Week 7 Term 1 – 2013

Dear Parents, Carers and Grandparents,

**Staffing Changes:** Ms Francine Dessaix, our librarian, will not be returning to Merimbula Public School in Term 1 and possibly for some time in Term 2. Ms Dessaix is on medical leave and will be having treatment during this time. Ms Dessaix spoke with Years 3 to 6 students last Tuesday, informing them of her leave and answering some questions. Her talk with the students was supported by classroom teachers and written with the assistance of a school counsellor. Stage 3 students have since made Ms Dessaix a lovely get well and stay strong card. Ms Kirstan Beazley will be replacing Ms Dessaix whilst she is on leave.

**Principal's Awards:** Kirsten will be receiving this week’s Principal’s Award for Outstanding Behaviour. She will receive it at next Monday’s School Assembly. Kirsten organised a card for Ms Dessaix and created an amazing and thoughtful design. Many students will also be receiving Principal’s Merit Awards at next week’s assembly (2.15 – 2.55pm), after having received 5 Merit Certificates. They include: Jacob, Damon, Ella, Alicia, Niamh, Lilly and Jem.

**PBS Awards:** Congratulations to Campbell, Madison, Charlotte, Willow, Darcy, Ebony, Jayda, Ruby, Rachel, Jackson and Jayda. They will all be receiving large PBS awards at the next assembly for their consistent display of the school values ‘care, respect, responsibility and fairness’. Congratulations to Phoebe, Layne, Jessica, Madison and T'Leah who will all be receiving ‘responsibility’ arm bands after having received 4 responsibility certificates already! Great work students!

**P&C Committee:** Thank you to all of the parents, caregivers and community members who attended our P&C Meeting and Annual General Meeting last Tuesday evening. It was a great night and a great way to celebrate National P&C Day! Our P&C Committee for 2013 include: President – Mrs Tania Dwyer; Vice Presidents – Mr Ross Mannell and Ms Jo Thorpe; Secretary – Mrs Jo Miller; Treasurer – Mrs Lee Salisbury; and Fundraising Coordinator – Mrs Kodie Smith. At the meeting we discussed new uniform suppliers, school / P&C financial statements, changing lunch / break times, canteen updates, the School Plan, fundraising opportunities and 2013 activities and events. More information about the changing lunch / break times is included within a separate note that is enclosed within this newsletter. Please read it for more details. Please join us at future meetings to find out more about our great school, share your thoughts and ideas and support the school in becoming an even better place.

**Please support the Parents and Citizens Association**

**Easter Raffle 2013**

Easter Raffle Tickets have been sent home with this week’s newsletter. Tickets cost $1 each. All money / tickets should be returned to the school no later than Monday, March 25.

You can donate Easter eggs for the draw to the front office at the school.

Funds raised from our Easter Raffle go towards literacy support and the purchase of more iPads. We love to spread the Easter cheer by having lots of winners!

**Thank you for supporting your P&C.**

I hope that you enjoy reading more about our fantastic school within this newsletter.

Michelle Hulme - Principal
Online calendar, access and search the MPS school library and when accessing the Internet. If your child logs on to the portal – The DEC Student Portal is accessible for students to use at home from Year 3 – be taking part in a program called Budd:e. It is an Australian government developed program designed to teach students how to transfer files, use Microsoft PowerPoint for presentations, search more effectively using Google and set up their DEC Student Portal Dashboard. In the coming weeks, Stage 2 and 3 classes will be taking part in a program called Budd:e. It is an Australian government developed program designed to teach students from Year 3 – 6 about safe online practices. The DEC Student Portal is accessible for students to use at home when accessing the Internet. If your child logs on to the portal using their username and password they will not have access to pages that the DEC has deemed inappropriate for students and they will be able to use their DEC email address, update their online calendar, access and search the MPS school library and access the personal website links they have set up. They can login to their portal by going to https://student.det.nsw.edu.au/

Our Technology Room is open Tuesday to Friday at the second half of lunch throughout Term 1. Tuesday - Early Stage 1, Wednesday – Stage 1, Thursday – Stage 2 and Friday – Stage 3. Students who need to complete homework tasks or need assistance with a technology related project could come and see me on any of those days.

If you have any questions or comments about our technology activities feel free to contact me at school on 64951266.

SPORT

Rugby League: Congratulations to Jake, Heath, Zane, Kiar, Cam, Jack, Charlie, Tavita, Zac, Jedd, Kel, Caleb, Saxon, Tyler, Dylan, George and Kevin who were selected in the school PSSA Rugby League Team. Harry and Jonty are the emergency players. Our first game is scheduled to be played before May against Narooma at Narooma. Training will start next Monday afternoon (Week 8) from 3.15-4.30pm.

Netball: Congratulations to Imani, Ashlee, Kate, Grace, Prue, Annalise, Jessica, Kristen and Annabel who were selected in the school PSSA Netball team.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Mathematics: Kindergarten is having lots of fun learning all about the letters a, m, s, t and i. You might like to get some magnetic letters at home and put them on your fridge and have you child or children make simple 2 and 3 letter words using the letters a, m, s, t and i. You could make words like am, it, is, at, Sam, mat, sat etc.

Home Readers: All the children are so excited not only being taking library books home but home readers as well. Thank you so much to all of our reading helpers who come in and listen to the children read and change their home readers. We really appreciate your help and it makes our job so much easier. If you’d like to help the children change their home readers and haven’t had a chance to return your reading helper note, then please do so as soon as you can. If you haven’t received a reading helper note then please see your child’s teacher about it.

When assisting your child with their home reading each day please make sure that your child points underneath each word as they read it. It is important that your child is able to retell what happened in the story; so when you’ve finished reading the book, please talk about the book and ask your child what happened in the beginning, middle and end. It is a good idea to relate what happened in the book to one of your own experiences.

Behaviour: The children have been learning about school and expectations for work habits and behaviour both in the
classroom and playground. The children have been learning to listen attentively, try their very best and work co-operatively. In accordance with our school discipline policy, children who are displaying inappropriate behaviour will receive blue slips for minor inappropriate behaviour and red slips for major inappropriate behaviour in either the classroom or playground. This enables the teacher, child and parents to work together to put programs into place to improve behaviour.

Library Bag: Thank you so much to everyone for bringing their Library book bags to school each Tuesday. We love being able to use our protective book bag when we borrow books from the Library.

Thanks: Thank you so much for returning the letters about your child and the parent survey regarding our Kindergarten Orientation and the Best Start Assessment. Your feedback is so important to us and helps us greatly moving forward. Thank you very much for all your support this term.

STAGE 1 NEWS

Stage 1 has been caring for our chicks for 16 days now and hatching day is next Monday! How egg-citing (sorry couldn't resist)! Our fingers are crossed that we have been good parents! If you have suitable accommodation for a chick and are interested in taking one to keep (sorry, we can't guarantee the sex) please send a note to Mrs Freedman. They can come home after Easter.

Thank you to all parents who attended the TEN parent information night- it was a huge turn out! As part of homework for maths we will be sending home some maths games that were shared with parents who attended the evening. These card games support the development of mental addition and subtraction strategies. They will come home on Friday so remember to check school bags! All you need is a deck of cards. We will also send home core Stage 1 word lists, that we treat in class, and that you may also like to support your child to learn to read and write.

Thanks also to parents for supporting the K-2 disco! From all accounts it was a great night!

STAGE 2 NEWS

Disco: The disco last week was lots of fun, with the children very creatively dressed as ‘nerds’. They enjoyed dancing the night away to their favourite music.

Mathematics: The children are receiving their Mathletics usernames and passwords. They can now complete maths activities online at home as well as at school. Go to www.mathletics.com.au. Some tasks will be included as part of the weekly homework. If your child doesn’t have internet access at home, please let the class teacher know and he/she can complete tasks at school.

Reading: It is encouraging to see many children reading daily and regularly borrowing Accelerated Reader books from the library during their weekly library lesson or at lunch times.

PE: Tuesday afternoon PE sessions are developing basketball, soccer, hockey and fundamental movement skills. The students complete 2 weeks learning skills in each area. Keeping fit by walking and jogging will help us prepare for the cross country run.

STAGE 3 NEWS

Book Covering: Stage 3 teachers are sending the children's books home so that they can be covered with clear contact. We would appreciate it if you could cover them and return the books the next day. If you are unable to cover them on a particular day, please return them the next day anyway.

Year 6 Sydney Excursion: Notes were sent home last week outlining the Year 6 excursion to Sydney in November. Just a reminder that permission notes and a deposit of $50 need to be returned to school by the end of week 10 to reserve your child’s spot and to allow us to finalise bookings. If this presents a problem for any parents, please contact your child’s teacher.

Year 6 - 7 Transition Meeting: A reminder that a transition meeting will be held tomorrow night at 5:30 in the Jackson Hall. This will be presented by teachers from Eden Marine High School and will go for 1 hour. Year 6 students, parents and carers are invited to attend.

Year 5 Camp: By now all camp and medical notes should have come in, however, there is still a lot of outstanding camp fees. If you are experiencing trouble making these payments please contact the school office. These need to be brought in with full payment by Thursday or your children will be unable to attend camp. Parents were also phoned on Friday requesting tents to be brought in on Monday to allow plenty of time to check equipment prior to camp. Activity and camping groups have now been finalised and the children are very excited about their trip. Thank you to those parents who have volunteered to assist with evening meals, if you would like to help please advise your child’s class teacher. Please start helping your children to get organised and ensure ALL ITEMS are clearly labelled. All children were provided with a checklist along with their camp note.

COMING EVENTS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 5 Camp</td>
<td>March 18 - March 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Coast PSSA Netball Trials</td>
<td>Wed March 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘RED’ Day Canteen</td>
<td>Wed March 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combined Scripture Assembly</td>
<td>Fri March 29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good Friday (Public Holiday)</td>
<td>Mon April 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easter Monday (Public Holiday)</td>
<td>Thurs Mar 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross Country</td>
<td>Wed April 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3 &amp; 4 Auskick Gala Day – Berrambool</td>
<td>Fri April 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5 Camp</td>
<td>Mon April 29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff Development Day</td>
<td>Tues April 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff Development Day</td>
<td>Wed May 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STUDENTS RETURN FOR TERM 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DENTS RETURN FOR TERM 2

STU
Term 2 Lunchtime and Break Arrangement Changes

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Grandparents,

As mentioned in this week’s newsletter, the school will be trialling some alternative lunch / break arrangements in Term 2. Changes come as a result of staff and parent suggestions / feedback regarding research into healthy eating and learning practices and have been supported unanimously by the P&C who attended our March meeting.

We will be making our lunchtime earlier, which means:

- Students will eat a more substantial / healthier lunch earlier in the day to fuel their learning in the 2-hour middle session (Session 2). This is also why we have a Crunch and Sip break at around 10am. Students who are not hungry and who are well hydrated perform better in the classroom, show increased concentration, and are less likely to be irritable and disruptive.
- Parents / carers can put chicken / cold meats on sandwiches or give their child a healthy salad to take to school for lunch, without fear of them sitting in school bags until 1.30pm.
- Students will have the opportunity to have a longer play after a long morning session to support them in being more engaged during the middle session. “Exercise is good for thinking because it gets the blood flowing” (See the “Healthy Kids” site).
- Students will no longer be eating a large meal close to home time, after only snacking throughout the day.
- The morning literacy session will be extended to support student learning and enable lunch orders to be prepared.
- School Assemblies in the Jackson Hall will take place between 1.00 – 2.00pm every second Monday (even school weeks).
- SRC Meetings will take place between 2.30-2.55pm during school weeks where there is no assembly.
- The School Canteen will be open daily for Breakfast (free) 8.30 - 8.50am; Lunch Orders 11.20am delivery; Lunch 11.30 – 12.00pm; and Afternoon Break 2.00 – 2.30pm.
- Some canteen choices will change due to the shorter preparation time and healthy eating recommendations. Certain foods will be available on certain days of the weeks and lunch packs may be ordered. These changes will be communicated via an updated Term 2 Canteen Menu in the coming weeks. Ice blocks and some snack foods will only be available in the Afternoon Break. Fruit and healthy lunch items will be available at Lunch. Hopefully this will support students in selecting healthier options earlier in the day.

Cool Kids Crunch&Sip®!
Don’t forget the bottle of water and fruit or vegetables for Crunch&Sip® everyday!
These new arrangements will commence on the first day the students return in Term 2, May 1st. There will be new break / bell times as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Morning Supervision | 8.30am  
  - Students can arrive at school / teachers on duty.  
  - Lunch orders are to be taken directly to the canteen by students.  
  - Breakfast Club open at the canteen. Students can eat a free breakfast of toast, cereal and/or fruit. |
| Session 1       | 9.00 - 11.20am  
  - Classes take place.  
  - ‘Crunch and Sip’ fruit break takes place around 10am in classrooms. |
| Lunchtime       | 11.20 - 12.00pm  
  - Students sit and eat their lunch from 11.20-11.30am. Students can eat for longer but can play from 11.30am when the supervising teacher allows them.  
  - Students eat sandwiches / lunch orders at this time.  
  - The Library / Technology Room are open (not Monday). |
| Session 2       | 12.00 - 2.00pm  
  - Classes take place. |
| Break Time      | 2.00 - 2.30pm  
  - Students have their afternoon tea “Break”.  
  - Snacks / ice blocks are eaten at this time.  
  - Students are seated to eat for 10 minutes before playtime commences. |
| Session 3       | 2.30 - 2.55pm  
  - Classes take place. |

By working together to promote healthy eating in our school we can further support our children to improve their learning. The “School A-Z” web site shares that:

- *Children with good diets perform better at school.*
- *Breakfast is vital to set kids up for learning.*
- *Choose low-GI foods for energy where possible.*
- *Foods rich in proteins and omega-3 fatty acids help children concentrate and learn.*
- *Iron deficiency can leave kids tired and unable to concentrate.*


We will include more information about Crunch and Sip and healthy eating in our newsletters. If you have any questions or suggestions regarding the trial / changes, please contact me at school on 64951266.

 Regards,

Michelle Hulme  
Principal  
March 13, 2013.