautify our school playground for our students. There’s still work to be done but we are definitely on the road to improving our school environment for our community.

**Public Speaking K-2 and 3-6 Competitions**

Congratulations to all our students for their participation in the Marayong South Public Speaking Competition and special thanks to Mrs Mitchell and Miss Davey for their hard work in organising and running these highly successful events. All students were outstanding, the winners and runners up will compete at district level. Special congratulations to those students.

**Mt Druitt – Minchinbury Public Speaking Competition**

Congratulations to Ryan M, Jai-David A, Simran K and Rivira M who were outstanding competitors at the Mt Druitt-Minchinbury Public Speaking Competition last Wednesday, 18th October 2017.

**School Playground Fun**

This term will continue to offer all students the opportunity of participating in Lunchtime Clubs:

Monday – K-2 Dance Club

Tuesday – Koori Club and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Club

Wednesday – Art Club and Yoga Club

Thursday 3-6 Social Games Club

Friday – Music Club

Many students have enjoyed clubs this year. Clubs are a PBL initiative and they have proved to be a great success.

**Late Arrivals**

Every morning at Marayong South Public School we have many, many students who arrive well after 9am. It is very important for all students to arrive at school on time every day. Every class commences their Reading, Writing and Spelling learning activities promptly at 9am just after rolls are marked. Students who are late miss out on this important learning. If a child is just 10 -15 minutes late for school every day this will result in one hour of lost learning time every week totalling 10 hours a term. Many students regularly arrive at 9:30/10am and even later. These students are disadvantaged because they miss out on crucial learning time. This also applies when students are collected early and they miss out on afternoon learning activities.

**Attendance**

It is a legal requirement that all children attend school every day from 9am to 3pm. The exceptions are: illness, injury or infectious disease. Periods of non attendance will affect a student’s educational progress. Regular non attendance will result in failure to obtain the continuity in their education that is desirable and necessary for them to succeed and achieve. Parents/carers of students with attendance rates below 80% have received letters expressing our concerns. I thank all parents and carers for ensuring that their child attend school every day and on time. I cannot stress the importance of this enough.

***Our P&C***

Many thanks to our wonderful P&C for their help with the Teddy Bear’s Picnic, Smart Start Parent Morning Tea and Grandparents Day. Our P&C parents are a very small group of parents who do an enormous amount of work for our school always giving freely and happily of their time and energy. They are just amazing!

**DEALING WITH SCARY TV NEWS**

Many families sit down and watch the evening news together and much of it is very graphic. Violence is vividly described and often shown. Children often need help to understand what is happening and how it might affect them. Our 24/7 news culture — in conjunction with easily accessible iPads, cell phones and televisions — provides a window to events that both children and adults can struggle to understand. And when bad things happen on the world’s stage, it is very natural and healthy for children to bring up questions at home or in the classroom. Decisions about what to say, and what not to say, are best guided by a child’s developmental age.

**Tips for parents and teachers**

1. Listen to children to understand how *they* understand the trauma. What you’re scared about, as an adult, may not be what they’re scared about and this is likely to be different for children at different ages.
2. Answer the *why* questions that will inevitably come. Children are inclined to ask, for example, “Why did the robbers do this?” The answer should be tailored to a child’s age. To a 7-year-old, you might say, “There are bad people in the world, but there are lots of people who are protecting us from bad people”. A good piece of advice: When I was a boy and I saw scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, “Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.”  There are still so many caring people in this world.
3. Protect your child from seeing traumatic visual images over and over again.
4. Develop a safety plan with your child. If a child is scared about being in crowds or being in the city centre, try to think about how a child might be safe. Talk about safety in groups, or provide a phone number to call should they need encouragement when facing a situation that triggers fears.
5. Self-soothing techniques can be helpful. If children are feeling upset, deep breathing, exercise, listening to music and other strategies for calming down and managing anxiety can help.
6. Modelling how you manage through tough times also helps to build resilience in children. Your children watch how you respond to scary events and they take cues from you. Often events that are scary for kids are scary for adults, too, but when they see you calmly going about your normal activities they feel more secure.
7. The guiding principle is to talk to children in ways they understand, while being careful to not provide too much detail to a younger child. Think about how to talk to your children in a way that will help them understand and make sense of events that may otherwise feel unpredictable and overwhelming.

Acknowledgement: Richard Weissbourd in Usable Knowledge Harvard Graduate School of Education

Warm regards,

Mandy Hollis, Principal

**DON’T MISS OUT SMARTSTART TRANSITION**

**FINISHING SOON**

**ENROL NOW**

**FOR**

**KINDERGARTEN 2018**

If you know of any friends or neighbours that have a child turning 5 before the 31st July 2018 please ask at the administration office for an enrolment form.

**Important information:**

* **Smart Start transition offers** were mailed to all students who have returned their child’s enrolment application this week. If you are interested in your child attending Smart Start, please return your child’s enrolment form as soon as possible and complete a Smart Start Application.
* **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, Thursday, 17th August 2017. The program will run for a total of 11 weeks and finish on Thursday, 9th November 2017.
* **Parent Information Night:**

Tuesday, 21st November 2017.

* **Parent interviews** will be conducted during **Best Start Assessments** held 30th January, 31st January & 1st February 2018. Prior to commencing Kindergarten all students attend a Best Start Kindergarten Assessment session at the school. This is a chance for teachers to identify each student’s literacy and numeracy skills and understanding at the beginning of Kindergarten. It is important to remember that all children learn at different rates. Don’t be concerned if your child can’t answer all the questions. The *Best Start Kindergarten Assessment* is designed to provide teachers with information about each student’s abilities so they can plan effective teaching and learning programs during the first year of school. It will also provide you with feedback about how you can support your child during the first year of school.

**From Mrs Mitchell’s Desk**

**Grandparents Day** - HUGE thank you to the canteen and P&C parents who catered the event.

Thank you to Amazing Foto Booths for the photo booth which helped us make marvellous memories.

Thank you to all the grandparents and grandfriends who were able to make it and join in the memory making fun.

**Amazing Race -**Thank you for your support we raised $4009.

Amazing Race - highest fundraiser - Makai Pittman - $162.50

Sponsorship draw winner - James Tynan

Mrs Mitchell

Coodinator

**DRUMBEATS INCURSION Thursday, 2nd November 2017**

Dear Parent/Caregiver

Our school will be having an incursion this term in Week 4 on Thursday, 2nd November 2017.

Drumbeats educational shows are designed to build confidence, spirit and a sense of community in our children. All the shows are hands-on for every child!

Please ask at the office for a permission note, cost:$5 per students. Payment by Friday, 27th October to the school office.

**PLEASE NOTE**

**THE DRIVEWAY IS CLOSED FROM 8AM – 4PM TO TRAFFIC FOR THE SAFETY**

**OF YOUR CHILDREN**

**STAFF & DELIVERIES ONLY**

**PARKING IN THE SCHOOL GROUNDS IS PROHIBITED**

***Assembly Roster Wednesdays at 2pm.***

***Week 3 3H***

***Week 4 Whole School***

***Week 5 KP & KG***

***Week 6 4S***

***Week 7 KC***

***Week 8 4/5O***

***Week 9 Presentation Day***

***6th December***

***Assemblies are finished for 2017.***

***Marayong South Public School Weekly Breakfast Club***

*To help promote healthy eating, Marayong South will be hosting a weekly breakfast club on*

***Thursday & Friday mornings at 8.30am – 8.50am***

*The weekly breakfast club will be held outside of the****School Library****and will be offering toast and fruit.*

*50 cent donations are welcome but not mandatory.*

*Breakfast Club are looking for volunteers to help on Thursday and Friday mornings from 8.15am. If you are available, please see Mrs Cooper.*

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