DATES TO REMEMBER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 1 2014</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21 March</td>
<td>Summer PSSA ends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 March</td>
<td>School Cross Country</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 March</td>
<td>P&amp;C meeting AGM at 7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 March</td>
<td>Training and Gala Day for Debaters at Campsie Public School</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 March</td>
<td>Parent, Teacher Interviews this week.</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Term 2 2014</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29 April</td>
<td>Students Return</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 May</td>
<td>Winter PSSA commences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 May</td>
<td>NAPLAN- Language Conventions and Writing Tests (Years 3 and 5 only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 May</td>
<td>NAPLAN-Reading Test</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 May</td>
<td>NAPLAN-Numeracy Test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 May</td>
<td>Last day for individual students to complete catch up tests.</td>
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Principal's Message

Hello parents, carers and friends,

It has been another busy fortnight for teachers, students and parents at Mortlake Public School. As you can see the trees have been barricaded and I am still awaiting news from the DEC about the lopping and removal of some of the trees.

Staff News

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms Watts for her dedication and hard work and wish her all the very best with the birth of her beautiful ‘bundle of joy’.

I would like to welcome Miss Lauren Piggott who is replacing Ms Watts on 1W. Miss Piggott comes highly recommended and is trained in Early Childhood which suits perfectly our fantastic Year 1 class. Welcome Lauren.

The merit selection process for the Assistant Principal of Mortlake has been finalised. We are waiting for the appeal period to lapse before the new Assistant Principal will be announced to the staff and community.

Medical Alert

We have been alerted that Hand, Foot and Mouth disease has been identified in the community. As a precaution I have outlined some basic information for you which can be found on the NSW Government Health site.
What is hand, foot and mouth disease?

Hand, foot and mouth disease is generally a mild illness, it is not a serious illness and it mainly occurs in children under 10 years of age but can also occur in older children and adults.

What are the symptoms?

• It may cause no symptoms at all or only very mild symptoms.

• When symptoms do occur, they include blisters that start as small red dots which later become ulcers. Blisters appear inside the cheeks, gums, and on the sides of the tongue, as well as on the hands and feet. In infants, sometimes blisters can be seen in the nappy area. Blisters usually last for seven to 10 days.

• Children can sometimes have a low fever, sore throat, tiredness, feel off colour and may be off their food for a day or two.

How is it spread?

• Hand, foot and mouth disease is usually spread by person-to-person contact. It is also spread by secretions from the mouth or respiratory system, and by direct contact with the fluid from blisters.

• It usually takes between three and five days after contact with an infected person before blisters appear.

How is it prevented?

• Good hygiene is the best protection: wash hands with soap and water after going to the toilet, before eating, after wiping noses, and after changing nappies or soiled clothing.

• Avoid sharing cups, eating utensils, items of personal hygiene (for example: towels, washers and toothbrushes), and clothing (especially shoes and socks)

• Ensure the mouth and nose are covered when coughing and sneezing. Wipe the nose and mouth with tissues, dispose of used tissues and then wash your hands.

How is it treated?

Usually no treatment is needed. Paracetamol will relieve fever and discomfort. Do not give children aspirin. If the headache is severe, or if fever persists, consult a doctor.

What is the public health response?

Hand, foot and mouth disease is not notifiable. Children with hand, foot and mouth disease should be excluded from school or childcare facilities until their blisters have dried.

Road Safety

Parents are reminded that the parking signs around the school grounds are there to maximise children’s safety. The school has a two minute pick up and drop off zone in Noble Street. Please note that this is strictly a ‘kiss and drop’ 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.

The Police have been notified that double parking is still presenting as a concern at our school and potentially comprises the safety of our students. They have reassured me that they will be patrolling around the school in the mornings and at bell time. Don’t make a donation, park carefully and safely. Our children are so precious.

Lost Property Rescue Me

I noticed that the lost property box is overflowing with jumpers, hats and other school attire. (In fact I nearly tripped over them when I was patrolling the corridors.) What saddens me is that a lot of the lost property does not have a name on it. If your child has lost an item of clothing please check through this box and if you find a jumper or hat that has no name, which means it has no home ‘rescue it.’ ‘Give it a home’. These clothing items are so costly to replace. Winter is on its way and that is when you will need your jumper.

Thank you and Bon Voyage

I would like to thank the staff, students and community for all of their support, kindness and care as I leave Mortlake to depart with my family on our overseas holiday on Friday 21st March. This holiday had been organised 12 months earlier but due to a loss in my family we rescheduled for 2014.

Do not fear the school is in very capable hands with Miss Bernadette Wilson as the Captain of the ‘HMAS Mortlake’ and as we speak, we are sailing beautifully into the sunset, avoiding pirates, icebergs and with happy, hardworking and dedicated crew, and with no one having to walk the plank! (Not yet anyway!) Whilst Ms Wilson is steering the ship, Mrs Anna Di Donato will be coordinating Stage 2 and Mr John Daniels will be teaching 3W.

We will know over the coming weeks whether I will return to sunny Mortlake on Monday 5th May or whether Ms Attard will return Term 2. Once again we will keep you informed. Best wishes and it has been an honour to work in this beautiful community.

The Soccer Champions of the Future!

Thank you Maria for this beautiful photograph.

Thank you and take care

Elizabeth Bransgrove
Parent Teacher Interviews

In response to parent feedback that we received last year, we have moved parent teacher interviews this year to week 10 in Term 1. Teachers will have a number of different appointment times available throughout that week and parents will be able to arrange a meeting through an online booking system. A note with detailed information regarding the online booking system for parent teacher interviews will be sent home on Monday, 24th March, 2014.

Cross Country

Our Cross Country Carnival is scheduled for next Tuesday 25th March. If you are planning on attending the carnival why not get the best viewing spot for the race? Parents who volunteer to help at the carnival get to cheer their children on out on the course as well as help our community. If you are able to assist, please return the parent helper note to the front office as soon as possible.

Winter PSSA Trials

Trials for winter PSSA teams will begin next Friday 28th March, weather permitting. This year there are some changes to the way the trials will be run as well as the sports being offered. We have made these changes in response to extensive student, staff and parent feedback.

This year we are planning on having teams representing our school in the following sports for the winter PSSA competition:

- Girls Netball – Junior and Senior
- Girls Soccer – Junior and Senior
- Boys Soccer – Junior and Senior
- Touch Football – Junior and Senior

There will be only one junior and one senior Netball team this year. In accordance with PSSA regulations, girls and boys will be able to try out for the school Touch Football teams.

This year students will only be able to try out for one sport.

Students will receive more information regarding the changes to winter PSSA on Monday. If they are interested in trying our for a PSSA sport, they will be asked to nominate the sport they are interested in on Wednesday, 26th March 2014.

Of course any students who are not participating in PSSA will be involved in our dynamic school sport program each Friday.

Ms Bernadette Wilson
Primary and High school

National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN)

If your child is currently in Year 3, 5, 7 or 9, they'll sit NAPLAN tests this May. And despite what you may have heard, there's no reason to panic or start an intensive study schedule for your child.


Sushi train

Brown rice sushi rolls are a nutritious change to pack for school lunches. Unlike white rice sushi, they can be made the night before, and the filling can be adapted to suit your child's preferences. Pack in a chiller bag with an icepack and include some little soy sauce fish.


Primary school

School A to Z app

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? This free homework helper app provides maths and English glossaries, assignment starters and more.

Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/about/mobile-applications/school-a-to-z

Wild Australia app

Your child can use this terrific app as an interactive educational tool at Taronga Zoo in Sydney or at Taronga Western Plains Zoo, Dubbo. Wild Australia can also be used at home to discover more about the zoos' amazing animals and interesting keepers.


High school

Comprehension help at home

Every subject relies on students having the ability to understand what they're reading and then use the information in a certain way. Here's how to check your child’s comprehension and help them to improve.


Essay help video
Teachers talk about essay structure and how parents can help, even if they're not familiar with the topic. The package comes complete with a range of useful reference sheets on tasks such as critical analysis, evidence and references.


Mortlake Community News