

Mittagong Public School

Newsletter



P&C AGM:

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 5 March, followed by a general meeting. All positions will be declared vacant and a vote will be held to elect a President, Vice President (x 2), Secretary, Treasurer. Other roles will also be on offer including Canteen Coordinator and Fundraising Coordinator. If you're interested in finding out more, please email Sarah Farnese at mittagongpublicschoolpandc@gmail.com or call on 0414 963 383.

From Admin

Welcome to the 2019 school year. We are excited to be meeting and interacting with our 420 families at our school. If at any time you need to find out more information about anything that is going on at school, please access our website. If you cannot find what you need, please ring the school, our lovely office ladies, Leanne, Robyn and Carol will be happy to help. Payments made to the school can only be accepted via cash, cheque or by paying with your credit/debit card on our website.

Our school gates are locked at 9:15am and reopened at 2:45pm. If you have a need to come to school between

these hours, please access the front office by 'buzzing in' at the main pedestrian gate on Pioneer Street. All visitors must report to the front office where we will be happy to help you. We have an office to classroom phone system which we use to give students a message where required. Please do not approach the classroom without first signing in at the front office as a visitor.

The school resource pack fee is set at \$50 per student. This includes textbooks, stationery and 2 school incursions. In the past the fee has covered one NAIDOC activity and the anti-bullying show. You may receive an invoice from time to time with all outstanding fees.

Kinder News

I would like to welcome all of our new Kindergarten students and their families. It has been wonderful to see our Kinder students' smiling, happy faces and share in their excitement of being at 'big school'. Even on their first day, all of our new Kinder students appeared very settled and ready for their big adventure in the first year of school at Mittagong Public.

Our Kindergarten teachers this year are: Kinder Rose -



Mrs Annie Whitehead, Kinder Wattle - Miss Ellen Squires, Kinder Lilly Pilly - Mrs Ailsa Egan and Kinder Fern – Mrs Belinda Allen. Our Kindergarten students will also have the opportunity to work with Mrs Gardiner in the library and Mrs Lisa Mum and Miss Robyn Cavanagh during RFF. Mrs Natalie Bahls will be working with Kinder Fern on Fridays.

For parents who have chosen the early afternoon collection, this will finish tomorrow, Friday 8 February. Our school's times are 8.55am - 2.55pm. If you need to collect your child before the end of the school day, please ensure you visit the school office and sign your child out of school. Our office staff will then arrange for your child's class teacher to send them to the office to meet you.

I will be the Assistant Principal of Early Stage One (Kindergarten) this year. If you have any concerns relating to your child, I will be more than happy to speak with you. I look forward to the year ahead and to our partnership in supporting our Kindergarten students and ensuring that their first year of school is a great one!

Belinda Allen - Assistant Principal

Kinder 'Meet the Teacher' Afternoon

All parents of children who have started Kindergarten at Mittagong Public this year, are invited to a 'Meet the Teacher' afternoon, between 3.10pm-3:40pm next Tuesday 12 February 2019. Our Kindergarten teachers would love for you to call in and say 'hello'. The afternoon will be a very informal occasion and your child is most welcome to come with you and show you around their classroom. Each of our Kindergarten teachers will have a handout outlining information relevant to their class. If you are free next Wednesday afternoon, please come along and introduce yourself to your child's teacher.

If you would like to speak to your child's teacher about specific issues relating to your child, please phone our school office and make an appointment to meet with your child's teacher.

Welcome Stage 2 Teachers

After a delayed start to their new year of learning whilst classes were finalised, the Stage 2 (Year 3 and Year 4) students happily met their class teachers for 2019. This year we welcome 4 new teachers to Stage 2, though most of the faces are familiar. Miss Mudford will be teaching 2/ 3 Echidna, Mrs Smiltneiks will oversee 3 Penguin and Ms Fawcett is teaching 3/ 4 Eagle. We welcome Mrs Fisher to 4 Kingfisher, Ms Buchanan is responsible for 4 Rosella and Mr Leith is teaching 4/ 5



Galah. We welcome a brand new teacher to the school and our stage, Miss Moon, who is teaching 3 Magpie. All the Stage 2 teachers will work together to deliver a quality education to all their students.

Stage 2 Meet the Teacher

The teachers in Stage 2 would like to cordially invite all parents of students in Stage 2 to attend our annual "Meet the Teacher" afternoon, next Wednesday 13 February from 3:15pm. The afternoon session will begin with a combined information session in the library. This session will be our opportunity to share general information and explain events and arrangements relevant to all students and families.

At the conclusion of the general session, each teacher will conduct individual information sessions in their own classroom. This is an opportunity for teachers to provide further details and expectations in their own classes. We ask that parents do not discuss individual student questions or concerns during this time, however parents are welcome to make appointments to meet the teacher to discuss concerns at a different time. We look forward to seeing you next Wednesday at 3:15pm in the library.

Stage 2 Resources Pack and Future Paid Events

This year Stage 2 is providing families a list of the major paid events which will be presented in conjunction with the resources pack costings in a note which will be handed out at the Meet the Teacher afternoon. Together with our administration ladies in the front office, we are providing this information to enable families to plan financial arrangements ahead of time. Families are more than welcome to begin making payments directly to the office. These payments will be credited to each individual child so that when permission notes and costings are finalised, families have had the opportunity to pay down the expenses. We also invite families requiring assistance to approach their class teacher or Mrs Penn (Stage 2 leader) to discuss how the school can support each child in gaining access to resources and planned events.

The resources pack contributes to routine daily expenses such as the cost of books but also includes subscriptions for Reading Eggs and Mathletics (which can be used at home) and 2 in-school performances. Please note: Reading Eggs and Mathletics subscriptions and text books will not be distributed until the resources pack has been paid to the office or alternate financial arrangements have been negotiated. Paid events include sports GALA days, additional in-school

performances, Year 4 camp and excursions for both Year 3 and Year 4.

What is racism?

Nelson Mandela once said: 'No one is born hating another person because of the colour of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite.'

What is Racism?

Racism often arises where there is ignorance (misunderstanding), fear, poverty/unemployment (also fear of deprivation), or as a result of political opportunism (laying blame on specific people or groups for society's problems or difficulties).

Individual racism refers to the expression of racist attitudes in the behaviour of individuals in face-to-face situations.

Examples include

- Refusal to co-operate with people from different groups
- Racist propaganda
- Racist comments
- Ridicule or abuse (verbal or written)
- Judgements based on stereotypes
- Physical assault and harassment

Institutional racism refers to the dominant group sustaining its power by developing structures (such as laws, policies and administrative practices) that exclude or discriminate against the dominated group.

- Non-inclusive curriculum or teaching practices
- Discriminatory policies or procedures

It is not okay to call someone names, use common slang or tell 'ethnic' jokes at Mittagong Public School. I will be continuing my ARCO (Anti-Racism Contact Officer) role this year. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you or your child are experiencing racism or if you have witnessed someone being racially abused.

Mr Christodouloupoulos - ARCO

Free Furniture

Old school desks, chairs, cupboard and other assorted furniture, free to a good home.

If you are interested in taking any of the excess furniture, please contact the front office.



We hope you are all settling into the new school year. We had our first P&C Meeting of the year on Tuesday and we are hitting the ground running with the canteen open 5 days a week and planning for various fundraisers (including an upcoming State election – more about that in coming weeks). We rely on the help of volunteers so that we can run our canteen and raise funds to enhance the learning and experiences of our children, so if you have some time to give, we would be very grateful.

Volunteers Needed: We are always looking for volunteers to help with jobs big and small around the school. The following volunteer opportunities currently exist:

Canteen volunteers needed on Tuesdays and Fridays (9am till 2pm or any time between). If you think you can help out, even on an ad hoc basis, please contact Cindy on 0435 842 035.

Fun Run Fundraising Coordinator – this is a fundraiser in term 1 run in conjunction with the school cross country. Time commitment is around 10-12 hours over the course of the term. Full support provided. Please contact Sarah Farnese on 0414 963 383 if you're interested.

Canteen Treasurer – if anyone out there has bookkeeping, accounting or other financial expertise (or just savvy with numbers), we are looking for a new canteen treasurer. If you would like to find out more, please call Sarah Stokes on 0438 235 053 or email her at mittagongpandctreasurer@gmail.com.


School Banking – last year we ceased school banking with Commonwealth Bank but we are doing some research into other options. If you're interested in helping us with that, please contact Sarah Pryor on 0410 151 503.

Friday Morning BBQ & Shed Café – we are always on the lookout for new volunteers for the Friday morning BBQ and Shed Café held every Friday morning before school in the years 2-6 morning assembly area. If you can help by cooking a sausage or making a hot chocolate, please contact Sarah Farnese on 0414 963 383 or email mittagongpublicpandc@gmail.com.

Canteen: The new Term 1 menu has gone out (on lovely bright pink paper) and it gives details of how to order including online ordering with our new provider www.myschoolconnect.com.au. If you still have credit with our old supplier (My Kids Lunchbox) you can continue to use it this term (this might be a better option than requesting a refund as people are having trouble contacting them ☹).

Donations Needed: If you are unable to volunteer but would still like to help, we are also asking for donations of the following: Serviettes and Penne Pasta for the canteen and Tomato Sauce, Food Handling Gloves and Cadbury Drinking Chocolate for the Friday BBQ/Shed Café.

School Calendar 2019

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Week 2	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Feb	Kindergarten starts				<i>Clothing Pool Open 8.45-9.30am</i> 		
Week 3	11	12 Yrs 3-6 swimming carnival	13	14	15	16	17
Feb		Kindy meet the teacher 3:10pm	Yr 3 & 4 meet the teacher 3:15pm				
Week 4	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Feb			District swimming		<i>Clothing Pool Open 8.45-9.30am</i> SRC Assembly		
Week 5	25	26	27	28	1	2	3
Feb					Junior assembly		