COMMUNICATION …

As mentioned previously, Moree Public School has several methods by which we keep parents informed. The school newsletter is published each fortnight - a copy sent home with the eldest child of each family and also uploaded on the website. Additional copies are always available at the school office.

Our school website is a valuable communication tool with a large amount of information about school policies and plans. Parents and friends can visit our website by either searching (Googling) `Moree Public School` or go to the following web address: http://www.moree-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/

Many parents have taken the opportunity to download the Moree Public School Skoolbag App for mobile phones (direction sheet attached to last newsletter). The feedback we have received has been very positive with many parents indicating the App to be very useful particularly with the alerts for coming events.

The electronic school sign provides information on coming events along with school and student achievements. I encourage all parents to take advantage of these strategies so that you are informed and don’t miss out on key events.

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However, an important opportunity is made available during this first term for parents to come along and meet your teacher at an informal afternoon. A MEET and GREET sessions will be offered for Kinder - Year 2 families on Tuesday, 22nd March and Years 3-6 on Wednesday, 23rd March between 5.15 and 6.00pm. We hope you can pop in for a chat and visit to the classroom.

Books are the bees that carry the quickening pollen from one to another mind. (James Russell Lowell) and to this end, I urge all students to participate in the 2016 Premier's Reading Challenge. It is a great way to encourage and develop a love of reading.

Participation is voluntary. Over the period of the Challenge, students simply have to read a number of books that can be selected from a recommended reading list. The Challenge is divided into three sections: Kinder to Year 2, Years 3 & 4 and Years 5 & 6. Many of the books on the list are probably already in your home. However, the school library does have the majority of the listed books available for students to borrow. Participants will need to start reading as the Challenge ends on 21 August. Mrs Beattie has sent home Reading Log sheets in an earlier Newsletter. If your child has lost their log, please see Mrs Beattie in the library.

A group of supporters that MPS students and staff value is the P&C association and last Wednesday 5th March was P&C Day! So to all members, I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you as we look forward to continuing our work together for 2016. As most would know, the P&C is a hard working group of parents supporting our school with activities and fundraising. They make a fantastic contribution to the wellbeing of students and staff in our schools. With their generosity we have been able to provide many fabulous opportunities for our students, including the wonderful playground fixed equipment, gardening bees, school canteen, uniform shop, library resources, Life Education van visits – to name but a few. All new parents and current parents are warmly invited to join the P&C that meets every 3rd Monday evening in the school library. Do come along to the Annual General Meeting at 6:00pm on Monday 14 March 2016.

Scripture lessons are provided through the work of the Moree Ministers Fraternal and volunteer teachers. A warm welcome is extended to our scripture teachers who returned last week to commence the 2016 program. Scripture lessons are held each Thursday for K-2 at 11:20-11:50; Years 3-4 at 11:50-12:20; and Years 5-6 at 12:20-12:50pm.

Let’s start at the very beginning … the very BEST place to START! Kindergarten students are currently participating in the state-wide Best Start kindergarten assessment program, designed to identify each student’s literacy and numeracy skills and understanding at the first few weeks of formal school. Children come to school with various levels of literacy and numeracy - some are familiar with books, can recognise some letters and words,
even write their name or count to ten and beyond, while others are yet to master some of these concepts. Kindergarten teachers are currently using the Best Start assessment to gather information and guide the teaching of your child. It is very important to emphasise that the Best Start program is not a test. Rather, teacher will look at your child’s early reading and writing, their ability to communicate with others and how they recognise and work with numbers, groups and patterns. Parents will receive feedback a little later in the term.

Assemblies create many special moments in every child’s life and the 2016 formal assemblies have started. I was delighted to be able to attend the first for this year hosted by Miss White and 5W-19. The class took the opportunity to inform us about Youtube and responsible use of the internet through performing a song found on-line. Their performance of the Duck Song was humorous and very entertaining, particularly with the dazzling range of costuming – one even replicating the chicken emerging from its shell. We thank 5W-19 and particularly the speakers, for the great job they did in hosting the first assembly for the year.

Please join us for the assemblies this Friday. Our host classes are:

- 1H-3 and Ms Howard at 10:30 am in the hall near the administration office
- 4K-23 and Ms Kelleher at 11:25 am in the new hall.

Children and teachers work very hard to put on a great show and I encourage all family members to attend.

Coming to school everyday is vital – we all want the very best educational outcome. However, if a child is absent from school for one day a week, every week of their school life they will actually miss two and a half of years of learning. That’s a lot. Children cannot keep pace with their peers in those circumstances and this may well impinge significantly upon their future and endeavours for a rewarding career path.

Regular attendance at school is important for each child’s education. Frequent absences from school can have serious academic and social implications for students. Moree Public School has set a clear target to reduce the number of students with less then 85% attendance. We ask for your support in achieving this target by making sure that your child attends every day. If your child is going to be absent for a significant period of time please contact the school.

Every school is required to check irregular attendance and report it to the appropriate personnel within the Department of Education for follow up by the Home School Liaison Officer. Certainly we thank the majority of parents who ensure their children attend school everyday, arrive promptly for the 8.55am assembly and ready for lessons with personal classroom equipment (Years 3-6) at hand and wearing the MPS uniform and school hat. Attention to these details will always set the scene for a positive start to a productive day at school.

Howzat! Congratulations to the boys cricket team on a hard fought win over Warralda Public School last week. Mr Cooper tells me the boys played very well in chasing down a very competitive score from the Warralda batsmen. Thank you to the parents who generously assisted with transport and scoring.

Game, set, set match with some outstanding tennis being played at the district trials (Tamworth) last Friday. Team manager, Miss Reid reports an outstanding day with MPS students, Tom Hatton reaching the finals and Elyne Tighe and Logan Thrift gaining selection in the north west team to play in the state tournament at Tweed Heads. Well done, everyone!

Four seasons in one day is frequently the comment made by district swimmers who compete at the annual regional swimming carnival held in Armidale. However, yesterday proved to be a warm day but slightly chilly in the pool. As always, the MPS rose to the occasion swimming many PBs and representing the Moree district with impeccable manners and sportsmanship. See attached report.

PSSA Zone Trials will be hosted by MPS on Friday for a range of sporting activities - rugby league, netball and girls and boys soccer. These zone trials include students from all Moree district schools – those who have been selected at the school level of trials. I congratulate any student who makes the effort to try out. Regardless of whether or not children are selected it is important to remember that participation and enjoyment in sport are vital elements in a child’s physical and emotional development. Best wishes to students who are selected to represent our school and thank you in advance to the Moree Public School staff who manage so many of the district teams.

Fancy hats, dancing and lots of fun will be the order of the day for the infants children on Thursday, 24th March, commencing at 10.00am. Children are asked to create a hat at home to bring along on the day, when the Easter celebrations will start with a dancing display, followed by a hat parade and perhaps a visit from the Easter Bunny! We are delighted to have Mrs Chelsey Assif assisting with the dance program this year. There will be class prizes for hats in the following categories: Recycled, Australiana and Traditional. Should you require further information or
assistance, please contact your class teacher (a brief note) who will happily share some ideas. The infants children (only) will be able to wear party clothes on this day, with shoes that are suitable for dancing and outdoor activities.

Mr Adrian King

2. P&C ASSOCIATION

• MEETING - AGM: The AGM will be held on Monday, 14th March 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.

• EASTER RAFFLE: This wonderful project is again being co-ordinated by Ms Miller and Mrs Humphries and tickets will be sent home in the near future. The Easter baskets are always amazing prizes! Families are invited to donated a small item for the Easter basket (chocolates or other Easter item will be most welcome) and these can be left at the school office over the next few weeks.

COOL AT SCHOOL

Social Skills
focus for this week continues to be:

Kids Quotes:
• Be yourself because people like you for your special talents.
• If everyone was the same, life would be boring.
• Everyone can not be exactly the same - our community is enriched by YOU!

4. SPORT REPORTS

Cricket: Congratulations to the boys cricket team on their win in a close match against Warianda PS in very warm conditions last Tuesday. MPS passed the Wariarda total of 91 with only four overs remaining. Mr van Velthuizen and I would like to commend the players of both teams for the excellent spirit in which they played cricket – batting and on the field. Batting – Mac Orr 23, Tom Watts 2, Riley Bettington 27, Archie Matthews 2, Shelby Graham-Thompson 6 (n/o), Tom Hatton 2 and Charlie Kennedy 0 (n/o). Bowling – Riley 2 for 10, Archie 0 for 8, Jack Van Veghel 0 for 11, Kye Boland 0 for 19, Harry Hardman 0 for 8, Tom Watts 3 for 10 and Mac 1 for 21. Well done to the team!

Mr B. Cooper

Tennis: Last Friday the Moree zone tennis team travelled to Tamworth to compete in the PSSA regional trials. The Moree team included students from North Star, Yetman and Moree Public. Logan Thrift, Tom Hatton and Elyne Tighe competed well and played off in the final round knockout. Logan and Elyne won their game and selection in the north west team (number 2 and 3 respectively) to play the NSW Championship at Tweed Heads, 3rd – 6th May. All students played extremely well and displayed outstanding sportsmanship. Best wishes to Elyne and Logan for their trip to Tweed Heads next term representing the north west region.

Miss K. Reid

5. COMING EVENTS – Term 1

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

Term 1

6 Mon 7 Regional swimming carnival - Armidale
   Wed 8
   Thu 9
   Fri 10 Selective High Schools (Yrs 7-10) test
   Sat 11 Gala winter trials: 11.20 rugby league open & U11;
   Sun 12 girls soccer; 1:00pm boys soccer, netball
   Mon 13 Assemblies: 10.30 4K & Miss Howard;
   Tues 14 11.30 4K & Mrs Kelleher
   Wed 15
   Thu 16
   Fri 17 Gala winter trials: 11.20 boys cricket, girls hockey;
   Sat 18 1:00pm boys hockey, NB Change of date
   Sun 19 Assemblies: 10.30 Kin & Ms Hancock;
   Mon 20 11.30 6B & Mr Brown
   Tues 21
   Wed 22
   Thu 23
   Fri 24 EASTER HAT PARADE FOR K-2
   Sat 25 Good Friday
   Sun 26 Easter Monday
   Mon 27
   Tues 28
   Wed 29 NW boys & girls soccer trials - Armidale
   Thu 30 NW boys & girls cricket trials - Inverell
   Fri 31 NW boys & girls hockey trials - Armidale
   Sat 1 April Assembly: 10.30 KR-9 & Miss Ryan;
   Sun 2
   Mon 3
   Tues 4
   Wed 5
   Thu 6
   Fri 7
   Sat 8 Assembly: 10.30 2R-33 & Miss Rigby; Last day of term.

Term 2

1 Mon 25 April ANZAC Day
   Tues 26 Staff resume
   Wed 27 Kinder – Year 6 resume;
   Thurs 28
   Fri 29 Nthn cricket trials – Inverell
   Sat 30
   Sun 1 Student Leadership course – Grp Leadership
   Mon 2
   Tues 3
   Wed 4
   Thurs 5
   Fri 6
   Sat 7
   Sun 8
   Mon 9
   Tues 10
   Wed 11 NAPLAN
   Thurs 12 NAPLAN
   Fri 13
   Sat 14
   Sun 15
   Mon 16 Narrabri Eisteddfod
   Tues 17 Nthn rugby union
   Wed 18
   Thurs 19
   Fri 20
   Sat 21
   Sun 22
   Mon 23
   Tues 24
   Wed 25
   Thurs 26
   Fri 27

Assemblies: 10.30 6D-11, 11.30 5M-14
NW girls & boys touch football
6. SAFE PEOPLE, SAFE PLACES
The following has been provided by the Department of Education in consultation with the NSW Police Department. Please take a moment to read and the advice and share with your child as another strategy to help keep children safe.

- Avoid walking on your own and instead walk with other family members, friends or an adult you know;
- Walk near busier roads and streets, or use paths where there are lots of other people;
- Make sure your parents or another adult you know, knows where you are at all times;
- Always walk straight home or to the place you are walking to;
- Know where safe places are – a shop, service station, police station, library or school. If you are ever frightened, you should go to one of these places and ask them to call the police;
- Learn about safe adults you can look for and talk to if you need help – police officers, teachers at school, adults you know and trust;
- Don’t talk to people you don’t know and never get into a car with someone you don’t know. If a car stops on the side of the road and you don’t know the person inside, do not stop;
- If you are scared, call Triple Zero (000) and tell them you are scared.
- If someone tries to touch you or grab you, yell loudly, “Go away, I don’t know you” as this will let other people know you are in trouble.

7. COMMUNITY NEWS

MOREE & DISTRICT BAND RECRUITMENT
Very soon, the Moree & District Band will be commencing a beginner’s programme. This doesn’t happen during school hours but at 6.15pm on Tuesdays at the Band Hall in Jellicio Park. Although there is a nominal annual membership fee, tuition & instruments are provided free though the band. A uniform will be provided later when you enter the main band and switch over to Thursday nights.

This training is done to provide the town with a musical service for the community and it is a 130year old proud tradition here in Moree. Commitment and dedication are expected in return ..... and you can have a lot of fun along the way.

The best age to start brass is about Yr 4 as minimum levels of strength and dexterity are needed to play these instruments. If you are interested, please contact Marty Roberts on 0401 342 414

MOREE JUNIOR RUGBY
The Moree Junior Rugby Union Club will be holding its registration in March on the following days.

- Thursday 10th March 4.00pm-6.00pm
- Thursday 17th March 4.00pm-6.00pm & BBQ afterwards

Registration will take place at the Moree Rugby Club House on Inverell Road. We are hoping to have an under 14’s side this year so please circulate to any parents that have children who may be interested. The U16’s play on Saturdays in the senior Central North competition and they are also looking to put a side together. If you have any questions please contact Secretary Justin Barnes on 0428 693524 or President Stuart Gall on 0428 586 677.

Moree Hockey Association

Junior hockey 2016 will be played on Thursday afternoons from 3:45pm - 5:00pm at Ron Harborne Oval. Hockey is a fun sport that develops hand/eye coordination, team skills and fitness. It is a sport for life. The sessions will include skills development and game time. Players of all abilities are welcome. If you have any questions, please call Matt 0447 422827 or Helen 0427 522827. We look forward to seeing you there.

Registration Days - Ron Harborne Oval
Dates: Saturday 12th and 19th April
Time: 9:00am - 12 noon

Please see Bronwyn Sim at Junior Cricket
Dates: Thursday 31st March and Thursday 7th April
Time: 4:00pm - 5:00pm

MOREE LITTLE ATHLETICS CLUB

Moree Little Athletics Club will be holding a COME & TRY evening to showcase what the club has to offer for school aged athletes. When: 16/3/2016 Where: Boughton Oval, Moree Time: between 5:00pm & 7:00pm

Participating children will get a free sausage sizzle plus BBQ food & drinks will be available for purchase by other family members attending. Moree Little Athletics club membership is open to kids aged 5 & enrolled in school, & up to age 17 years.

Everyone is welcome to come along.
Karen Schubert, President - Moree Little A’s Club

Dates to remember!
- P&C AGM - Monday, 14th March 2016 commencing 6.00pm at the MPS library – do come along and meet new parents.
- Visiting show for K-4 Bottom’s Dream & Y5/6 Such Sweet Sorrow – Tuesday 16th March
Regional Swimming Carnival 2016

Yesterday, Monday 7th March, 23 MPS students and their parents headed to Armidale to complete in the North West Swimming Carnival. The day turned out to be a very successful one where everyone did their best, represented the zone and school with pride and many exceeded their personal best times.

Congratulations to the following students:

A special mention goes to Ben DiDonna (2nd in 9yrs 50m Freestyle), Chloe Elbourne (3rd in 9yrs 50m Freestyle), Piper Phillis (1st 13yrs 50m Freestyle) and Gabrielle Elbourne (2nd in 11yrs Backstroke) who will now go on to represent the North West in Sydney on the 6th & 7th April of this term to compete in the State Swimming Championships. Well Done Ben, Chloe, Piper & Gabrielle!

Thank you to all parents who supported their children at this event, it is a long way and a long day – but a great experience that I am sure the students will remember for many years.