

# Mittagong Public School

## Newsletter



### Friendship chair

At the end of every school year, the Year Six children donate a gift to Mittagong Public School as a parting memento. Several years ago the Year Six group decided upon a 'Friendship chair' for the playground. We were very lucky to have Emma's father, Brad, who is a stonemason, donate some beautiful sandstone and his skills to build a really attractive and unique seat. It is situated in the Aboriginal Garden overlooking the playing fields and it has an engraved plaque embedded in it.

The purpose of the Friendship chair was explained to students at the school assemblies at the time, but with the number of new children at our school since then, it is timely to remind the children of its existence and its purpose.

The Friendship chair is a place where children who are lonely or sad can sit and in doing so, alert teachers and other pupils that there might be a problem. Children are taught how special the seat is, and to look out for any student who is on it. It is hoped that children will approach the seat, and invite whomever is on it to play with them, or simply check if they are okay. The seat can be a key beginning to promoting friendship and kindness in youngsters and help build a sense of community.

Parents are also encouraged to discuss the chair as an option for their children if they are feeling that they have no one to play with. We hope that this chair is utilised by children in our school for generations to come.

### New Staff

This term has been a very busy time for us with transfers and merit selection panels taking place throughout the last 2 months. I would like to welcome some new staff to our school. Mrs Kristy-Lee Fleming started as a permanent teacher with us this week, taking over from Mrs Bahls who has taken maternity leave. We wish her all the best for the birth of her child very soon! Miss Finola McKernan visited us today and will begin next term on our Wombat class as a permanent staff member also. We wish Mr Williams well as he takes up another class teacher role in a nearby school. Two other new permanent staff members will begin at the start of 2019, allowing us to reduce the amount of disruption to our classes. I would like to thank Mrs Sarah Farnese for her support on the merit selection panels as our P&C representative as well as the staff members who assisted in this process.





## Reports home tomorrow

Tomorrow our semester 1 reports will be sent home with students. I'd like to encourage parents to take the opportunity to review the progress their child has made to date by sitting with them and discussing their grades. Please take note of the Effort rating for each area as this is a good indicator of the level of engagement your child has displayed. While a high achievement ranking is definitely worth commending, a high effort score is something to really celebrate as this means your child is working hard. Some students can coast along and still achieve high grades, so the effort score is very telling.

Also keep in mind that on the scale of attainment (in years 1 to 6 reports) a "Sound" ranking is not a poor score. This ranking tells you that your child is performing where they *ought* to be at this time. I want to emphasize this as sometimes parents fear this rating reflects poorly on their child's achievement as if it were somewhat lacklustre or just barely getting there. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Without overgeneralising things, to score "High" your child would have been working at a similar level to one year above their year level. To score an "Outstanding", their work attainment is considered to be the equivalent of two years ahead. For this reason High's and Outstanding's are not lightly given out. In the "olden days" a middle grade literally meant an average student. If the whole year were outstanding, some students would still get "C" as there were only so many "A's and B's" to give out. The same was true if all the students were of low ability. Today, achievement rankings are not mathematically determined by averaging the number of students in the year between a limited number of grades. Each student is ranked according to actual performance in assessment tasks. A "Sound" ranking means a student is performing well in everything and they are where they ought to be. So please don't miss-read the grade and conclude your child needs to try harder because they did not get "High" or "Outstanding".

An explanation of the meaning of each ranking can be found on the front page of each report for years 1 - 6. If you have any questions for your child's teacher in relation to their report please take the opportunity to attend a parent-teacher meeting. The details of those interviews and how they will work for your child's class should be found with your child's report. Most are scheduled for next week.



Please keep in mind that you can also contact our office at any time throughout the year to make an appointment with your child's teacher. I hope that each family will take the opportunity to celebrate the successes of their children and perhaps discuss any areas where improvement in effort may be required.

### SRC: A change is coming

Last Wednesday the SRC met at an off-site secret location to pitch their ideas on how they could improve our beautiful school. Our leaders were disguised and transported to a secret boardroom where they presented their thoroughly researched ideas and tried to convince the members of the board that their plan would benefit our school. The SRC's ideas were truly outstanding and their presentations faultless; it will be a very difficult task to choose what proposal will eventually go through, and Mr Mansfield and the executives at our school will have the challenging task of awarding the best idea. Good luck to all the SRC members!

### Senior assembly

Last Friday Mrs Trifonov and Mrs Small led their students to victory showcasing their talents and abilities. 4M transformed the hall into an art gallery with their shapes and colours. The students educated their audience on 'Rangoli Art' and truly echoed all the wonderful things that go on in MPS classrooms. On the same note, pardon the pun, Mrs Small's drama group blew us all away with their pop rendition of Alice in Wonderland. The students sang, danced and acted passionately, transporting us to a fantasy world which we didn't want to leave. Congratulations to both teachers and classes for an outstanding effort! Make sure you see the video of Alice in Wonderland on our school's website and relive the magic!

### Hyde Park Barracks

On Tuesday 3 July our year five students will be travelling to Sydney to visit the Hyde Park Barracks Museum. Our students will have the opportunity, to not only have a guided tour of the Barracks, but they will also get to visit, the Rocks Discovery Museum, Circular Quay, the Museum of Contemporary Art, the Botanic Gardens and the Australian Museum. Students are required to arrive at school at 7.40am for an 8.00am strict departure. We are expected to return to school at approximately 5.00pm. Please make arrangements for your child to be picked up from the school premises. Children are required to wear their full school uniform, including school hat, sensible shoes

(there will be a lot of walking) and an umbrella or raincoat if the weather dictates it. Students should also bring sunscreen, recess food, a water bottle and a packed lunch.

Junk food is discouraged. There will be a traditional ice cream stop at Circular Quay, so they are permitted to bring spending money with them. Children are also permitted to bring cameras but not phones. Hopefully the weather will be fine and we will be able to do all that is planned!

### Rumour has it

Lastly, there is a rumour going around that on Wednesday 4 July at 8.40am there will be something happening near the 'Big Tree' in our school's quadrangle. Make sure you are there to witness this phenomenon and maybe bring an 'umbrella' or practise your fist pump...just saying.

Mr. D Christodouloupoulos – Stage Three Leader

### Year 4 camp visit to Fitzroy Falls conference centre

Camp is sneaking up on us! Students from Year Four will attend camp next term during Week 6, from Wednesday August 29 - Friday August 31. A quick reminder that full payments are due to the office by Friday August 3.

For parents who are thinking about sending their child, but have concerns about facilities or activities planned, Mr Leith has organized a visit to the Fitzroy Falls conference center next Monday the 2 July, from 4:00 - 4:30 pm. If you would like to come and check the camp out, see the accommodation and have your child orient themselves with where they will be going for camp please come and join us.

### Parking in Pioneer Street

The end of the school day is a very busy time and with an increase in traffic, it is often difficult for parents to find parking. Recently, our neighbours in Pioneer Street have reported that their driveways are being obstructed by vehicles belonging to parents waiting to collect their children from school. Residents report that it is difficult for them to get their own car in/out of their drive. Can I ask that anyone collecting children on Pioneer Street, please be mindful of our neighbours and respect their need to have suitable space to enter/exit their properties.



## P&C News

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### ROLL UP ROLL UP

### MOVIE NIGHT THIS SUNDAY 1 JULY – LAST CHANCE FOR TICKET ORDERS AND MONEY TOMORROW MORNING (FRIDAY 29 JUNE)

2 sessions 12.00pm or 3.30pm.

There is still time to book your tickets - get your money and order in so you don't miss out. Any forms handed in tomorrow morning will have tickets sent home with your child on Friday afternoon.

If your plans change after tomorrow morning and you decide you can come, please text Cindy, Canteen Coordinator, on Saturday on 0435 842 035 to check how many spots are left. If there are still tickets available, she will be able to arrange for you to pay at the door. (Numbers must be known beforehand for catering purposes.)

We are also selling RAFFLE TICKETS before school and at lunch time. The prizes are amazing and we would like to thank our sponsors:

Castle kingdom, McDonalds Mittagong, Neeny's playhouse, Highlands ten pin, Bowral Sweets and treats, Highlands health club, Highlands Fresh.

Tickets are 50c each or three for \$1.

Tickets will be drawn at the beginning of the Wonder session on July 1. Who will be a winner?

FRIDAY MORNING BBQ and SHED CAFE – This week is the last Friday BBQ and Shed Café for the term. There will be NO Friday morning BBQ next week. Thankyou to our fabulous volunteers braving those cold mornings and all of you who have supported us in buying a sausage sizzle or hot chocolate. See you at our Friday BBQ Week 2 Term 3.


Special thanks must go to KENNARDS HIRE who kindly donate the gas for our barbecues. Please support this business in return.

### CLOTHING POOL OPEN NEXT THURSDAY (5 July)

8.30am – 9.30am in the cottage. Bring gold coins to buy preloved uniforms. All profits to P&C.

P&C MEETING – Tuesday 3 July 6.30pm in the library – please feel free to attend our P&C Meeting next week and get up to date with what's happening around school.

## School Calendar 2018

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>Week 9</b>	25	26 Southern Stars	27 Debate at MPS	28 	29 Junior assembly with Kinder item Student reports home	30	1 Movie Night
<b>Week 10</b>	2	3 Yr 5 Hyde Park P&C meeting 6:30pm	4 Parent / teacher interviews	5	6 Last day term 2 Senior assembly	7 School holidays begin	8
<b>Term 3 Week 1 July</b>	23 Staff Development	24 Students return	25 'Being brave' anti-bullying incursion	26	27  Junior assembly	28	29
<b>Week 2 August</b>	30	31	1 ICAS english	2	3 District athletics Senior assembly	4	5