

# Mittagong Public School

## Newsletter



### Lost Jackets

Each year we quickly end up with a large number of lost jumpers and jackets at the change of season. Can I please request that parents label these and other items so that we can return them to you when they are dropped or misplaced by your child. We also have a growing collection of lunch boxes. If you believe that any may belong to your child please drop in before or after school and check out the collection inside/outside the double story building. We will begin disposing of the unclaimed items at the end of term.

It is always helpful if you can add your child's name and class with a permanent marker or label on all their items so that they can find their way home. What is also of great assistance to other parents is that you regularly check your child's clothing to make sure what they have brought home is actually theirs! Accidental switches occur easily and a child can wear a jacket for weeks before discovering that it belongs to somebody else. Please do a random check to help us with this issue.

### Hair Ribbons and Bows

Students and parents are reminded that this term is a "no hat - go play in the shade" term. As such, oversized bows and ribbons are not appropriate when they compete for space with hats on a child's head. If hair ribbons or bows are worn they should be of a discrete size and be in keeping with our gold and green uniform colours. A recent trend towards wearing "Jo-Jo Bow-

Bows" at our school is not encouraged.

### Improving Attendance and Late Arrivals

We will continue to closely monitor the absences of our students this year including late arrivals. A number of letters will be issued this week requesting absent notes or asking parents to contact us regarding ways to assist students to be at school and on time each day throughout the year. Your assistance in this will be greatly appreciated.

Parents are reminded that school begins at 8.52am each day and any absence from school requires an absence note for our school records stating why your child missed a school day. We would appreciate your sending in this note the day your child resumes school. Both Sarah Bull our Pastoral Care Worker and I are available to be of assistance if there are issues we can help with.

### Toys and Personal Items

Students and parents are reminded that bringing toys and other valuables to school is discouraged. Theft or breakage are likely to occur and cause distress for students. Likewise the trading or selling of items such as cards and other collectables is not to take place at school. Doing so often ends with someone wanting to reverse the deal and we cannot enter into arbitration



over such matters. Such things are best kept outside of school to protect the peace of our playgrounds!

## Old school furniture for sale

We are having a clean up and are now offering the excess equipment for sale.

Desks \$5 each or discounted price if you buy bulk.

Please see the front office if you wish to purchase any of these items.

## Easter Egg Drive and Easter Egg Raffle

Thank you to all the families who have already donated Easter Eggs for the residents of The Abbey nursing home and to the elderly people who receive Meals on Wheels support. Over the next 2 weeks (week 7 & 8) we would gratefully appreciate donations of Easter eggs of all shapes and sizes. All donations of Easter eggs will be collected at the morning assembly.

The SRC are running an Easter Egg Raffle each morning to raise funds for the purchasing of the diabetic chocolate eggs which are needed for some of the recipients. Tickets are 20c each. The raffle will be drawn during week 9 of this term. Please see Mrs Smiltnieks if you have any questions. Thanks for your support of our local community. *Mrs Rachel Smiltnieks & Mrs Joan Ferguson*

## Moss Vale Show Tickets

Today, all students at Mittagong Public School received a Student Pass to the 2018 Moss Vale Show. The Moss Vale Show runs from Friday 9 March - Sunday 11 March. The Student Pass can be used on any day of the show however, the pass will provide students with one free entry only. If your child did not receive their free pass today, please ensure they ask their teacher for a Student Pass tomorrow.

## Harmony Day

On Wednesday 21 March 2018, Mittagong Public School will be celebrating HARMONY DAY.

Harmony Day is celebrated on 21 March every year and is a day to celebrate Australia's cultural diversity - a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home.

At Mittagong Public School, we celebrate inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for all Australians, from the traditional owners of the land to those who have come from many countries around the world.

The ongoing theme of Harmony Day is 'everyone belongs'. By participating in Harmony Day activities, we can learn and understand how all Australians equally belong to this nation and enrich it.



To celebrate Harmony Day, we are encouraging all students at Mittagong Public School to wear National Dress of a country of choice or to wear orange clothing. Orange is the colour chosen to represent Harmony Day. Traditionally, orange signifies social communication and meaningful conversations. It also relates to the freedom of ideas and encouragement of mutual respect.

So, please start thinking about Harmony Day and start planning something orange or a National Dress to wear to school on Wednesday 21 March 2018.

More information about Harmony Day will come home in next week's newsletter.

## Our Cultural Diversity

Australia is a vibrant multicultural country - from the oldest continuous culture of our first Australians to the cultures of our newest arrivals from around the world. Our cultural diversity is one of our greatest strengths and is at the heart of who we are. It makes Australia a great place to live. Did you know:

- Nearly half (49 per cent) of Australians were born overseas or have at least one parent who was
- We identify with over 300 ancestries
- Since 1945, more than 7.5 million people have migrated to Australia
- Apart from English, the most common languages spoken at home in Australia are Mandarin, Arabic, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Italian, Greek, Tagalog/Filipino, Hindi, Spanish and Punjabi
- More than 70 indigenous languages are spoken in Australia.

## Coles Sports for School



Thank you again to all the wonderful families who have donated their Coles Sports for Schools vouchers at school or at the Bowral Coles store. We have over 3000 vouchers already. There are still a few more weeks left.

Please continue to bring them in so we can get new sports equipment for the school.

Ms Annemarie Bowditch

## Woolies Earn & Learn Goodies Have Arrived

This week we were very lucky to receive the goodies we purchased through the Woolies Earn & Learn

project from 2017. We collected close to 50 000 points last year through the generosity of our local community, friends and family. This meant we could redeem the points and purchase loads of items we use every day in our classes.

This year we bought loads of glue sticks, coloured pencils, lead pencils and PVA. Being able to have these items means that every student in every class has access to these resources and we will have enough to last throughout 2018!

Thank you once again. I trust that should the program run later this year, we will have the same enthusiasm and commitment parents and friends have shown in the past.

## Year 4 Camp Expression of Interest

The expression of interest was finally distributed this week, one week later than promised. We were forced to withhold distribution of the note due to timetabling clashes which saw the camp move the booked date one week forward.

This year we ask that parents return this early expression of interest with a \$20 holding deposit (due Friday 27 March) to secure your child's place in the camp. We require 70 names for the camp to ensure the camp is financially viable.

Should we not receive 70 expressions of interest by this date, we will cancel the booking and the \$20 will be credited to family accounts for future use.

Please return the expression of interest and the \$20 to your class teacher as soon as possible.

## Years 3 - 6 PSSA Soccer Gala Day

The first of our PSSA GALA days for 2018 will be held on Friday 23 March. Notes for this were sent home this week. The cost for the PSSA Soccer Gala day is \$8. GALA days are an integral part of our sporting curriculum and all students are expected to attend.

Please ensure notes and money are returned to school by the cut-off date of **Friday 16 March at 3:00pm**. Notes returned after this date will not be accepted as students must be placed into teams prior to the event.

## Junior Choir

Junior Choir has begun! Students from years 1 or 2 are welcome to attend weekly rehearsals. These will





be held at **8:30am, every Wednesday** morning in Ms Trifonov's classroom. Junior choir is a fun way to learn to sing, be part of a group and perform. Commitment is key to success. If your child is interested in being part of junior choir, please encourage them to attend weekly practice. If you have any enquiries, please arrange to speak with Ms Trifonov.

## Road Safety

Your primary aged child is still developing an understanding of danger and safety. While they are often keen to do things for themselves, **an adult must always be responsible for your child in the traffic environment.**

Your child is a vulnerable road user. They are still developing the skills that help them to judge the direction of sound and the speed and distance of vehicles. Your child is physically small, making it harder for drivers to see them. They may be easily distracted and tend to only be able to focus on one thing at a time. This means that they find it difficult to deal with sudden changes in the traffic environment.

Your child may be able to tell you the rules and how to keep safe near in and around vehicles, but in reality, will not always be able to apply them.

At school, your child will learn about road safety as part of Personal Development, Health and Physical Education. Help them learn the pedestrian safety messages by using them and sharing them whenever you are out and about.

### Students in Early Stage 1 and Stage 1

- Hold a grown-up's hand when:
  - you cross the road
  - you're on the footpath
  - you're in the car park

### Students in Stage 2

- Hold an adult's hand when you cross the road
- Use a safe place to cross the road

### Students in Stage 3

- Stop! Look! Listen! Think! every time you cross the road
  - Use a safe place to cross the road
- Let's all help our children be 'road safety smart' and safe. *Mr Christodouloupoulos - Road Safety Officer*

## PSSA District Swimming

Congratulations to all our students who attended the District Swimming Carnival on the 23 February. There were some great swimming triumphs for both individual and relay events. Congratulations to Michal K, Oliver S, Yvette K, Mia M, Amy L, Matilda C, on their success and good luck as they represent the Wingecarribee District at the Regional Swimming Carnival in Dapto on Wednesday the 14 March.

## Scripture Classes

Scripture classes commenced last week (Thursday, 1 March). All students have been placed in scripture classes based on their placement from last year unless a previous request has been made. If a child wishes to change scripture classes, a request note of transfer must be completed, signed and returned to school. Students can not pick and choose which class they go to. Non-scripture classes are quite full and unless a request has been completed, your child will remain in the nominated scripture class as indicated on their enrolment.

## Winter Sports

Season registrations for winter sports has started. We have many students with returning registrations in local sports along with new families within our school who may have children interested in trying a new sport or signing up to a local club. If you have any queries regarding local sports and registrations, see Mrs Fisher and she can direct you to the appropriate contact or field for training sessions.

Wildcats Netball train at MPS Basketball COLA on Thursdays at 4pm and AFL/Auskick has started training at Welby Oval on Tuesday afternoons from 4pm.



## P&amp;C News

Mittagong Public School P&C  
mittagongpublicpandc@gmail.com

### P&C Annual General Meeting - Tuesday 13 March 6.30pm

Next week is the P&C AGM. We invite everyone to come along as we nominate and vote for our Committee for 2018. All existing positions are declared vacant and nominations will be accepted for the positions of President, Vice President (x2), Secretary, Treasurer, Canteen Treasurer, Canteen Convenor and Fundraising Coordinator. There are a number of existing vacancies and there are also people standing down from their positions so we welcome anyone who is interested or would like more information to get in touch with Sarah Farnese on 0414 963 383 or by email at [sarah@farnese.me](mailto:sarah@farnese.me).

### Friday Morning BBQ Coordinator

Our Friday morning BBQ has long been a fixture on the school calendar and over the last couple of years the BBQ has been capably coordinated by school parent Toni Challoner who has streamlined the processes and improved communication. Unfortunately, Toni now has to step aside due to other commitments and we are seeking someone or a small team to take over this role. We will provide training and support. If you're interested or would like to find out more, please contact Sarah Farnese on 0414 963 383 or by email at [sarah@farnese.me](mailto:sarah@farnese.me).

**Cadbury Chocolate Fundraiser** – There are still some boxes left to sell! WE NEED YOU to roll up your sleeves and help. The good news is that this fundraiser is super simple... and delicious. We're selling Easter Boxes, Freddo Boxes, Lolly Boxes and the All Star Boxes! Boxes range from \$1-\$4 per item so easy to sell to your neighbours, friends and family. We will have boxes

available for collection at the Friday morning barbecue TOMORROW so please come and grab one to sell if you are interested. Otherwise, please email P&C with your details and a delivery can be made to your child's class to bring home. The money will be due back to school by **Thursday 5th April**. Thankyou to everyone in advance for your support!

**Spring Bulb Fundraiser**– Thankyou to the parents who have generously supported this fundraiser. We will keep you updated with how much you helped raise and the likely delivery dates.



Most 150ml to three litre drink containers are eligible for a refund, which include glass, plastic, aluminium, steel and liquid cartons.

Containers should be empty, uncrushed and have the original label attached. Pop them in the special recycle bin outside the canteen and the school P&C will claim the 10c per container.

We are happy for you to put your containers from home in here too.



## School Calendar 2018

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Term 1 March Week 6	5 Bulb orders due	6	7	8  Clothing pool sale 8:30am	9 Senior assembly Clothing pool sale 8:30am	10	11
Term 1 March Week 7	12	13 P&C AGM 6:30pm	14 IEP meetings	15	16 Junior assembly 1/2B item	17	18
Term 1 March Week 8	19	20	21 Harmony Day	22 5/6 debating workshop	23 Soccer Gala Day Senior assembly	24	25