DATES TO REMEMBER

Term 1 2014

13 March  Selective High School Test
17 March  Stage 1 Excursion
18 March  School Photographs
19 March  Regional Swimming Carnival
21 March  Summer PSSA ends
31 March  Parent, Teacher Interviews this week.

Term 2 2014

29 April  Students Return
2 May  Winter PSSA commences
13 May  NAPLAN- Language Conventions and Writing Tests (Years 3 and 5 only)
14 May  NAPLAN-Reading Test
15 May  NAPLAN-Numeracy Test
16 May  Last day for individual students to complete catch up tests.

Principal’s Message

Hello parents, carers and friends,

Welcome to Week 6, we are just over half way through Term 1. Where has the time gone? Easter is merely a hop, skip and a jump away.

The Easter Public holidays will be during the students’ school holidays.

LAST DAY OF TERM 1: Friday 11 April, 2014.

STAFF FIRST DAY OF TERM 2: Monday 28 April, 2014.

STUDENTS FIRST DAY OF TERM 2: Tuesday 29 April, 2014.

Selective High Schools Placement Test Thursday 13 March

If your Year 6 child is sitting the selective high schools test, you should have received advice about the location and test information for parents and students. Get some practise using the sample tests on this webpage:

Congratulations is extended to Ms Bastianon, Mrs Merino and our swimming team who performed exceptionally well at the zone swimming carnival held at Auburn Pool on Wednesday, 5 March, 2014.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ZONE RESULTS - 2014</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GAINED ENTRY TO A FINAL:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freestyle:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthew M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marcus C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elsie G – 1st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jai T – 3rd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Angus G</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ben C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sabrina R</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kisha C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Breaststroke:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jai T</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ben C -3rd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kisha C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Backstroke:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ben C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kisha C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Butterfly:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jai T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ben C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kisha C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relay Results:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Boys – 2\textsuperscript{nd} in heat</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Junior Girls – 3rd in heat
Senior Boys – 2nd in heat
Senior Girls – 2nd in heat

**GAINED ENTRY TO REGIONAL CARNIVAL:**

Elsie G 8 years Freestyle
Jai T – 9 years Freestyle   WELL DONE!!!
Ben C – 11 years Breaststroke

Sydney East Area Regional Carnival
Wednesday 19th March
Sydney International Aquatic Centre
Homebush
2.30 – 8pm

**CONGRATULATIONS EVERYONE!!**

Thank you to parents who supported the school at the zone carnival.

**SRC Representatives**

The SRC members were elected. Congratulations to the following students.

The Student Representatives for Semester 1, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Students</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1D</td>
<td>Ashton and Alexis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2H</td>
<td>Kai and Leyla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1W</td>
<td>Kane and Natalie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2CA</td>
<td>Emily and Callum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2KG</td>
<td>Jack and Caia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3D</td>
<td>Jai and Emily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3W</td>
<td>Alice and Jack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4C</td>
<td>Blake and Georgia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4M</td>
<td>Ela and Brayden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6A</td>
<td>Jack and Sabrina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6J</td>
<td>Ben and Emma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6D</td>
<td>James and Daisy</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

A message from Mrs Madden – LAST – Learning and Support Teacher

This year our STLA program will begin soon. We are asking parent volunteers to assist with the MultiLit program.

MultiLit caters for students who have not acquired the basic skills needed to become functional readers. The program is designed to be used with individual students, on a one to one basis. By asking for volunteers, we are able to cater for a larger number of students who qualify for this scheme.
A commitment of 2 days per week (of 30 minutes each day) on a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday would be required. If you are able to assist with this invaluable program please complete the form below and return it to the front office. Thank you P. Madden

MULTILIT PARENT VOLUNTEERS

Name: ____________________________________________________________

Contact Number: __________________________________________________

Days Available: ___________________________________________________

The Trees

No doubt you are all aware of the tragic accident that occurred at Pitt Town Public School on 21 February 2014 where a large tree branch fell causing the death of a year 4 student and injuring others. I have been directed to commence a safety review of our trees by a qualified Level 5 arborist. (AQF5). The safety review is to focus on trees that are overhanging school buildings and playgrounds, or any other areas used by students and staff. This safety review occurred on Monday 3rd March and as a consequence the entry at the front of the school has been deemed a “no go” area until further investigations are undertaken. I apologise for any inconvenience and I will keep the community posted as soon as the report is sent to me.

As always, first and foremost, it is all about the safety of all of my students, staff and community.

Vandalism…again

Once again Mortlake was subjected to vandalism. More down pipes were ripped off the two storey building that faces Brays Road with the bike rack being used as a ladder to reach the top of the roof. Once again the Police were called and inspected the damage. The down pipes will be replaced with aluminium pipe that look like copper, which the school will have to pay for. Also the school has had ‘night visitors’ who are sleeping on our premises, leaving their bedding and rubbish on our school verandas.

The recent and repetitive vandalism is costing the school a lot of money to repair and replace the damage which now includes: several downpipes, taps, bubblers, broken locks, damaged door to wash shed and glass bottles smashed over asphalt.

Joint Funding Program and the Fence

The School and Community Initiatives for the Funding of Capital Works encourage schools and their communities to participate in the provision of facilities through cost sharing. For schools this may mean getting facilities faster. Joint Funding is a program which aims to encourage self-help through a Joint Funding scheme across all schools to enable them to achieve their code facilities ahead of others if they can provide half the funds.

Last year as you recall, Mr Sidoti gave Mortlake PS $49,995 towards the fence. The school has had a fence on its priority list for over 7 years.

We have no guarantee that we will receive this grant but after the P &C meeting on Tuesday 25th March it was decided to apply for this grant as the cut-off date was Friday 28th March, 2014.
I am realistic when I state that a fence will not guarantee a complete stop to this costly round of vandalism and night visitors, but it is a deterrent and as we all agree our precious children have the right to work and play in a safe environment. What price do we place on the safety of our students, parents and teachers? I will keep you informed as information comes to light.

**High School Enrolment Forms**

Year 7 Expression of Interest forms were sent home on 26 February, 2014. Mrs Claro Assistant Principal, Stage 3 has kindly offered to meet with parents and explain the form and process. Please contact her as per the note. Students are asked to return these applications by Thursday 20 March, 2014. Thank you Mrs Claro.

**Allergies**

Parents are asked to pack peanut free/ nut free/ sesame seed lunches for their child. Please ensure that bread rolls do not have sesame seeds on top and that health bars that contain sesame seeds are not packed as part of your child’s recess or lunch. This will ensure a safe school environment for students who have nut and sesame seed allergies.

*Thank you*

Elizabeth Bransgrove

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**Websites**

**Primary and High school**

**Homework help**

Do you struggle to understand your child's homework? Does your child need to practise their spelling and times tables? Are you looking for inspiration for projects and assignments?

The free School A to Z app has been created by the Department of Education and Communities to help parents and their school-aged children, wherever and whenever they have homework and study questions.


**Homework and multi-tasking**

Somewhere along the line we seemed to have absorbed the idea that teenagers can multi-task perfectly because they're digital natives. Can kids really do their homework and multi-task?


**Primary school**

**When lunch comes home again – uneaten**

Almost nine out of 10 Australian parents say children's resistance is a major obstacle in their efforts to provide a healthy diet, and in many cases school lunches are one of the battlegrounds.

But it's a battle families can do without and there are some simple steps to help avoid it.
Help with English
Does your child need help with spelling or writing? Here are some resources that may help.


Maths
Struggling to remember everything you learnt in maths? If you need a refresher course, here are some tips and tools to help you to help your child.


High school

Helping your daughter say no to peer pressure
Your daughter's school friends are her closest confidants and her meanest critics. Experts on teen girl angst share their wisdom on taking the heat out of peer pressure.

Find out more:  http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/behaviour/helping-your-daughter-say-no-to-peer-pressure

Managing risk-taking in teen boys
Today's 'Nintendo' generation of teen boys get to save the world every day on the computer. In the real world, they can be forbidden from going down the road alone.

It's a conundrum parents need to be aware of because without the chance to take part in real adventures, things can become a bit dull – teen boys' desire to explore life can get out of hand if they're not given some space to do it safely.


Mortlake Community News

MORTLAKE OSHC
SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

January/February 2014

Staff at the Centre are Daniella Beckett (Co-ordinator) and our regular casuals include Sam Spence, Andrew Hutchinson and Annabel Forrest. Additional casual staff will be employed due to our recent approval for an increase to 75 places.
All staff are required to attend Child Protection, First Aid and WHS training.
Kindergarten through to Year 2 children will be collected directly from their teacher each afternoon. All teachers will be supplied with a list of children's names and the days they attend to ensure a safe transition.
A copy of our daily program and term menu is located on the parent noticeboard for your information.
A community meeting is held each term with our first meeting scheduled for Friday 21st March at 9.30am.

MOSHC Staff also attend P & C meetings each term.

The weekly program for this term in OSHC is as follows:

**Monday**
- Homework Club
- Sport Club (BSC)

**Tuesday**
- Homework Club
- Art Club (ASC)

**Wednesday**
- Homework Club
- Sustainability Club (ASC)

**Thursday**
- Homework Club
- Language Club: French (ASC)

**Friday**
- Drama Club (ASC)

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**Catholic Children - A message from Robert Mayor - Catholic Catechist Co-ordinator**

The sacrament of First Reconciliation will be celebrated in St Patrick’s Church in Gale Street Mortlake on Friday 4th April at 7pm. Candidates will need to have been baptised. There will be four weeks of compulsory instruction to prepare the candidates which will commence on Monday 10th March, 2014. In the parish hall in Gale Street Mortlake commencing at 4.15pm. The lessons will conclude at 5.15pm. The following three lessons which will take place on the 17th, 24th, 31st March with the First Reconciliation on the following Friday 4th April. If you wish to include your child as a candidate, please register this coming week by contacting Robert Mayor via email mayor@zip.com.au or Phone 97361161.