DATES TO REMEMBER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 1, 2013</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29 January</td>
<td>Staff Return</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 January</td>
<td>Year 1-Year 6 Students Return</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 January</td>
<td>Kindergarten Students start Tea and Tissue Morning Tea</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 February</td>
<td>House captain Elections</td>
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<tr>
<td>5-7 February</td>
<td>BEST Start Testing (Kindergarten)</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 February</td>
<td>Parent Information Night</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 February</td>
<td>Summer PSSA Commences</td>
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<td>26 February</td>
<td>P &amp; C Meeting</td>
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<td>27 February</td>
<td>Swimming Carnival</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 March</td>
<td>School Photographs</td>
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<tr>
<td>2-3 April</td>
<td>Public Speaking Finals (Stage 1-3)</td>
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PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Principal’s Message

Welcome back, students, staff and parents to the 2013 school year. I extend a warm welcome to all those starting at Mortlake Public School for the first time- Kindergarten students, new students in other grades as well as the following permanent teachers and temporary teachers: Mr Day, Ms Alexander, Mrs Natoli, Ms Chu, Miss Corbridge, Miss McCarthy, Miss Watts, Mrs Madden, Miss Jordan, Miss Symond, Mrs Valore and Mrs Murray. I hope you had an enjoyable break.

We have commenced the year with an enrolment of 360. We anticipate that we will maintain the numbers and have formed 15 classes in total.

For those of you already familiar with the school, we have a few minor staff changes. Ms Briganti will be team teaching with Ms Alexander on 2AB. Mrs Valore will be team teaching with Mrs Emmans on 6EV. Mrs Knight will be teaching music each Friday and Mrs Madden will be the school’s reading recovery teacher, Learning Assistant Support Teacher (LAST) and Relief From Face to Face (RFF) teacher. Mrs Claro will be working Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, whilst Mrs Murray will be taking 5/6CM on Friday.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Mrs Aloe on her marriage during the school holidays, Miss Jordan on her engagement and Mrs Karikios on the birth of her son Lachlan James. Congratulations!

I look forward to working together with students, staff, parents and the community to achieve outstanding results across all sections of our school.

As of this year, hard copies of the newsletter will be made available at the front office and via email. New parents are asked to complete and return the attached form requesting your email address.

School Leadership

The elections for school captains and prefects had taken place at the end of 2012. The school captains and prefects for 2013 are:

Holly & Jordan  Captains
Lauren and Christian Vice Captains
Nadia and Mitchell  Prefects

House Captains 2013

The House Captains and Vice Captains were elected at the beginning of the year. Congratulations to the following students.

Parkes Captains ~
  Nathan
  Katherine

Parkes Vice-Captains ~
  Patrick
  Ayesha

Macarthur Captains ~
  Bodi
  Lily

Macarthur Vice-Captains ~
  Joshua
  Jessica P

Phillip Captains ~
  Guy
  Stephanie
Students are not to go to the classroom without being officially handed over to the classroom teacher by the parent. It is extremely unwise to leave your child unsupervised in the playground outside these hours.

The south playground and play equipment in the south playground are out of bounds before school.

You are also reminded that if you are supervising your children in the playground after school they must be visible to you at all times and they must abide by the school’s safety rules. If you allow your child to use the play equipment after school, please ensure that you are at the play equipment to supervise. To avoid any injuries, please discourage your child from walking or jumping on the silver seats in the playground.

Parent Visitors
Parents are requested not to visit classrooms or approach class teachers during class hours or whilst teachers are on playground duty. If volunteering in a classroom, parents are expected to sign in at the front office and wear a visitors badge during their visit. Teachers have been advised to direct any inquiries, parents or visitors without badges to the front office.

If you would like to make an appointment to speak to your child’s class teacher, please telephone the school office.

Please do not follow your child’s class to the classroom. This can be disruptive and does not help your child to settle.

NAPLAN
Each year the students in Years 3 & 5 complete a basic skills test called The National Assessment Program In Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). This year the test will be conducted on the 14-16 May.

Health Plan
If your child is an asthmatic or has an allergy, you are asked to provide the school with an asthma/health plan. Parents are also asked to notify the school to indicate whether their child will be carrying their Ventolin in their school bag or whether it needs to be kept in the front office.

Nut Free Lunches
Parents are asked to pack peanut free/ nut free/ sesame seed free lunches for their child. This will ensure a safe school environment for students who have nut and sesame seed allergies.

Awards System
A successful Behaviour Modification Program promotes positive behaviour.

At Mortlake Public School, students are rewarded via the presentation of the following awards each week during a formal assembly:

- Two class awards;
- Sports award- home sport one per teacher - PSSA one per teacher
- Science- One award presented to a K-2 student One award presented to a 3-6 student
- Music- One award presented to a K-2 student One award presented to a 3-6 student
- Library- One award presented to a K-2 student
One award presented to a 3-6 student

Students can also earn cards in the playground/ moving around the school. Once a child accumulates 10 cards the child earns a merit award.

Once the students receive 3 merit awards, they are asked to return them to the front office. Students will be rewarded with a Principal’s Award at assembly.

Another 3 merit certificates entitles the students to a principal’s ribbon and a total of 9 merit awards will earn students morning tea with the Principal.

Finally, Mortlake Public School rewards students for citizenship each month by presenting a child with the Aussie Of the Month Award. One student is selected from a different stage each month.

**Behaviour Modification Program**
The attached flow chart is an overview of Mortlake Public School’s Behaviour Modification program for Kindergarten through to Year 6. Please note the program will be applicable for a year. Each year the children start with a clean slate.

If a child’s conduct is of concern, class teachers will call parents before a letter goes home.

**Permission Notes and Payments**
All permission notes and payments that need to be returned to the school are to be sent to the front office unless otherwise stated on the note. Receipts will be issued for payments.

**Take Your Holidays When We Do!**
Parents and teachers are concerned when students fall behind in their studies because of long absences. Families who plan to travel should do so during the school holidays. Parents are reminded that they must seek permission from the principal to take a student out of school during term time. You may be required to apply for an Exemption from Attendance at School. Forms are available from the principal. School Holidays for 2013 are:

13 April until 30 April
29 June until 15 July
21 September until 7 October

**Sunscreen and Insect Repellent**
Parents are asked to apply their child’s sunscreen each morning. Students will have the responsibility to re-apply if they wish at recess or lunch time. If your child is sensitive to mosquito bites, at this time of the year, it is a good idea to apply some insect repellent before leaving home.

**Hats**
Students are reminded that they are required to wear their school hat to school, at recess and during their lunch break. Students who do not have a hat will be required to play under the COLA or in the shade.

**Road Safety**
At the beginning of the year, it is necessary to remind parents about safe and appropriate places to drop off and pick up their children at school. The school has a two minute pick up and drop off zone in Noble Street. Please note that this is strictly a ‘kiss and ride’ zone and you are not permitted to leave your car in this area.

Please respect our neighbours and do not park in their driveways or contrary to road notices.

**Never double park or call your child across the road.** A few steps on your part could save your child’s life.

**Bikes and Scooters**
Students are reminded that they are not permitted to ride bikes or scooters in the school grounds before and after school. Bikes and scooters are to be kept fastened to the bike rack during the school day. They are not to be left under trees. Students are required to wear a helmet when riding their bike or scooter to school.

**Dogs in Schools**
Parents are reminded that dogs are prohibited from entering the school grounds.

**Woolworths Earn and Learn**
Thank you to all parents who supported Woolworths earn and learn. The resources purchased include: stationery such as class sets of scissors, musical instruments and game packs for classrooms.

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**MULTI LIT PARENT VOLUNTEERS**

**MULTILIT PARENT VOLUNTEERS**

Name: _________________________________________________________

Contact Number: ________________________________________________

Days Available: _________________________________________________

Please return this section to the office by Friday 15 February 2013

Jacqui Attard
As part of our revamp of our school newsletter, we would like to forgo sending out printed copies in favour of sending newsletters to our school community via email. Electronic distribution is a much better method of communication with families as it allows the school community to enjoy a coloured and more extensive newsletter without the environmental impact of substantial paper usage.

We would appreciate it if you could take a minute of two and fill out the slip below so we can add you to our school newsletter email list. The school will only use this email list to send out school newsletters and your email address will not be displayed.

Only one slip needs to be completed per family. If more than one family member would like the newsletter emailed, please write in the second email address on the slip below.

If you do not receive the next newsletter via email and have handed in the slip below, please first check your junk mail. If it hasn’t come through, please let the school know so we can update our email list.

As always, our school newsletter is accessible on our school website, which can be found at: www.mortlake-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

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**Excel by effort**

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**Community**

**2013 Homework Planner**

Kids and families run more smoothly when there’s a plan. The 2012 homework and study calendar includes key dates and school holidays. You can print it out month by month, or by the whole year.


**Doing Well In Class**

Our expert panel shares tips about how parents can help their younger and older kids reach their full potential at school and motivate them for learning. Watch the video.


**Eight Ways To Get Your Kids Organised**

Are you ready for morning madness, late assignments, yesterday’s half-eaten lunch sweating in the schoolbag? Just like adults, children cope much better if they can manage their time and their environment wisely.


**Smart Foods To Boost Learning**

Mother Nature is full of foods that help us think and feel better. What do you give your child to help them think more clearly, and enhance concentration and memory?

# Management of Problem Behaviour

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Classroom</strong></th>
<th><strong>Playground</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Two warnings</strong> – verbal reminders</td>
<td><strong>Two warnings</strong> – verbal reminders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Quiet area</strong> – Time limit determined by teachers (age appropriate)</td>
<td><strong>Quiet area</strong> in the playground (silver seats) - Time limit determined by teacher on duty (age appropriate)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>If problems behaviour continues OR if problem behaviour is deemed serious by classroom teacher.</strong></td>
<td><strong>If problems behaviour continues OR if problem behaviour is deemed serious by executive on duty</strong></td>
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**Yellow support slip**
Written/oral conference at Support Desk in another classroom. Student remains for remainder of session. Slip and reflection sheet sent to class teacher for student file.

**Green support slip**
Written/oral conference at Support Room 1st half of lunch. Slip and reflection sheet sent to class teacher for student file.

**Three support slips (in a year)**
Parent/carer notified by phone. Class teacher sends proforma letter home to parent/carer, and records return slip.

**Additional three support slips (6 in total in a year)**
Interview with parent/carer, class teacher and stage supervisor

**Additional three support slips (9 in total in a year)**
Interview with parent/carer, class teacher and principal. Learning Support Team informed. Individual Behaviour Plan (IBP) for the student – weekly review of IBP. At this level, student safety will be considered when excursions off school site are planned.

**If IBP is working**
Parent/carer notified by phone. Decision made about need for ongoing IBP

**If IBP is not working**
Interview with parent/carer, class teacher and principal. New IBP Weekly review

**In-school suspension**. Formal suspension may be considered.
Tuning in to Teens
Emotionally Intelligent Parenting

A six-session parenting program for parents of adolescents aged 10 to 18 years.

Would you like to learn how to:

- be better at talking with your teen?
- be better at understanding your teen?
- help your teen learn to manage their emotions?
- help to prevent behaviour problems in your teen?
- teach your teen to deal with conflict?

*Tuning in to Teens* shows you how to help your teen develop *emotional intelligence*. Adolescents with higher emotional intelligence:

- are more aware, assertive and strong in situations of peer pressure
- have greater success with making friends and are more able to manage conflict with peers
- are more able to cope when upset or angry
- have fewer mental health and substance abuse difficulties
- have more stable and satisfying relationships as adults
- have greater career success –
- Emotional intelligence may be a better predictor of academic and career success than IQ!

Where: Croydon Community Health Centre 24, Liverpool Road.

When: 18th February to 25th March 2013, from 6:30pm to 9:00pm

Contact: Felicity Meehan: Family Team Croydon ph 93781224

Christiane Barton: Child and Family Health Nurse ph 93781368