



NEWSLETTER



8th May 2017

Principal's Message

Welcome to Term 2! The term has started very positively with our ANZAC Assembly and Cross Country carnival and Colour Run in week one which were both just lovely.

Thank you Mrs Mitchell and Mrs Cooper for your organisation of a very beautiful and memorable ANZAC Assembly. Many thanks to Mrs Ponting (Cross Country and Colour Run organiser), Ms Ross, Ms Galea and Mrs Porter as well as all staff assisting on the day and our wonderful P&C parents for all your hard work with the carnival. The snow cones were a great success. We all worked together to ensure that this event was the success that it was.

Staff Change

Special welcome to Ms Still, who has been permanently appointed to our school. Ms Still comes to us with 18 years teaching experience and has a strong background in Learning Support and Student Welfare. Ms Still will be teaching 4S (formally 4K) for the rest of 2017. Mrs Kaikati is now on maternity leave following the birth of her beautiful little son, Jacob, in the holidays. Our heartfelt congratulations to Mrs Kaikati and her family.

NAPLAN

All students in Years 3 and 5 will complete NAPLAN (National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy) tests this week. The results of these tests provide important information to schools about what each student can do and will be used to support teaching and learning programs. Parents will receive a report indicating their child's level of achievement. Each student's level of achievement will be reported against the national minimum standard. The tests will take place on Tuesday 9th, Wednesday 10th and Thursday 11th May with a 'catch up' day on Friday 12th May for students who have been absent for any of the tests.

Please do not cause your child stress or anxiety about these tests. It is very important that you encourage your child to try their very best rather than putting pressure on them to achieve outstanding results. You can support your child by ensuring that they arrive at school before the 9am bell, have a good night's sleep the night before each test day and that they have a healthy breakfast each morning as well as a healthy morning tea and lunch.

Peer Support and Be a Buddy not a Bully Program

The Peer Support program will be implemented this term. It is led by year 6 students who have participated in an intensive training course. The purpose of this program is to support the development of interpersonal and leadership skills with our students and create a positive, respectful, considerate, friendly and collaborative school environment for all students. We are also implementing a 'Be a Buddy not a Bully' program this term. Marayong South Public School has zero tolerance for bullying. Any incidents must be reported to a member of staff so that they can be investigated and dealt with effectively and in a timely manner.

Mindfulness

This term all students will be participating in 5 minutes of relaxation and mindfulness immediately after recess every day. Our behaviour data shows that behaviour problems are occurring in classrooms after recess, in the middle session of the day. We believe that this is due to anxiety and stress caused by student reactions to playground issues and an inability to cope with transitioning from playground to classroom.

School Website: www.marayongs-p.school.nsw.edu.au

School Website, School Facebook Page and Skoolbag APP

Our school website has been completely updated so I strongly encourage all parents to have a look. There is an abundance of up-to-date, useful information there. In addition to this, our school Facebook page is a positive page which is updated weekly and certainly worth regularly checking into. Well over 400 parents have now downloaded our SkoolBag APP and this has become the main form of communication for our school. Please note that you can send an explanation for your child's absence from school and update your contact details via this APP using the e-forms option.

Late Arrivals

Every morning we have large numbers of students who are late for school. 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 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

If your child is absent from school, they are not learning. 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. I thank all parents and carers for ensuring that their child attend school every day and on time.

HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILDREN BE BETTER STUDENTS

1. Let your child see you making mistakes.

Parents are their child's first teacher and their lifetime teacher. Part of being a teacher is teaching your child how to deal with making mistakes. Let them see that you can make mistakes and deal with it so they will understand it's not a big deal and they can cope when they trip up.

2. Don't tell your child that you weren't good at Maths.

Some parents might feel intimidated by the thought of helping children with their maths homework, especially in the upper grades but Maths is here to serve you, not to trip you up.

Maths should make life easier, and mastery can start at home with parents showing that they're not frightened by numbers.

One way to make Maths more accessible is to relate it to daily activities. Capitalise on examples where Maths is useful, especially the kinds of calculations adults do daily like measuring ingredients, managing sums of money, working out distances. This way, children see how what they're learning matters in life.

3. Get organised with a colour-coded system and a checklist.

Older students are expected to be more independent and manage their assignments themselves, but as they transition from primary school to high school, they might find it hard to keep track of everything. Try using colour-coordinated folders and notebooks to help children keep their material for different subjects organised. Keep a written checklist by their school bags so they can make sure they have packed everything they need.

4. Check their homework, and then have them explain it to you.

It's not enough to just get the answers right. To make sure your children aren't guessing, sometimes ask them to explain what they did and why. This lets you know that the child has completed the task and for the child to actually explain their work helps their learning.

5. Don't compare your child with others.

Don't put pressure on children to be just like others. There's no such thing as the child that's like every other child. They are all different. They all have strengths and weaknesses, they all have talents and challenges."

6. Help your child make connections to literature.

To help your child get the most out of books, focus on problem-solving, social skills and life experience. Take your child to the zoo (life experience). Teach them to ask an adult for help if they lose something (problem-solving) or to hold the door for others (social skills). With skills like these, children will be able to relate their own life experiences to those of book characters, improving their comprehension. If they don't have these life experiences, when they are asked to make deeper connections to reading material, it's hard for them.

7. Middle school and high school are not the time to take a more hands-off approach.

Just because your children are getting older doesn't mean it's time to put them on autopilot. This is the point in their lives when they're trying to sort out who they are. Peer pressure is intense and their connectedness to school can wane. High school students have this air about them that they don't need their parents anymore, but they really do.

8. Don't do everything for your child.

Sometimes it's faster to do things yourself than wait for your children to complete a task. But having everything done for them means they don't learn to take care of themselves. Empower your children to think for themselves and be more responsible for themselves.

9. Ask about your child's day.

Stay involved in your child's education, beyond helping with homework. Even small things, like asking a child what happened at school, can be the difference between a child who unplugs at the end of the day and one who continues thinking about what they learned. Give them the kind of feedback that acknowledges and respects their feelings so they know you are really hearing them.

Acknowledgement: Mari-Jane Williams.

If you have concerns or questions about any matters to do with your child's education and/or wellbeing, please do not hesitate to make an appointment to speak with your child's teacher. This can be done through the school office.

Warm regards,

Mandy Hollis, Principal

***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

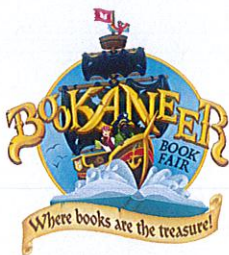
The weekly breakfast club will be held outside of the School Library and will be offering toast and fruit.



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.





Bookaneer Bookfair

Week 4

Monday 15th May to

Thursday 25th May

The Book Fair will be in the library and will be open every day from 8:30am to 3:30pm, Monday to Thursday.

Students will be given an opportunity during library lessons to explore the Book Fair and write their wish lists. They will then take their wish lists home and parents/carers have a number of payment options. To pay for book fair items you can:

- 1) By cash - give it to your child in an envelope
- 2) Pay over the phone using the instructions on the back of the wish lists
- 3) By EFTPOS – come in yourself

See you in the Library

Mrs Colusso
Librarian

LOVE
the **LIBRARY**

Mindfulness at MSPS

This term MSPS have initiated a school-wide Mindfulness program to combat stress and anxiety while improving emotional wellbeing. Solid scientific

BE SAFE

evidence suggests that mindfulness interventions improve attention, self-control, emotional resilience, recovery from addiction, memory and immune response.

Each day, students participate in a short 5-10 minute



practice of mindfulness and meditation. This practice is facilitated by the website calm.com.

Teachers choose a form of meditation that suits the needs of the class which may include guided meditations, body scans, unguided relaxation, seated or laying meditations. The Mindfulness session occurs after Recess to allow students to release tension from the playground and gain focus for the afternoon of learning.

To find out more or to practice some mindfulness and relaxation at home, try visiting calm.com and explore the different options to manage life's stresses and nurture your own psychological health.

**WE'RE TAKING
IT IN OUR
STRIDE ON
FRIDAY,
19th MAY 2017**



Walking is a wonderful way to get you where you

BE RESPECTFUL

want to be, and it also gets your health - and your child's health on the right track too. So that's why this year our school is participating in National Walk Safely to School Day on Friday 19 May 2017.

Walk Safely to School Day asks that we all consider our transport habits and try to incorporate more walking as part of a healthy, active way to get around. And although walking all the way to school isn't realistic for many of us, you can teach your child the healthy habit of walking more by:



- Walking with them the whole way to school
- If they get the bus or train, walk past your usual stop and get on at the next stop
- If you have to drive, park the car a few blocks away from the school and walk the rest of the way.

Regular exercise like walking with your child not only helps them (and you!) beat chronic problems like obesity, heart disease,

BE A LEARNER

behavioural and mental health issues and diabetes. It also gives you a great opportunity to teach your child safe ways to behave around roads and traffic.

On Friday, 19th May, Captain Can-Do will be greeting children in the morning as they arrive to school and our SRC will be serving Milo at Breakfast Club outside of the canteen.

Thank you
Mrs Cooper

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:** 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. See over page for an outline of the program.

- **Teddy Bears Picnic**
Thursday, 21st September 2017.
- **Parent Information Night:**
Tuesday, 21st November 2017.

CANTEEN CLOSED ON MONDAYS



Save the Date!

SCHOOL ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

MONDAY 7TH AUGUST

Blacktown International
Sportspark, Eastern Road,
Rooty Hill.



Assembly Roster

Weeks 3-10

Wednesdays at 2pm

Week 3 1B

Week 4 3H

Week 5 1P

Week 6 Whole School

Week 7 4S

Week 8 KC/KP

Week 9 4/5P

Week 10 KG



PEER SUPPORT PROGRAM PROMOTING HARMONY

Weeks 2-9

Week 1 – Valuing Each Other

We are commencing our Peer Support lessons this week. The whole school participates in Peer Support for 30 minutes each week. Two Year 6 Peer leaders facilitate a small group of 8-10 students from Kindergarten to Year 5, who work together through a number of structured activities. Each teacher will supervise 2-3 groups in their classroom. We are working on a module called *Promoting Harmony* helping us define individual and community values, build relationships and improve decision making skills. 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 what is a value and something they value in themselves. We recommend you talk to your children about Peer Support every week, as it will help to

BE SAFE

BE RESPECTFUL

BE A LEARNER

reinforce the concepts learned in each session.

Week 2 – Showing You Care

During Peer Support this week the children will look at the notion that what they choose to spend their time on often reflects the values they have. The activities will also assist them in identifying ways they care for themselves and others, developing their understanding that you are caring when you notice the feelings and needs of yourself and others.

During the week encourage your child to demonstrate they are caring by doing something helpful or displaying kindness around the home.

Week 3 – Caring For Friends

This week in Peer Support the children will be participating in activities helping them to identify and accept differences in people. Children will also identify ways they can demonstrate being caring through their actions.

Discuss with your child the importance of accepting differences in other people. Perhaps take the time to identify and discuss the various differences people may have e.g. appearance, religion, culture, disabilities. Ask your child to share the qualities they appreciate in their friends.

Week 4 – Respecting Others

Respect is the focus of the Peer Support sessions this week. Through various activities the children will be identifying what it means to have respect and discuss ways they can demonstrate respect for others. By completing a maze comprising of scenarios, the children will need to select the correct way to respond to a situation, progressing through the maze and reaching the 'Certificate of Respect'.

Encourage your child to discuss with you different people they respect and why. It is important to remind them that although we may not always agree or get along with

people, we still need to respect them.

Week 5 – Our Rights

In this week's Peer Support session the children will be looking at rights, how we as individuals have rights and so do other people. Activities will also remind the children that although they may find themselves in difficult or awkward positions, they still need to remember to do the right thing.

Discuss with your child a situation you were in that was potentially difficult or awkward and explain the decision you made and why it was the right thing to do.

Week 6 – Making Choices

During Peer Support this week, the children will be discussing and developing ways to be responsible. The activities will reinforce the concept that being responsible is doing what we say we will do and to the best of our ability.

This week help develop with your child 2-3 things they can do around the home to show they are responsible ie: feed the dog each night, set the table at 6.30pm each day.

Week 7 – Doing My Best

In Peer Support this week the children will be encouraged to attempt new and unfamiliar tasks by trying the best they can. The activity involves the Peer Support group being separated into 3 groups and rotating through 3 different tasks. The different tasks will help the children to identify different strengths in each other and that everyone's different strengths can be used to solve a problem or complete a task.

Discuss with your child their individual strengths and provide them with opportunities to utilise these strengths during the week. Remind them you will be proud of them in all situations if they always do their best.

Week 8 – What Can I Do?

In this week's final session of the Peer Support module *Promoting Harmony* the children will be creating a chatterbox, helping them reflect on what they have learned over the past 7 weeks. They will be reminded to reflect on their values and how they can demonstrate these to other people. Each Peer Support group will have the opportunity to celebrate what they have learned and the new friendships and connections they have made.

Mrs Mitchell



- **Last School Voluntary Levy Contribution for Term 2 \$30 due Week 6 26th May**
- **Stage 2 Camp Full payment due by Friday, 16th June 2017.**
- **Stage 3 Camp Full payment due by Wednesday, 28th June 2017.**
- **SCHOOL PHOTOS THURSDAY 18TH MAY Week 4 Term 2**



School Photo information:

Please find below the procedure for school photos.

- Each child received an **individual photo envelope last week**. If you are a **new student** to MSPS this term please ask at the office for an envelope.
- Envelopes may be returned to the admin office with the **CORRECT** money any time before photo day. Online payment is available, please see order form for details. Orders must be received with envelope provided, the photographers do not accept copies.
- All students will have a photo taken on the day. All orders received after photo day are subject to a \$20 fee and payments made over the phone are subject to a \$5 administration fee.

- **Family photo envelopes** are available at the administration office and must be requested. There are three packs available for purchase at \$20, \$25 & \$30 each plus a gift pack for \$15. Siblings will be called for family photos after class photos.
- **Special photos** such as School Captains, House captains, SRC and Library Monitors will also be taken on the day. Students please remember to wear your badges. Order forms will be available for purchase at a later date and will be able to be viewed in the admin foyer.
- Photos commence at 9am.
- Students must be in FULL SCHOOL UNIFORM.
- Students must be at school before roll call.
- **Please note that NO CHANGE** will be available from the administration 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
IN THE SCHOOL
GROUND

Parents please update your information if you have changed your address, phone numbers or emergency contacts.



Parent may, use any of the following: call in, phone, use the Skoolbag app or email the school with their updates.

Marayongs-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

COOKING CLASS FUN-RAISER

Attend our
Cooking Class Fun-raiser
with The Chefs Toolbox for only

\$15

you will learn some **delicious recipes**,
using **quality products** and
go into the draw to win a

FREE Frypan!



RAISING MONEY FOR:

SMOOSH Bus upgrade

DATE:

9/5/2017

TIME:

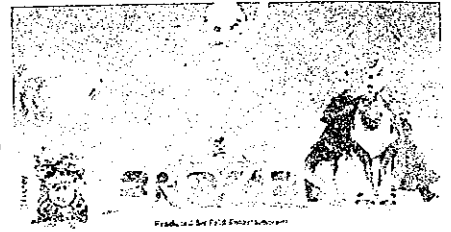
6.00pm

TO PURCHASE A TICKET, PLEASE CONTACT:

Lynda

045114611

MARAYONG SOUTH WANDERERS
DISNEY ON ICE



Sunday 16th July 2017

Enter a fantastical winter wonderland beyond imagination at Disney on Ice presents FROZEN at Qudos Bank Arena 6pm show. Be magically whisked away to wintry Arendelle by dazzling special effects and astonishing skating as you sing and dance along to inspiring songs including "Let It Go". Join royal sisters Anna and Elsa, the hilarious snowman Olaf, Kristoff, and Sven as they journey to discover that true love is the most magical power of all. Hosted by Mickey and Minnie and more.

Coach leaves 4pm

COST \$70.00 Names with Deposit of \$20, Balance by 10-5-2017 Children under 2 are free

PICK UP; Lyton Street cnr Arthur Ave, Blacktown

Blacktown Railway Station North Side near Lift (Bus Interchange Stands)

For any further enquiries please phone Melva on 96215507

Friends and neighbours most welcome



Beautiful
The Carole King Musical

MARAYONG SOUTH WANDERERS
BEAUTIFUL the CAROLE KING MUSICAL

Saturday 21st October 2017

Beautiful the Carole King Musical, 2pm show at Sydney Lyric Theatre. Before she was Carole King, Superstar, She was Carole Klein teenage songwriter Beautiful tells the inspiring true story of Carole King's remarkable rise to stardom, she fought her way into the record business as a Teenager and, by the time she reached her twenties, was writing hits for the biggest Acts in Rock'n'Roll. But it wasn't until her personal life began to crack that she finally managed to find her true voice, becoming one of the most successful acts in pop music history Some of her songs are ==WILL YOU LOVE ME TOMORROW, { You make me feel like } A NATURAL WOMAN, I FEEL THE EARTH MOVE, YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND, LOCOMOTION, SO FAR AWAY, ONE FINE DAY and IT'S TOO LATE.

Stopping at Darling Harbour to eat.

COST \$150.00 Names with a Deposit \$20, Balance NO LATER THAN 1-8-2017

Coach Leaves 11 am

Pick Up: Lyton Street cnr Arthur Ave, Blacktown

Blacktown Station North Side near lift (Bus Interchange Stands)

For any further enquiries please phone Melva on 9621 5507

~Friends and neighbours most welcome~



AUDITIONS

Year 7 and Year 11 2018

Dance, Drama and Music Selection Procedures

To the Principal

Students currently in Year 6 or Year 10 2017 enrolled in public or non-government schools who are seeking entrance into Year 7 or Year 11 in 2018 in Dance, Drama or Music at Newtown High School of the Performing Arts, must participate in audition workshops.

Year 7 Audition Dates: between Thursday 22nd June – Wednesday 28th June 2017

Year 11 Audition Dates: between Tuesday 20th June – Thursday 22nd June 2017

Please Note: To be eligible to apply, candidates must be Australian Citizens or holders of a visa granting permanent resident status in Australia on the day of their audition.

Initial registration for an audition is required online via our website

www.nhspa.nsw.edu.au

Closing date for registration is 1st May 2017

Newtown High School of the Performing Arts provides specialist education at the highest level to students having outstanding potential and/or achievement in, and commitment to, Dance, Drama or Music.

Yours sincerely


Stephen Gray
Principal

Conditions:

Each audition is assessed on its own merits. The examiner's decision is final and no appeal can be made except on procedure. Information on individual student's performance in their audition will not be given. The purpose of the auditions is for the school to select the top students as assessed by the examiners. These are the conditions under which students and parents/carers must agree to when applying to audition.