SMILES, SMILES & MORE SMILES!

It was delightful to see the smiles on children's faces as they returned to school last week. MPS extends a very warm welcome to our new kindergarten children along with their families. I'm sure MPS new families will enjoy their association with our school in the coming years. We also welcome back all parents and students of Years 1-6. Students have met their new teachers and have settled back into the school routines extremely well. It is great to see them maintaining high standards in learning and behaviour.

As educators, we often reflect upon our progress and I say with both confidence and sincerity that Moree Public School is a great school! Each and every day teaching and support staff give our attention to not only keeping it this way but also growing. As such, 2016 will be extremely busy as we continue with the changes brought through the government reform agenda.

Our priority actions for 2016 are to:

- Continue to implement the new syllabus documents and introducing technology to the classroom through the use of iPads.
- Implement the Student Well-being Framework by reviewing the core values of the school and the systems in place to support effective teaching and learning, including behaviour management.

All parents are encouraged to be part of our school, to be involved in the life of the school and to share in the success of your child. Parents can support the school in many ways such as listening to your child read each day, reminding them to complete their homework and when necessary, speak to them about their behaviour at school. There are also opportunities to help with activities such as reading groups and at our sports carnivals. More details about these activities will be forthcoming when classes and timetables are confirmed.

Another way is to be involved with the school is through the Parents & Citizen association. Our school has a strong P&C group which plays an active role in the education of the children and does so much to support school events. I do urge all parents to join the P&C and attend meetings held on the third Monday of each month at the school library commencing 6:00 pm.

Excited arrivals! Moree Public School has a fabulous team of teachers who are committed to helping your children achieve the best possible learning outcomes. We welcome Ms Kelly Williams who will be teaching in the special education unit and congratulate Miss Jami Jones who was with us last year as a trainee and casual teacher in 2015 and now appointed to the school as a permanent teacher on Year 6. Miss Amber Boydell has also joined the MPS team and we welcome back Mrs Zeena Tesoriero from her travels overseas.

Parents are advised that classes and teachers are still tentative until the Department of Education confirms our staffing allocation at the end of February. A full list of teachers and classes will be published in the next newsletter.

Important Information ...

- Friday, 12th February – Kindergarten Books in Homes order form is due back to school.
- Wednesday, 10th February – MPS swimming carnival. Please remember pool pass (if a season member), pool entry $4 and bus $2.
Smart and ready for learning! All of the students look fantastic in their correct summer uniform. The children especially look good when wearing the school hat. I am asking for your continued support with enforcing the correct attire. The primary department has in place a uniform competition with a fun activity as the prize for the grade that is most consistent in wearing school uniform and bringing their classroom equipment (pens, pencils, rulers etc). We greatly appreciate parent’s cooperation in having their child wear correct school uniform each day.

Splish, splash we’re having a … swim! The annual MPS swimming carnival will be held at the Moree pool tomorrow. Good luck to all our students who will be participating in what is always a fantastic day. I hope to see many parents attend to support their children and enjoy the fun and sporting rivalry that is always present at MPS carnivals. Please ensure children wear sunscreen, a hat and have access to water bottles.

Healthy food options for school lunchboxes are numerous! However, please do not send children to school with nut products. Some children in our school are at risk of Anaphylaxis. Anaphylaxis is a severe allergic reaction that is potentially life threatening. Food allergies are the most common cause of anaphylaxis. There is no cure for food allergy therefore avoidance of known food allergens is crucial. Peanuts and tree nuts are the foods most likely to cause anaphylaxis.

We ask you to support children at risk of anaphylaxis by:

- not sending food which has peanuts or tree nuts (e.g. hazelnuts, cashews, almonds etc) in the main ingredients list.
- teaching your child not to share food with friends that have a food allergy,
- encouraging your child to wash their hands after eating,
- asking your child to get help immediately if their allergic schoolmate gets sick, and
- explaining to your child that teasing a child with an allergy or tampering with their medication, is bullying and could be life threatening.

Moree Public School is supporting children at risk of anaphylaxis by:

- training staff,
- developing individual health care plans in consultation with health professionals and parents,
- encouraging children to wash their hands after eating,
- educating children about food allergies, and
- choosing not to sell food in the school canteen which contains nuts.

With everyone’s help and co-operation we can continue to provide a safe environment that meets the needs of all our children.

When and where are we at MPS throughout the day?

8:30am Playground Supervision
9:00am Morning Session
11:00am Recess
11:20am Middle Session
12:50pm Lunch
1:35pm Afternoon Session
2:50pm Class dismissal

Parents are reminded that supervision is not available prior to 8:30 and therefore students should not arrive at school before this time.

Visiting the school? Yes, Moree Public School welcomes visitors to our school. We ask that when parents and friends come to the school during the day, they present to the front office on arrival. Parents and visitors should not go directly to classrooms or the playground. This is a requirement put in place to promote uninterrupted learning and the safety and security of all children and teachers.

Should parents need to drop off lunches or money for children, the office staff will arrange for it to be delivered to the classroom. Should you wish to collect your child for an appointment, please send a brief note with your child who will wait at the office for an appointment, please send a brief note with your child who will wait at the office at the time indicated. For an unforeseen or emergency situation, please present at the school office and a staff member will make the arrangement as required. Your assistance in following this procedure is appreciated.

Road Safety: The times between 8:30am and 9:00am and again from 2:40pm through to 3:20pm are extremely busy areas at the front of the school – particularly for parents who drop off and pick up children. Parents are reminded to abide by the parking signs at the front of the school. In the interests of safety, parking and police officers are patrolling and have been issuing infringement notices. Please be very careful when crossing the road and model sensible road safety by using the crossings provided.
Pedestrians must not use the taxi entrance gates. Mobile Phones/iPods are incredible devices but children should not bring mobile phones and personal technology such as iPods to school. The school is NOT responsible for lost, stolen or broken personal technology.

Who do we contact in the event of an emergency?

It is vital that emergency contact details are up to date to ensure parents can be contacted promptly if your child is sick or injured. If you have changed address, phone numbers or other contact details, please let the office know.

Updated medical information is also important for the care of your child. Students that have specific such as allergies, medical conditions or other health problems need to alert the school and provide documentation if special care is required. Where a child needs medication at school parents should deliver the medication (in original labelled pharmacy container) to the office along with written directions for administration.

Mr Adrian King

2. P&C ASSOCIATION

• MEETING: The next P&C meeting will be held on Monday, 15th February commencing at 6.00pm in the school library.

• UNIFORM SHOP: The uniform shop is kindly opened by volunteer co-ordinators, Mrs Debbie Hardman and Mrs Heidi Brooks each Wednesday and Friday morning between 8.30 and 9.30am. The WINTER uniform ordering form is attached for your consideration. It continues as per 2016, either online or by dropping the order at the office along with payment. Orders need to be in by 26th February and Friday morning. Parents may seem a little early but orders need to be in by 26th February to ensure the company can supply by second term. Thanks for your help.

• CANTEEN: Parents are advised that the ordering procedure continues as per 2016, either online or by dropping the order at the canteen upon arrival at school. This Wednesday, primary children who do not attend the swimming carnival, must order if needing canteen food.

3. LIBRARY NEWS – READ, READ, READ!

The MPS library has a fantastic range of books and children are able to borrow during their weekly class visit and/or during second half lunch. A library bag is required to ensure books can be transported to and from school safely. The library staff is again co-ordinating the NSW Premier’s Reading Challenge that is open to all students from kindergarten through to Year 6. An information sheet is attached outlining the procedure – a wonderful way to encourage reading!

Mrs Beattie - Librarian

4. HEALTH AWARENESS

Preventative measures greatly assist in minimising the spread of numerous childhood health concerns that may arise from time to time. Children are encouraged to wash their hands frequently at school and soap is provided in each of the bathrooms. Head lice is a common issue in all schools. Please be vigilant with regular checking, treat if required and notify the school office.

Further advice with all of these matters can be obtained through your family doctor, pharmacist and/or the fact sheets on the NSW Ministry Health website. These small measures will greatly assist in keeping all children and staff happy and healthy.

5. COMING EVENTS – Term 1

Please check each week for possible variations or listen to local radio 2VM for the daily Harvey Norman Superstore School News segment a little after 7.00am.

Term 1

1. Mon 1 Feb
   - Staff resume school
   - Kindergarten commence
   - MPS swimming carnival – Yrs 3-6

2. Mon 8 Feb
   - MPS swimming carnival – Yrs 3-6

3. Mon 15 Feb
   - 6.00pm P&C meeting - library
   - Regional swimming carnival – Armidale

4. Mon 22 Feb
   - NW tennis trials - Tamworth
   - Selective High Schools (Yr 7 2016) test

5. Mon 29 Feb
   - NW tennis trials - Armidale
   - Good Friday

6. Mon 6 March
   - Girls PSSA trial: 11.20 boys cricket, girls hockey;
   - Selective High Schools (Yr 7 2016) test

7. Mon 13 March
   - Gala winter trials: 11.20 rugby league open & U11 girls soccer;
   - Girls PSSA trial: 11.20 boys cricket, girls hockey;

8. Mon 20 March
   - Gala winter trials: 11.20 rugby league open & U11 girls soccer;
   - NSW boys & girls soccer trials – Inverell

9. Mon 27 March
   - Easter Monday
   - NSW boys & girls soccer trials – Armidale

10. Mon 3 April
    - NSW boys & girls hockey trials – Armidale
    - Easter hat parade for K-2

Term 2

1. Mon 25 April
   - ANZAC Day

2. Mon 26 May
   - Staff resume

3. Wed 27 May
   - Kindergarten – Year 6 resume: 10.30 MPS ANZAC Service
   - ANZAC Day

4. Thurs 28 May
   - NSW Open & U 11 rugby league trials - Tamworth

5. Fri 29 May
   - NSW Open & U11 rugby league trials - Inverell