DATES TO REMEMBER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 1 2014</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28 January</td>
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<td>Staff Return - Staff Development Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 January</td>
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<td>Students return</td>
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<td>30 January</td>
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<td>Kindergarten start</td>
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<td>4-7 February</td>
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<td>Best Start testing for Kindergarten</td>
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<td>7 February</td>
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<td>House Captains Elections</td>
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<td>12 February</td>
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<td>Scripture starts</td>
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<td>17 February</td>
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<td>Grade Night</td>
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<td>20 February</td>
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<td>School Swimming Carnival Auburn Pool</td>
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<td>21 February</td>
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<td>Summer PSSA commences</td>
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<td>21 February</td>
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<td>P&amp;C Welcome Disco in Hall</td>
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<td>25 February</td>
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<td>P &amp;C meeting 7pm</td>
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<td>4 March</td>
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<td>Zone AFL trials</td>
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<td>5 March</td>
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<td>Zone Swimming Carnival</td>
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<td>11 March</td>
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<td>Zone Rugby League trials</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 March</td>
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<td>Zone Boys Soccer trials</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 March</td>
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<td>Selective High School Test</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 March</td>
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<td>School Photographs</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 March</td>
<td></td>
<td>Regional Swimming Carnival</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 March</td>
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<td>Summer PSSA ends</td>
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Principal’s Message

Hello Parents, Carers and Friends,

Allow me to express a warm welcome, as we commence the 2014 school year, to all of our families in this wonderful Mortlake community. I hope you had an enjoyable break and time with your beautiful children. It won’t be long till we are all back into the swing of school life and the holidays will be a dim memory.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the new students, parents and carers to Mortlake Public School and look forward to meeting you over the coming weeks.

I am delighted to continue in the role of Relieving Principal this term and look forward to working together with students, staff, parents and the community to achieve the best results for Mortlake Public School students. Ms Attard is still involved in the setting up of the Marie Bashir Public School at Strathfield this term.

It is anticipated that at Mortlake we will run 15 classes in 2014. Our enrolment currently is 376. Students were placed in their 2014 classes with major thought, precise decision-making processes and with consideration of many issues.
Please be aware that there may be some movement in the first couple of weeks as we endeavour to ensure that students have been placed in the best possible classroom, with the appropriate teaching style and with comparable classmates.

**STAFFING NEWS**

This year we have a few minor staff changes. I would like to welcome Ms Francesca De Bari who will be on Stage 3 class and welcome back Mrs Olivia Karikios, who will be working on Tuesday and Wednesday and sharing with Mrs Maria Galtieri on Year 2. Mrs Abigail Cortez is working Mon, Tuesday and Wednesday and will be sharing with Mrs Julie Hetherington who will be working on Thursday and Friday until Mrs Kylie Alexander returns in Week 7.

Mrs Phillipa Knight will run her music program on Thursday and Mrs Scully will be working Mon, Tuesday in the library while Mrs O’Brien will be working in the library on Wednesday and Thursday. No library on Friday.

Due to Mrs Young’s promotion I am working with the School Staffing Unit to finalise the employment of the new Assistant Principal who will work in the K-2 area of our school. I will keep the community informed of any developments.

At the end of Term 4 Mrs Stephanie Natoli received a permanent teaching position at Marie Bashir School at Strathfield. We wish her all the very best.

Please remember that 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. We would also like to thank you for supporting our SUN-SAFE anti skin cancer program by ensuring that your child always wears a hat. Please check that the hat your child brings to school is either legiroienne style or broad brimmed.

It would also be appreciated if you would encourage your child to wear full school uniform. The wearing of school uniform promotes a feeling of belonging and pride, as well as extra safety within the school community.

**VANDALISM**

On a sad note the school was vandalised over the school break. We suffered extensive and costly damage to down pipes, which were ripped dangerously off the school buildings. We endured damage to the washrooms, broken glass scattered everywhere and we had tagging on our beautiful school buildings. The Police were called and investigated the damage. We are seen as ‘easy pickings’ because of the fact that we don’t have a high perimeter fence. I want to thank Linda Hardgrove in the office for swift notification to Burwood Police and Geoff Watson for securing the damaged down pipes to prevent injury by the dangerous pieces of sharp metal left hanging precariously.

**HEALTH CARE PLANS**

Reminder: If your child has any allergy, medical condition or special needs please contact me as soon as possible. If there is no change to your child’s plan, I will assume all is as 2013. It is therefore important that you see me if there are any changes to medications or actions to your child current health care plan.
BEFORE SCHOOL SUPERVISION

Please remember that supervision commences at school at 8.55am and ceases at 3.25pm. It is extremely unwise to leave your child unsupervised in the playground outside these hours.

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 as your assume duty of care.

PARKING

At Mortlake we are very fortunate to have ample parking around the perimeter of the school. Please exercise care when arriving at or leaving school. Never double park or call your child across the road especially when raining when visibility is reduced and roads are slippery. A few steps on your part could save your child’s life.

SCHOOL CONTRIBUTIONS

School contributions are voluntary. They help provide additional educational resources for the benefit of students. It is a one off payment that will help your child with achieving educational outcomes. Funds will be used for additional school resources.

Please remember that no student or family will suffer any discrimination or embarrassment over failure to make a voluntary contribution. Confidentiality, privacy and dignity are always maintained at Mortlake PS concerning contributions. The contributions are $45.00 per child and $67.00 a family. If you have any concerns about making this payment or need assistance at this time please make an appointment with Mrs Bransgrove.

SAFETY AT ALL TIMES

I have attached a reminder about safety; please speak to your children about these strategies outlined and Stanger Danger.

To ensure safe hand over in the afternoons parents are advised to write a letter to the class teacher rather than call the office if there is a change of person picking up their child/children.

PARENT VISITORS

We value working with our wonderful parent community and I want to remind parents that if you need to speak with the classroom teacher, please telephone to make an appointment.

OUTSTANDING CLASSROOM AND EXECUTIVE TEAM

We are so lucky here at Mortlake to have dedicated and professional Assistant Principals who oversee the running of their stages. Please feel free to make an appointment with the Assistant Principals if you have any concerns or seek clarification of stage programs. The Assistant Principals are: Miss Natalie Miles (Relieving) Kindergarten, Mrs Diana Hartman (Relieving) Years 1&2, Ms Bernadette Wilson Years 3 &4, Mrs Claro ( Mon-Thur)and Ms Jill Emmans (Friday) Years 5&6.
Just a reminder that your child’s classroom teacher is your first port of call, followed by the Assistant Principals designated for your child’s stage. I truly value teamwork and seek your cooperation to work with the outstanding Mortlake staff and Executive team.

**SINGING LESSONS**

Mrs Kathy Barr is running singing lessons at Monday and Tuesday lunchtimes in the Reading Room (off the library) as an addition to our exquisite Music Program. Please contact Kathy for more details.

**CHESS COACHING**

Chess coaching for students at Mortlake Public School is held during Fridays from 8:25am – 9:25am in the library. Term 1 lessons will commence on 14th February, 2013.

Learning and playing chess helps children develop their logical thinking and problem solving skills, improves their concentration and focus, while also being a great source of enjoyment.

Activities include group lessons on a demonstration chess board or interactive whiteboard, puzzle solving and fun practice games. Students earn merit awards by making checkmates, or by displaying skills and positive qualities, which all good chess players strive to develop.

If your child is interested in taking part, you can either pick up an enrolment form from the school office, or email enrol@sydneyacademyofchess.com.au for a copy. For all enquiries, please contact Sydney Academy of Chess on (02) 9745 1170.

Thank you

Mrs Elizabeth Bransgrove

**Selective High School: Key dates for entry to Year 7 in 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27 February 2014</td>
<td>Test centre advice to parents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 March 2014</td>
<td>Selective High School Placement Test</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 2014</td>
<td>Outcome advice</td>
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**EDUCATIONAL WEBSITES**

Primary and High school

Communicating with your school

While it can be hard for busy parents, staying in contact with the school is important. Communication is one of the key parts of the relationship between the school and home.
Watch this video to find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/development/communicating-with-your-school

Series books to ignite summer reading

Series books can be a great way to get your kids hooked on reading. Reluctant readers and children who struggle with comprehension can also find series books easier to enjoy.


Primary school

Is your child in a new class without their friends?

At some stage in their school life your child is likely to find themselves in a class without their close friends. It's normal for them to initially feel a little anxious about this, so how should you handle it?


Summer food safety

You can greatly reduce the risk of food poisoning during the summer period by chilling food in the fridge before packing your child’s lunch and then putting a frozen drink into their lunchbox. The food will stay about 12 degrees cooler.

Have a look at more school food tips: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/food/power-foods-for-kids

High school

Starting high school

Here are some resources to help you and your child adapt to high school. The information includes articles and videos on homework planning, dealing with maths and helping kids who are struggling with reading. http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/development/starting-high-school-soon

Student conduct when travelling

When travelling on the bus or train between home and school your child must obey certain rules, such as giving up their seat to adults and disabled passengers.

Find out more: http://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/content/student-conduct-when-travelling

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**RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL**

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.
PRIVATE SINGING TUITION

Hi Parents and Carers of students at Mortlake Public.

I’m Kathy Barr - Sasha’s mum in 3W.

Singing and performance has been my full-time career since graduating from McDonald College of the Performing Arts. Since 1991, I have travelled throughout Australia and internationally performing professionally for hotels, resorts, clubs, consulates, TV shows, private functions and corporate companies.

For the last 3 years I have been asked if I would teach singing and I am very excited to inform you all that I will be teaching privately in groups of up to 4 children during lunch here at Mortlake Public!

Your child will learn a selection of contemporary and popular songs while I guide them on correct voice and breathing techniques. I will focus on developing and nurturing your child’s talent while my tuition will be fun, engaging, energetic and motivating. All of this is great for your child’s performance skills and confidence and will culminate with a performance at the end of the year.

If you are interested in starting your child, please email me for more information at kathy@hipfidelity.com.au

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

Just a reminder about being safe at all times.

The New Working with children check

There have been some changes with the Working With Children Check. The new Check covers more people, is more comprehensive and provides better protection for children than the previous model. It is also more consistent with other state and territory Checks, giving us the starting point for a national Check. Some of our parents also teach Scripture and will be required to complete the online application. This will be the responsibility of the scripture teachers in consultation with their church. I have included a brief overview of the main points below. For further information visit the website: www.newcheck.kids.nsw.gov.au

Overview - General

- A Working With Children Check is a prerequisite for anyone in child-related work in NSW.
- A Working With Children Check includes a national police check and review of findings of misconduct involving children. The result is either a clearance or a bar.
Existing workers and volunteers should be verified online as they are phased in to the new Check. (Scripture Teachers 2014/15 & Primary Teachers 2017/18.)

There are specified exemptions from the Working With Children Check under Part 4, Clause 20 of the Child Protection (Working With Children) Regulation 2013. People covered by these exemptions are not required to have a Working With Children Check

- Volunteering by a parent or close relative:

If you are not exempt, you must apply for a Working With Children Check. If you are an existing worker or a volunteer, you will be phased in between now and 2018. To find out when you need to apply, see FACT SHEET: Phase in schedule.

Application is a simple, two-step process:

- STEP 1
  Applicants fill in an online form at www.newcheck.kids.nsw.gov.au. Once they have submitted the form, they will receive an application number.

- STEP 2 Applicants take their application number and proof of their identity to a NSW motor registry or NSW Council Agency. Proof of identity for the Working With Children Check is the same as for a NSW photo driver licence. If they are in paid work, they must also pay an $80 fee for a five year clearance.

The Working With Children Check remains free for:

- Volunteers

- Students over 18 on a professional placement

Overview - Parents

- As with other states, the NSW Working With Children Check allows parents to volunteer in activities that involve their own children without a Working With Children Check clearance. This is to encourage parents to be involved in their children's lives and participate with them in activities.

- However, this is not a blanket exemption for all parent volunteers. Under part 4, clause 20 (1) of the Child Protection (Working With Children) Regulation 2013, the following work is exempt, provided it is not part of a formal mentoring program and does not involve intimate personal care of a child with a disability:

  - (e) a parent, or close relative, of a child who attends a school, an education and care service or other educational institution when volunteering at or for activities of the school, service or institution

  - (f) a parent, or close relative, of a child when volunteering in connection with a team, program or other activity of which the child is a member or in which the child usually participates.

- For a full list of exemptions, see FACT SHEET: Exemptions, available from the fact sheets and resources page of the website at www.newcheck.kids.nsw.gov.au.

- For more information see FACT SHEET: Parents, available from the fact sheets and resources page of the website at www.newcheck.kids.nsw.gov.au.