1. PRINCIPAL

Welcome: Once again, Term 2 looks to be a very busy term. In addition to literacy, numeracy and the key learning areas there will be numerous extra-curricular activities organised to spark the interest, enjoyment and excitement of the children. In the next few weeks we will have our ANZAC ceremony, Cool at School open day and cross country. Most importantly Years 3 and 5 will sit the NAPLAN assessments in Week 3.

As you may notice, over the break we have had a significant amount of work completed to improve the guttering on the main primary classroom. It has certainly given the building a face-lift and should overcome the issue we have had with water leaking into the ceiling. We thank Bill Crawford Constructions for completing the work in such a timely and efficient manner. Appreciation is also extended to Muggleton’s Cranes for kindly completing the front sign project. Maintenance and upgrading of school facilities continues to be a high priority for our school – we believe it is essential that public resources are properly cared for and that our children value our facilities. To this end, I also congratulate our General Assistant, Mr Kite who does a marvellous job with the MPS grounds.

Staffing: This term, we formally welcome Mrs Katie Higham who will be teaching 3S-39 following Mrs Sommerton’s southern move.

School Development Day: Yesterday we welcomed two guest presenters. Renowned children’s author, Mr John Heffernan presented a writing workshop to all teachers. Author of many popular children’s books including Harry’s War, Eric and Einstein, A Horse named Elvis and The Boot Thief, John describes writing as one of the most marvellous and rewarding crafts. He focussed on how to encourage children improve their writing, clearly a reflection of both his passion for writing and his creative skill.

Dr Jim White, Adjunct Professor at the University of New England and has been a successful school principal, school education director and prior to his recent retirement, Regional Director New England Schools. His work in education has been built upon a philosophy that all children should have access to learning that enables them to reach their potential. Dr White presented a fabulous session to all of the MPS support staff highlighting strategies for working well and facing change. We thank both Mr Heffernan and Dr White for sharing their expertise with us.

Moree ANZAC March and Commemorative Service: Our school has a proud tradition of participating in the Moree community march. All students and staff are invited to meet in Albert Street, near the front entrance of Moree Secondary College at 9:15 am Saturday 25th April. Students are required to wear full summer school uniform, including a hat.

MPS ANZAC Service: Another, proud tradition for our school is the K-6 service led by the student leaders. Our service this year, the Centenary of ANZAC will be held on Friday, 24th April commencing at 10.00am. A warm invitation is extended to all members of the Returned and Services League of Australia, parents and friends to join with students and staff as we pay tribute to those who served, returned and died in the name of freedom.

In addition, we invite families to bring along photographs and/or personal items of memorabilia of family members who have served with the Australian Defence Forces. These items will be displayed at the assembly. We understand such items are extremely precious and ask that each item be clearly labelled with your name, brought in Friday morning and taken home the same day.

Important Information ...

- Friday, 24th April – MPS Centenary of ANZAC Commemorative Service commencing 10.00am.
- Saturday, 25th April – Students and staff invited to participate in Moree community ANZAC service, meeting at 9.15am
Cool at School Open Day: We are looking forward to the Cool at School day to be held on Friday, 1st May. Children, K-6 participate in a range of fun fitness activities and team building games for the morning session. The day is an out of uniform day and children are encouraged to wear the Cool at School colours of green, blue and purple. Please ensure clothing is suitable for outdoor activities. Following the games, a mini fete organised by the student mediators will be conducted between 11.20 and 12.20. I recommend that you send small denominations of money in a labelled envelope or wallet for your child. Parents are welcome to attend the mini fete. Money raised goes directly to purchasing new equipment for the student mediators to share during the lunch time programs.


Excursions: The primary excursions are coming up quickly (Term 3). Please be mindful of the dates and try to put some money aside for when the payments are requested. Year 3 – Lake Keepit; Year 4 – Coffs Harbour; Year 5 – Sydney; Year 6 – Canberra and the snow. As always, families experiencing financial difficulties are invited to submit a confidential application (to the principal) for student assistance.

Uniform and school equipment: The start of each term is a good opportunity to check your child has the necessary school equipment and correct school uniform. I must say our students look really smart when they are all in uniform. I’d love to see an increase in the number of students with our school hat – a most impressive look when we see an entire class wearing the school hat. Please also note that only school shoes or joggers should be worn to school. Coloured and non supportive shoes or sandals are not part of the school uniform nor suitable for school activities and should not be worn to school. As the cooler weather emerges, please ensure school jumpers and jackets are worn and clearly labelled.

Attendance: Moree Public School is now implementing SENTRAL (computer program) student attendance monitoring. We are now more easily able to follow up on absent students. A review of school attendance rates last term revealed that the vast majority of our students have very good school attendance records. In fact, a large number of students have had 100% attendance. Well done to those students and their parents. We greatly appreciate the effort of parents in ensuring their child attends school each day. For some students there is room for improvement so we encourage parents to make sure your child comes to school each day. This term the school will put even stronger emphasis on contacting parents to encourage improved attendance. Regular school attendance is critical to student success in learning. Please remember a note of explanation is required for each absence.

Easter Hat Parade: The Easter hat parade and dancing display was a colourful and enjoyable conclusion to last term. This was a very special day for the K-2 children and supported by a tremendous roll up of parents and community members - over 400 watching the parade! I am sure all of our visitors appreciated the children’s dancing talents. Each year, we are amazed with the vast range of decorated hats, giving the judges an extremely difficult time selecting awards for each category. I extend a special thank you to Mrs Finlay for teaching the dance routines and to hat adjudicators Mrs Cater, Mr King and Mrs Blewitt. My thanks also go to the infants staff for organising and supporting the parade.

Mr Adrian King

2. P&C ASSOCIATION

- MEETING: The next general monthly meeting will be held on Monday, 27th April at 6.00pm in the school library. All welcome.

- EASTER BASKET PRIZES: Thank you to all families for their generous support of the raffle, drawn at the Easter hat parade. 1st – Morgan Bridge; 2nd – Rochelle Roberts; 3rd – Haydie Robinson; 4th – Jack Graham; 5th Thomasz & Dominic Kowalski; 6th Hope Vandriest; and Book buyers prize – Theo Maybury

- Moree on a Plate: The P&C seeks helpers for the jumping castle at Moree on a Plate on Saturday 9th May - one hour time slots are requested. Please feel free to bring a friend! Anyone interested please leave details with the school office.

- Uniform Shop: Please find the attached ordering form for the boys long sleeve shirts. The order must be submitted by Wednesday, 6th May to ensure a prompt arrival. The shop continues to be opened by volunteer co-ordinator and assistant each Wednesday and Friday morning between 8.30 and 9.30am.

3. COOL AT SCHOOL

Social Skills focus for this week is: Be Yourself!
4. SPORT REPORT

HOCKEY: On Wednesday, 1st April Eliza Watts, Lincoln McNair, Brayden Macey and Tom Watts represented the Moree zone at the north west hockey trials in Armidale. All MPS students played extremely well amongst a strong group of players from Armidale and Tamworth. The players enjoyed the opportunity to play on the turf fields. Thank you to parents for providing transport and encouragement on the day.

Mrs Kaukiainen

TENNIS: Last term, on Tuesday 31st March, Moree Public School tennis team travelled away to play Narrabri West PS in the third round of PSSA knockout competition. Logan Thift and Tom Hatton won their three matches. Elyne Tighe won two and Larra McGrady, one. The students played extremely well and displayed outstanding sportsmanship. Moree was victorious with a 6 sets to 2 win and will play their next game later in the term. I wish Abby Newton and Logan Thift all the best for when they travel to Rockdale next week, to represent the north west region at the state tennis championships.

Miss Withers

5. COMMUNITY EVENTS

Hockey News

Not too late to nominate.....

Junior hockey will be played on Thursday afternoons from 3.45 – 5.00pm commencing Thursday, 30th April. Hockey is a fun sport that develops hand/eye coordination, team skills and fitness. It is a sport for life. Experienced juniors are given the opportunity to move up into the senior competition for further development and fun. Thursday sessions will include training and game time so players of all abilities are welcome. If you have any questions, please call: Matt 0477422827, Helen on 0427 522827 or Carol on 0428 523044. We look forward to seeing you there.