DATES TO REMEMBER

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>25 April</td>
<td>Concord RSL ANZAC Day Dawn Service</td>
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<td>Term 2 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 April</td>
<td>Students Return</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 May</td>
<td>Winter PSSA commences</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 May</td>
<td>NAPLAN- Language Conventions and Writing Tests (Years 3 and 5 only)</td>
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<td>14 May</td>
<td>NAPLAN-Reading Test</td>
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<td>15 May</td>
<td>NAPLAN-Numeracy Test</td>
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<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 certainly been an action packed end of the term for teachers, students and parents at Mortlake Public School!

In the last few weeks we have enjoyed a Stage 1 excursion, a Stage 2 incursion, our Cross Country Carnival, parent teacher interviews, PSSA trials, our ANZAC service and today we will end the term with our Easter Hat parade and raffle. Whew – I think we have all definitely earned our holidays.

Leadership News

I am pleased to announce that as a result of recent merit selection procedures Mrs Jacqui Attard has been offered and accepted the permanent position of Principal at Marie Bashir Public School in Strathfield. Mrs Attard will be greatly missed at Mortlake Public School, where her 15 years of dedicated service and outstanding leadership have had such an immense impact on our entire school community. I am sure you will join me in congratulating Mrs Attard and wishing her all the best in her new role.

This news means that Mrs Elizabeth Bransgrove will return to Mortlake Public School in week 2 of next term. Mrs Bransgrove will continue as Relieving Principal here at Mortlake until our principal position is filled permanently through merit selection procedures.

Congratulations also to Miss Natalie Miles who, through the merit selection process, has been appointed as the new permanent Assistant Principal at Mortlake Public School. We know she will do a fabulous job in the role.

Cross Country

The weather was finally on our side last Wednesday when we were able to hold our Cross Country Carnival. Though it was quite warm, the students all put in their best efforts to earn points for their houses. A huge thank you goes out to the parents who gave their time to volunteer on the day. We do not
have a large staff at Mortlake and we rely on the support of our community to make days like our Cross Country Carnival run smoothly. A final thank you goes out to Mr Watson who once again meticulously organised the event and lead our dedicated staff on the day.

**ANZAC Service**

Yesterday’s ANZAC service at school was a moving tribute the thousands of Australians who have served our country in times of war.

We were fortunate to have Mr Bob Turner from Concord RSL attend our service yesterday and I wholeheartedly agree with his comments that this year’s service exceeded the high standards that he has come to expect from Mortlake Public School.

I would like to commend the students of Mortlake for the exemplary behaviour and respectful attitude that they all demonstrated throughout the service. The sound of our students’ voices singing ‘Let There Be Peace on Earth’ brought a tear to the eye of many teachers present and made me so proud to be a part of this wonderful community.

To Mrs Claro, Mrs Burjan and our school leaders, I would like to say that your many hours of preparation for the service were well spent. Congratulations on a well organised, educational and beautifully respectful service.

**Stop the Damage!**

You can help us reduce vandalism and theft on our school grounds during the school holidays. If you see any suspicious activity please call the **School Security Unit on 1300 880 021 immediately**. Reports can be made anonymously and the hotline is operational 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

**Medical Alert**

We have been alerted that Chicken Pox 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 Chickenpox?**

- Chickenpox (varicella) is a viral illness caused by the herpes zoster virus (also known as the Varicella-Zoster virus)
- In children it usually causes a relatively mild illness.
- Chickenpox in adults and immunosuppressed people can be severe.
- Infection in pregnancy can cause foetal malformations, skin scarring, and other problems in the baby.
- Before routine vaccination began in November 2005, chickenpox was a very common illness. The incidence of chickenpox appears to have decreased as more people receive the vaccine.

**What are the symptoms?**

- Chickenpox begins with a sudden onset of slight fever, runny nose, feeling generally unwell and a skin rash.
- The rash usually begins as small lumps that turn into blisters and then scabs.
- The rash appears over three to four days. At any one time, the lesions of the rash vary in stages of development.
- Symptoms usually occur two weeks after exposure to the virus.
• Most people recover without complications, but sometimes the infection can lead to serious complications, such as pneumonia and inflammation of the brain. Rarely, the infection can be fatal.

How is it spread?

• Early in the illness, the virus is spread by coughing.
• Later in the illness, the virus is spread by direct contact with the fluid in the blisters.
• The infection is highly contagious to people who have never had chickenpox or who have not been vaccinated.
• People are infectious from one or two days before the rash appears (that is, during the runny nose phase) and up to five days after (when the blisters have formed crusts or scabs)
• Chickenpox infection triggers an immune response and people rarely get chickenpox twice.

Who is at risk?

• Anyone who has not had chickenpox or been vaccinated in the past can get chickenpox.
• People with a past history of chickenpox are likely to be immune to the virus. Even adults with no history of chickenpox have a chance of being immune (because of past infection that was mild). Doctors sometimes perform a blood test to see if these people need a vaccination.

How is it prevented?

• A free varicella containing vaccine (MMRV) is now recommended for all children at 18 months of age.
• Students in their first year of high school who have not previously received varicella vaccine and who have not had chickenpox are offered a varicella vaccine.
• Varicella vaccine is recommended for all non immune adolescents (>14 years ) and adults. This involves two doses at least 1month apart. It is especially recommended for people at high risk, for example, health care workers, people living with or working with small children, women planning a pregnancy, and household contact of persons who are immunosuppressed.
• People with chickenpox should avoid others (and not attend childcare or school) until at least five days after onset of the rash and all the blisters have dried.
• People with chickenpox should cover the nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing, dispose of soiled tissues, wash their hands well and not share eating utensils, food or drinking cups.
• Pregnant women should avoid anyone with chickenpox or shingles and should see their doctor if they have been around someone with these illnesses.
• Children with an immune deficiency (for example, leukaemia) or who are receiving chemotherapy should avoid anyone with chickenpox or shingles as the infection can be especially severe.

How is it diagnosed?

Most cases can be diagnosed based on the symptoms and by appearance of the rash. Sometimes the diagnosis is confirmed by testing samples taken from the rash or from blood.

Road Safety

It was concerning to see on a few of our recent rainy days some parents double parking around the school. Double parking is unsafe at the best of times, but is extremely dangerous on days of low visibility. Please be patient on wet days, nothing is more important than the safety of our children.
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.

**Rescheduling Parent & Teacher Interviews**

My sincere apologies to parents of students in 3W, or my Maths class, who recently had their interviews with me cancelled. At the time of arranging interviews I did not fully appreciate how all consuming the Relieving Principal role was going to be - or that I would get lunch after 5pm on most days!

I will be having interviews in week 2 of next term.

A note detailing how you can make bookings to see me will go out on the first day back next term.

**Wishing you all a safe, happy and restful holidays!**

**Bernadette Wilson**

**Stage 1 Excursion**

**Stage One Excursion**

On Monday 17th March, Stage One went to Elizabeth Farm. First everybody waited on their shape until the teachers came. Then, we all walked to the primary end to get on the bus.

Next we waited on the bus with our partner. My partner was Ross. When we got there we sat down and on the giant mat to listen to what they had to say to us. The person who was speaking was a girl named Lizzy. She told us that Elizabeth Farm used to be the size of ten football fields and how it got smaller and smaller until it was only the size of one football field.

Later we learnt about the shoe scraper and then we went inside and sat on the lounge room floor. Lizzy told us to find clues about how families used to live. Then we went outside and scrubbed some clothes, I didn’t want to wash them because I didn’t want to get my hands wet. Then we got to write our names using a quill. After that we went on the bus back to school. I felt tired but really happy.

**Lewis 1\2H**
Stage 2 Incursion

On 26th March, Stage 2 participated in an incursion as part of their HSIE unit ‘Community and Remembrance’. They were visited by Linda Hambley-The Aboriginal Education and Engagement Officer and Aunty Carol the DEC ACLO.

The focus of the visit was for the children to develop a deeper understanding of Aboriginal culture and in particular the original inhabitants of our community. The visit also looked at the purpose of the Acknowledgement of Country as a protocol that Aboriginal people followed when crossing land belonging to other tribes.

Our school leaders later sat with our visitors who helped them write their own Acknowledgement of Country.

Overall, the children thoroughly enjoyed the experience, the highlight being singing with Aunty Carol and looking at the Aboriginal artefacts.

Mrs Di Donato
Websites

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.

Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homewo-

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. Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/en/wellbeing/food/recipes/meat-and-fish-dishes/brown-rice-sushi-rolls

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.

Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/zh/homework-

Mortlake Community News

ESL for Adults

Concord Community Anglican Church is offering ESL language classes for adults at a cost of $2 per lesson.

The ESL class meets every Tuesday night from 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm as well as Wednesday mornings from 9:30 am to 11:30 am during school term time.

They warmly welcome visitors from any ethnic/language or cultural background.

For more information contact Judy on 0425 397 738
“Men bring different things to parenting, things that are unique and irreplaceable.” (Steve Biddulph - Raising Boys)

Adventure-filled camping weekends for fathers and their sons are being run at the Milson Island Sport and Recreation Centre on the Hawkesbury River from next month.

With no computers, no phone and no TV, boys will have exclusive one on one time with their dads - camping, doing outdoor challenges and spending valuable time together.

YoungStars camps are for boys in primary school aged from seven years, and their dads.

The first camp is on April 5-6 – with other weekends in June, September and October.

BYO tent and sleeping bag – everything else is organised and supplied.

The camps are being run through the Department of Education and Communities (Sport and Recreation) in partnership with the Pathways Foundation.

Boys can also attend with their uncle, grandad, step-dad or a close male family member.

For more information see www.dsr.nsw.gov.au/youngstars or call 13 13 02.

MORTLAKE OSHC

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER INCLUSION

March 2014

We aim to acknowledge regular Community Events to broaden children’s experience of cultural, health and environmental issues. Recently we have participated in Sunnies for Sight Day (made crazy sunglasses), Clean up Australia Day (performed our own playground clean up) and Pancake Day (made pancakes for breakfast) to name a few.

Our menu represents a variety of cultural influences as well as suggestions from parents and children.

Breakfast is offered to all children from 7am to 8:30am. Breakfast foods include cheerios, sultana bran, weetbix, normal toast, raisin toast, English muffins and crumpets (which they can spread with butter, jam, honey or vegemite). We also offer fortnightly breakfast ‘specials’ which include options chosen by the children like pancakes, bacon and eggs, fruit smoothies and French toast.

Afternoon tea is also offered to all children at approximately 3:45pm. Afternoon tea foods include pita pockets, dip with rice crackers and veggies sticks, raisin toast with yoghurt, pasta salad, burrito wraps, chicken tacos, assorted sandwiches, rice paper rolls, pancakes with spreads, fruit salad with custard, and rice salad.
Our Easter Vacation Care program is now ready and available for collection. In Centre days include Art and Craft Day, Moving Bodies Gymnastics, Easter Eggstravaganza, Games and Sport Day, and Build-A-Bear and our planned excursions for this Vacation Care are 3D Movie at Event Cinemas Burwood (movie TBA), the Circus Factory, and a Picnic at Edwards Park!

Please note the centre is closed on Friday 18\textsuperscript{th} April, Monday 21\textsuperscript{st} April, and Friday 25\textsuperscript{th} April due to Public holidays.

Please book and pay early to receive the discounted rate.

Lastly, there are a few changes to notify you of:

- New educators at the centre include Jared Marsh, Rachael Alesso, Niki Ficsor and Tess Noble
- The date for the next Community Meeting is now Friday 4\textsuperscript{th} April 7am to 9am
- The time for Art Club is now Tuesday morning, not afternoon

Families can contact staff at the Centre by calling 0425 372 857 or emailing moshc@primaryoshcare.com.au

Centre Managers can be contacted directly by emailing headoffice@primaryoshcare.com.au

Thank you for your continued support.

Daniella, Jared, Sam, Rachael, Annabel, Andrew, Niki & Tess