Principal’s Message

Hello parents, carers and friends

Yes I am back to sunny Mortlake and delighted to have this opportunity to lead this wonderful school, dedicated teachers, enchanting children and nurturing parents. I had a great holiday in Japan and on my Pacific Island cruise. (Although I am still swaying from side to side) It was relaxing and now I am recharged ready for a great fast pacing 9-week term.

As stated before I will stay at Mortlake until a new Principal is appointed to the school. Veronica Kapsimali Director Public Schools NSW assures me that the Principal position will be filled as soon as possible. I will keep you updated as information comes to hand.

I wish to thank the staff led by Ms Wilson for looking after the school whilst I was on leave. It is very reassuring to know that the school ran very smoothly in my absence. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the outstanding work done by Ms Wilson and the look of delight evident on Ms Wilson’s face (let alone her happy dance) when I walked back into school last Monday. (Priceless!) Ms Wilson, along with school executive team, did a sterling job in keeping the ship sailing. I am totally in awe of Ms Wilson’s resilience, her professionalism and her dedication shown to the staff, students and community and thank her sincerely for her duty of care shown during my absence.

Thank you to Mrs Di Donato for the magnificent job as relieving as Assistant Principal on Stage 2 during this time. We are very lucky to have such a committed and hardworking staff. It is a great reflection on the school that we are successfully developing such skilful educational leaders that are happy to take on new challenges such as relieving as a Principal or Assistant Principal during extended periods of leave. Thank you!

NAPLAN
The NAPLAN tests will be conducted over three days from 13 - 15 May 2014. For students in Years 3 and 5, there are four tests covering numeracy, reading, writing and language conventions (spelling, punctuation and grammar).

FOOD ALLERGY WEEK

Australia has one of the highest reported incidences of food allergies in the world, and numbers are growing at an alarming rate. In fact, one in 10 babies born in Australia today will develop a food allergy. An allergic reaction can quickly become life threatening and people can die from food allergy, and while the risk cannot be removed, it can be managed. It’s up to all of us to be allergy aware – to know how to minimise the risk of a reaction, to know what to do if a reaction happens, and to understand and support family, friends and colleagues living with food allergies.

**FOOD REVOLUTION DAY: FRIDAY 16TH MAY**

Mortlake PS has been invited to participate in Food Revolution Day.

Food Revolution Day is an annual global day of action that celebrates good, fresh, real food. It’s a day to shout about the benefits of cooking from scratch and, ultimately, to show people that not only is fresh food tastier, changing their food choices can also make them healthier and happier. This year Food Revolution Day is, above all, about getting children excited about food. It’s our duty to ensure that the next generation grow up armed with the knowledge and skills they need to make good lifestyle choices. Last year, we had over 1,260 activities happening across 74 countries, all shouting about the importance of food education and cooking skills, and we want to smash that this year. Join us on the 16 May and have fun – through fun we can learn, and through learning, we can make change.

For Mortlake this means that at lunchtime on Friday 16th May Rainbow Salad Wraps will be available free of charge outside the canteen. **Please note that the school canteen will be closed on Friday 16th May.** The PSSA children will receive their Rainbow Wrap at recess before they go to sport. I have listed the ingredients in case your child has allergies: Beetroot, carrots, cabbage, pear, mint, parsley, wholemeal tortilla wrap, feta cheese, natural yoghurt, English mustard, cider vinegar, olive oil. Please let your class teacher know if you prefer your child not to have a rainbow wrap. Thank you Rena Zappala for nominating our school to be part of this initiative.

**AFTER SCHOOL**

Our children are so precious and I just wanted to remind our community that their children need to go straight home after school and stay at home and not return to school to play on the grounds. It has been noted that children are popping back into school to play on equipment, run around the school grounds unsupervised. Our After School Care supervisors are finding children wandering around the school, late in the afternoon unsupervised, which is a concern and worry.

Parents, if you are on school premises after the school hours waiting for music lessons etc. please monitor and supervise your children closely at all times, especially now that winter is upon us and it is getting dark earlier.

**MOTHER’S DAY STALL**

Thank you to Tina Matrone and Rena Zappala for their organization of the Mother’s Day stall. I want to thank the lovely mums who also assisted with the stall.

**HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY** to all of our wonderful mothers, grandmothers, god mothers, aunts and friends.

Thank you

Elizabeth Bransgrove  Acting Principal

**STOP PRESS:** Just received notification that tomorrow (Saturday 10th May) the identified trees will be removed and pruned and on Monday the gutters will be cleaned.

---

**Websites**

- Primary and High school
- Kids, social media and privacy
Regardless of your child’s age, the world may already know a lot more about them than you suspect. According to recent research:

- 92% of children under the age of 2 have a digital shadow (it starts with proud parents posting newborn baby photos on Facebook or Instagram)
- a quarter of Australian children 8 - 12 years old use Facebook, but the minimum age for a user is 13 years.
- more than 20 per cent of tweens publish photos of themselves on Instagram
- young people 14 - 19 have an average of 453 fans, friends or followers on social media.

2014 Privacy Awareness Week, 4 - 10 May 2014, is a good time to review your family's privacy settings and discuss online security. You’ll find lots of practical information and resources to share with your kids at www.ipc.nsw.gov.au

Printable planners for homework and study
School A to Z has printable monthly planners which include school holidays and the numbered weeks of each Term (for example Monday 19 May is the start of Week 4, in Term 2). Print one for each child to stick on the fridge or on their noticeboards. It’s a great way to teach them how scheduling their time means they’ll to fit in the fun activities as well as their other commitments and responsibilities. Download May 2014 at http://bit.ly/UbmrQz8

Is your child’s backpack damaging their spine?
A recent Australian study has shown that approximately 25% of school-aged children suffer from back and/or neck pain at any one time. It’s believed to be due to a combination of factors such as poor posture, everyday load carrying and the use of computers.

The Children’s Hospital at Westmead suggests young people should:

- not carry more than 10% of their body weight
- use a backpack with the straps over both shoulders and a waist strap
- load gear so that the heavier objects are nearer to the spine, with the lighter objects towards the front of the pack
- lift a backpack properly- bend at the knees and lift the pack with both hands

More tips at http://bit.ly/1iB4OBo

English refresher from School A to Z on Homonyms
Homonyms (also known as homographs) are words that are identical in pronunciation and spelling but have different meanings. They can be nouns, adjectives or verbs. The context gives them their meaning.

Ask your child for an example, like this one:
I prefer a fine tip on my pen.
He gave me a tip for the Melbourne Cup.
Don’t tip the water on the floor.
You gave the waiter a generous tip.


Mortlake Community News

MORTLAKE OSHC
SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

MOSHC SCHOOL NEWSLETTER INCLUSION APRIL/MAY 2014

Welcome back to Term 2!

New casuals at the centre are Tereza Kolarova and Jessica Alessi. As of week 3, we also have a new Regional Manager Ezia Cimillo.
This term the children at the centre will be acknowledging a variety of community events including: International Firefighters Day (Fri 2nd May), Europe Day (Mon 5th May), World Asthma Day (Tues 6th May), World Red Cross Day
(Thurs 8th May), Mother’s Day (Sun 11th May), Food Allergy Awareness Week (12th-19th May), International Day of Families (Thurs 15th May), Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea (Thurs 22nd May), National Reconciliation Week (27th May-3rd June), National Sorry Day (Mon 26th May), and National Tree Planting Day (Tues 27th May).

The clubs for this term (as of week 3), suggested and voted on by the children, are as follows:

- Monday: Homework club
- Sport club (BSC)
- Tuesday: Homework club
- Art club (BSC)
- Wednesday: Homework club
- Sustainability club (ASC)
- Thursday: Homework club
- Maths club (ASC)
- Friday: 9+ club meetings (BSC)
- Science club (ASC)

April vacation care was an overall success. Feedback surveys revealed that favourite in centre days included art and craft, gymnastics, games and sport, and build-a-bear. Favourite excursion days were 3D movie and circus factory.

Each term the Centre holds a meeting for the community. This meeting is advertised in the Centre Newsletter and Parent Noticeboard. The date for this term’s meeting will be advised soon. If you would like to attend the meeting, all you need to do is sign on the displayed sign on sheet, or send us an email.

OSHC staff /Managers will also be attending the next P&C meeting this term.

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.

Ezia, Daniella, Jared, Sam, Rachael, Tereza, Niki, Annabel, Andrew, Jessica & Te

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2014**

For Catholic children, First Holy Communion will be celebrated in St Patrick’s Church this year at 10.30am Sunday morning Mass on the 22nd June. There will be four weeks of compulsory instruction to prepare the candidates which will commence on Monday 6th May in the parish hall in Gale Street Mortlake from 4.15-5.15pm.

If you wish to nominate a candidate, please contact Robert Mayor via email at mayor@leasing.net.au or phone: 97361161

**THE RED SHIELD DOOR KNOCK APPEAL**

The Salvation Army Red Shield Door Knock Appeal will take place on Sunday May 25th.

Once again this year the Door Knock for the Concord Area will be co-ordinated from our school hall.

It would be fantastic if families from our School Community could get involved with this event.

If you are interested in helping out, please call Josh True on 0417 060 284