

Mittagong Public School Newsletter



School Values

Last year our whole school community were involved in consultation about which values we would adopt as part of our key values. The three values which were decided upon were Respect, Responsibility and Cooperation. This week our school Council endorsed these and our new School Pledge will highlight these. The pledge, which will be spoken at school assembly each week, is as follows:

“At Mittagong Public School we Strive to Achieve: To be Respectful, Responsible and Cooperative members of our school and community”.

I am sure that these values will help in fostering great behaviours and engagement at our school. Thank you to everyone who took part in the surveys and discussions.

P&C

This week our P&C held its Annual General Meeting and the outcome of elections to positions can be found in the P&C News section of this newsletter. I would like to thank all P&C members, past and present for their wonderful contributions to our school and look forward to another productive year of parent-school partnerships! Please feel free to come along and share in the meeting which occur on the first Tuesday evening of each month at 6.30 pm in our library.

School Contact Details Update

We are currently updating all of our school contact records and would appreciate if you would let us know if any of your details including mobile phone numbers have changed. It is also important that we have a **current emergency contact**. If this preferred contact has changed since your child's enrolment at our school, please advise us as soon as possible. There have been occasions where an emergency has arisen and the emergency contact number provided was disconnected. This of course is highly problematic. We appreciate your assistance in caring for our students in this way.

Early Arrivals

Parents are reminded that students should not enter our school grounds before 8:25 am each morning as there are no teachers on duty to supervise students until our first bell. Any parent with the need to bring children to school earlier than this can contact WOOSH for before school care in our grounds on the following number: 4861 2866

Staying Safe around Strangers

I wanted to remind families to continue to be aware of stranger danger. There have not been any events of recent times around our school or the local community that I am aware of but If your child reports anything unusual of the “stranger danger” kind, please pass this



on to police and/or us. I would encourage parents to have regular, low-key conversations with their children about what to do in these situations. We sometimes mention these issues on morning assembly and I am aware that doing so may at times spark 'over caution' on the part of young children, but I feel that it is better to be too careful than not careful enough. Our local police are of the same mind and are not annoyed by any small shards of information that come their way. At times these can help with breakthroughs in unexpected ways. So please encourage your children to be cautious traveling to or from school and anywhere else for that matter.

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. Friday 16th March is the last day for collection as Mrs Anderson, Mrs Ferguson and the SRC need time to wrap and label the eggs.

The SRC Easter Egg Raffle is still running each morning. 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 again

Mrs Rachel Smiltnieks & Mrs Joan Ferguson

Kids Helpline

Did you know Kids Helpline is a free service available for your kids to speak to a counsellor any time of the day? This might be another great way to help your child in whatever they are going through today. To find out more, click on the Parents tab on kidshelpline.com.au to have your FAQ's answered.

Mrs Sarah Bull- Pastoral Care Program

Coles Sports for Schools Vouchers

There are still a few weeks left for families to collect and bring in the Coles Sports for School vouchers. Thank you to those people who have already donated vouchers. I think at last count I was up to 6000 vouchers! Fantastic effort everyone.

Ms Annemarie Bowditch - AP Special Education



Premier's Reading Challenge 2018



Public School Students

A link to the Premier's Reading Challenge website can be found in the [Student Portal](#) under the **Learning** section. Students are also able to add a link to the PRC in the **My Link List** section to make the PRC easier to find. The URL to use is <http://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc>. Public school students can also log in directly to the [PRC website](#) using their Department of Education (DoE) username and password. These are the same details a student would use to access the [Student Portal](#) and the computer network at school. If you are unaware of your username and/or password, please contact your class teacher and ask for your Student Portal username and/or password. On the PRC website homepage, click on logon on the menu to login.

It will take you to the NSW Department of Education portal login page, students need to enter their username and password.

Students who are up to their fourth year or seventh year of the PRC will require permission from home to have their name displayed, as they will receive either a Gold Certificate or Platinum Certificate.

In the 2017 Challenge, over 290,000 students read

over 8 million books. The most popular books in 2017 were Pig the Pug (K-2), Fantastic Mr Fox (Years 3-4), and The Hunger Games (Years 7-9) which were the same most popular books in those categories in 2016! Harry Potter & the Chamber of Secrets (Years 5-6) overtook last year's most popular book in that category, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.

IEP and Review Meetings

Thank you to all of the parents and carers who have taken time out of their busy schedules to engage in collaborative goal setting for their child. It is very important to cater for each child as an individual and work towards helping them achieve their potential.

Next week Review Meetings will occur for support class students. These meetings are a great opportunity for the teacher to touch base with parents and set goals. It is especially important for students who are in year 6 as we will discuss which support class they would like to apply for at the local high schools.

Ms Annemarie Bowditch - AP Special Education

Autumn Hat Parade

It's time to be imaginative in making an Autumn hat. This year students in **Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2** are hosting an '**Autumn Hat Parade**'. It will be held on **Thursday 29 March (Week 9)** at **11:35am** around the **Big Tree**. Please note there will be no prizes awarded. This experience is for students to enjoy creating something fun with family at home then showcase their masterpiece at school. We would love for the parents and the community to join us for the

Challenge	Number of books you must read	Minimum number of PRC books	Maximum number of Personal Choice books	PRC booklists you can read from	Entering Books
K-2	30	25	5	K-2, 3-4	Mrs Gardiner will add all K-2 books.
3-4	20	15	5	3-4, 5-6	Students will add their own books. Library class time will be provided to do this each week.
5-6	20	15	5	5-6, 7-9	Students will add their own books. Library time will be provided to do this each week.



Something fishy was happening in the cooking craft room this week.

parade to see all the fantastic designs and join in all the fun. Following the Autumn Hat Parade will be the Junior Assembly. The day has been moved due to Good Friday. The junior Assembly will commence at 12:30pm.

It's time to get creative and remember HAVE FUN!

3 - 6 Soccer Gala Day Money is Due!

Friday (tomorrow) is the last day money will be accepted for the 3 - 6 Soccer GALA day. The date for the GALA day is Friday 23 March, which is only one week away.

Students must be placed into teams and last minute arrangements must be made. As this is part of our sports program, we expect all students to participate.

Should you not have returned your note or money, please finalise your payment tomorrow.

Year 4 Camp Expressions of Interest

For parents of our Year 4 students, please ensure you have returned your expression of interest for the Year 4 camp as soon as possible. We are only asking for a \$20 holding deposit at the moment and should the camp not go ahead, this money will be credited to your child's account.

Mathletics & Reading Eggs

Don't forget, every single child in our school has access to the terrific resources in Reading Eggs and Mathletics. These are available at home and school. However, children can only access these at home once their \$50 book pack fees are paid.

Once fees are paid, teachers can issue the usernames and passwords for Reading Eggs and Mathletics, just another reason why it's a great idea to get the book pack fees paid.

ICAS 2018

Last week notes were sent out to all students in Years 2-6 who may be interested in sitting some or all of the ICAS assessments. Year 2 can sit for Science, Spelling, English and Maths, while Years 3-6 have additional tests in Digital Technologies and Writing. All notes and monies are due by 3pm Wednesday 21st March. No notes or money will be accepted after this date. If you have any questions, please contact Ms Buchanan at school.





Light The Way

And you thought we'd finished... Ms Buchanan and Mrs Bahls can't let go. To continue the work that 4/5B and 5N did last year, we are holding a cake stall and mufti day to raise money to buy more solar lights to send to Uganda. This year we are calling on our new classes, 3/4 Rosellas and 2 Meerkats, to help us light the way for more children. The light will be sent to Gulu in northern Uganda where we made connections with the people who will benefit immeasurably from having a safe light source. We've met with our old classes who are as keen as last year to raise awareness of the plight of so many disadvantaged and our new classes can't wait to get into it. Our cake stall will be Wednesday 28 March and our mufti day will be Wednesday 4 April. More information will be coming through shortly. We know we can count on the unwavering support of everyone at school. Thank you for helping us to continue lighting the way! *Ms Buchanan and Mrs Bahls*

Harmony Day

On Wednesday 21 March 2018, Mittagong Public School will be celebrating HARMONY DAY. Harmony Day celebrates cultural diversity and is a time to reflect on the importance of respecting one another and our differences.

To celebrate Harmony Day, students of Mittagong Public School are invited to wear the Harmony Day colour 'ORANGE' on Wednesday 21 March.

Students may also choose to wear the national colours of a country of choice or even make a hat that represents a culture that interests them.

Students may also choose to wear their traditional cultural dress for Harmony Day. Children who do not have a cultural dress or want another option can wear orange.

Aboriginal Go4Fun
A ten week healthy lifestyle program for Aboriginal children and their families.
Starts term 2 2018. Thursdays 3.30 - 5.30pm.
More details call 1800 780 900.



P&C News

f Mittagong Public School P&C
 ✉ mittagongpublicpandc@gmail.com

P&C Annual General Meeting – Thank you to everyone who came along on Tuesday evening and those who accepted formal roles on P&C. The following positions were filled:

President: Sarah Farnese

Vice Presidents: Jennifer White, Sarah Pryor

Secretary: Glenys Isbester

Treasurer: *Vacant*

Canteen Treasurer: Sarah Stokes

Canteen Convenor: Paula Williams

Fundraising Coordinator: *Vacant*

The role of **P&C Treasurer** is vacant. This role is not onerous and generally involves banking each week (if there is money to be banked), verifying a few payments and entering figures to generate an Income and Expenditure report for the P&C meeting held each month in school term. If you would love to give it go, please contact outgoing Treasurer, Kristel Cook, on 0421 696 597. Full support and training will be provided.

If you are keen to step into the role of **Fundraising Coordinator**, please contact P&C President, Sarah Farnese on 0414 963 383 or by email at sarah@farnese.me.

Friday Morning BBQ Coordinator needed

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, from next term. 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.

Canteen Harmony Day Special & Volunteers: Next Wednesday 21st March is Harmony Day – you should have received an orange meal deal order form home. Please ensure all orders are received by Monday to enable us to cater for this day. We need VOLUNTEERS on the day and DONATIONS of orange items would be appreciated! If you can help on the day or would like to come in to do some cooking prior to the day, please contact Canteen Coordinator Cindy Wood on 0435 842 035.

Cadbury Chocolate Fundraiser – Money will be due back to school by **Thursday 5th April**. Thankyou to everyone who has taken a box to sell.

Spring Bulb Fundraiser– Thankyou to the parents who generously supported this fundraiser - you helped raise over \$1,000! This puts us well on the way to supporting the current technology initiatives at the school. Bulbs will be sent home with your child when the orders arrive back at school. If you had a large order, we will contact you to collect. We will advise in the newsletter when the orders have arrived, so you know to check the schoolbag!

Harmony Day Drawing competition - Be as creative as you want. Use your imagination and draw, sketch, colouring in or paint a design that shows us what 'Harmony Day' means to you.

1st prize: \$20 wish gift card


2nd prize: \$10 canteen voucher

3rd prize: \$5 canteen voucher

3 x runner up prizes: a slushy

Return your creation to the canteen by Tuesday 20/3

School Calendar 2018

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Term 1 March Week 7	12	13 P&C AGM 6:30pm	14 IEP meetings	15 	16 Junior assembly 1/2B	17	18
Term 1 March Week 8	19	20	21 Harmony Day Poetry day	22 5/6 debating workshop	23 Soccer Gala Day	24	25
Term 1 March Week 9	26	27 3-6 Cross country	28 Cake stall	29 Cake stall K-2 hat Parade Junior assembly	30 Good Friday Public Holiday	31	1