DATES TO REMEMBER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 3 2014</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22 August</td>
<td>Winter PSSA Semi Finals</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 August-5th Sept</td>
<td>School Swimming and Water Safety Program 12-12.45 timeslot</td>
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<td>26 August</td>
<td>Kindergarten Excursion</td>
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<td>28 August</td>
<td>Interrelate Stage 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 August</td>
<td>PSSA Finals</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 September</td>
<td>Stage 3 and Kindergarten planning day</td>
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<td>2 September</td>
<td>School Spectacular</td>
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<td>3 September</td>
<td>Stage 2 &amp; Stage 3 NRL day</td>
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<td>4 September</td>
<td>Interrelate Stage 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 September</td>
<td>Summer PSSA commences</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 September</td>
<td>9.30 Australian Girls' Choir and Mufti Day to raise money for Kidfix</td>
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<td>11 September</td>
<td>Interrelate Stage 3</td>
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<td>15 Sept – 19 Sept</td>
<td>Life Education Van arrives at sunny Mortlake.</td>
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<td>18 Sept</td>
<td>Interrelate Stage 3</td>
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<td>Term 4</td>
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<td>10th October</td>
<td>Chess starts</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 October</td>
<td>Kindergarten Orientation</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 October</td>
<td>Kindergarten Orientation</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 October</td>
<td>Spooky Disco K-2  5.30-6.30 and Years 3-6  6.45-8pm</td>
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Principal’s Message
Hello parents, carers and friends,

Mortlake Public School is continuing to “excel by effort”. We can do this because of the high quality educational programs we provide. It is also with the support the school obtains from the parents that enable the staff to achieve our great success.

Speaking of success:

Stage 3 have been using the connected classroom link and have been running workshops with other schools assisting them in the area of debating. (Don’t give away too many of our secrets….we still want to win sh sh sh) The sporting teams are making us proud as they approach the semi-finals. I don’t want to jinx anyone……but the netballers are on fire……must be something to do with motivational song…Eye of the Tiger, Ms Wilson!
The Gala Day organised by Mrs Emmans in conjunction with Concord High was a wonderful success in both debating, chess and on the field. Well done everyone. I have had meetings with Concord High School Principal and in Term 4 Year 9 students will be at Mortlake assisting with, and helping us, with the coaching of our sporting teams. I am also investigating our Stage 3 classes visiting Concord High School and experiencing science lessons in the science laboratory and visiting their 'Animal Room'. The Science faculty received permission from the DEC and the National Parks and Wildlife to house a range of Australian native animals, including amphibians and a range of reptiles. The animals will prove invaluable during units of work exploring the concepts of adaptations and evolution. Selected students are offered the very unique opportunity to care for and maintain these animals’ enclosures. **All I can say is not me!** Yes I got close up and personal with some of their friendly reptiles. **All I will say is that I don't like snakes.** *(Things I do for Mortlake!!)*

The School Spectacular dancers and orchestra are gearing up for their magnificent performance on Tuesday 2nd September at the Opera House. Well done to Mrs Hartman and Mrs Corbridge and team.

**Congratulations to Mortlake School Small Grants Committee.** I had the utmost pleasure of attending the City of Canada Bay Council presentation of grants last night, with Trudy and Ann. Through their hard work and skilful submission (creative) writing we have obtained a $3000 grant for a native bush tucker garden and murals. Thank you and congratulations.

**Congratulations to Stella Haugh** who is one of the comperes at the 2014, Our School Spectacular at the Opera House. What an honour and privilege. Thank you Stella I might employ you to write and read my speeches...I am happy to lip sync.

**Congratulations to our local author, PJ Tierney** with the launch of her new book, *The Last Spirit Warrior*. What a talented community we live in!

New entrance foyer entrance

Have you seen our beautiful new foyer entrance, the new chairs, the greenery and the beautiful screen? **Thank you to the Borg family and the 3Way Communications Team** who kindly organised the installation of the screen. Your kindness is much appreciated.

**Best Wishes**

**Elizabeth Bransgrove Acting Principal**

**Kindergarten Enrolling Now for 2015**

Your child can start Kindergarten at the beginning of the school year if they turn five on or before 31 July in that year. By law, all children must be enrolled in school by their sixth birthday. Mortlake Public School is enrolling local students NOW! Please ring our school if you have any questions about enrolling your child.

**Kidfix Mufti Day**

KidzFix is a not for profit organisation established to support sick and disadvantaged children in Australia. This is done through fundraising activities conducted in conjunction with the annual KidzFix Rally. Miss McCarthy will be participating in this year's rally which is from the 12th-20th September 2014.
Kidfix is a project-based organisation so in support of this, Mortlake will be participating in a mufti day to raise money to go towards buying an ambulance for the Nowra region in support of the Newborn & Paediatric Emergency Transport Service (NETS).

The mufti day will be held on the 9th of September and students wishing to participate will wear the Kidfix colours orange and purple and bring in a gold coin on the day.

For more information please visit http://www.kidzfix.com.au

SAFETY WHEN DRIVING AROUND SCHOOLS

The Police have been supporting the school by patrolling at morning and afternoon pick up times. They have had to move many parents in cars who do not follow the Road Rules. This may encourage you to follow road parking procedures.

Fines in school zones
- Stop on or near pedestrian/children's/ marked foot crossing - $415 fine & 2 demerit points
- Disobey no parking sign - $173 & 2 demerit points
- Disobey no stopping sign - $311 & 2 demerit points
- Stop in a bus zone - $311 & 2 demerit points
- Double park - $311 & 2 demerit points
- Park within 10 metres of an intersection - $242
- Child unsecured in appropriate for age restraint - $311 & 3 demerit points

Schools are for children not cars. Safety first, our children are too precious.

PARENT TIPS

Flu season is here!

Influenza is spread from person-to-person through the coughing or sneezing of infected people. Remind your child about these good hygiene practices to minimise the spread of infection:

- Anyone who is sick with influenza symptoms should stay home until their symptoms are gone.
- Cover the nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. Throw the tissue in the garbage bin after use.
- Wash hands often with soap and water, especially after coughing or sneezing. Alcohol-based hands cleaners are also effective.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.

If you or your child develops influenza-like illness, seek the advice of your family doctor as you would with any other illness.

The seasonal influenza vaccine, which protects against the pandemic influenza strain as well as two other influenza strains, is now available free to eligible people. More information about the vaccine is available from the NSW Health Immunisation Unit's vaccination page. Previous vaccination with the pandemic influenza vaccine, Panvax® is not a barrier to also receiving the seasonal influenza vaccine.
Julie Schubert finished up her extended leave, resigning from her position as Co-ordinator of Mortlake OSHC Centre after many years and accepting a new position at Kent Road OSHC Centre as a permanent educator. On 16th July we held a little “thank you, farewell and best wishes” party in her honour. Julie had a great time and very much appreciated the gifts she was given by staff and families. Daniella Beckett has taken on the role of Co-ordinator and Nominated Supervisor, and Sam Spence has been appointed Assistant Co-ordinator. We also said farewell to our permanent educator Jared Marsh, who left us at the end of term 2 to travel overseas for an extended period of time.

July Vacation Care was a great success. The most favourite day was Laser Tag! Feedback also revealed some great ideas for next holidays! Planning for the next school holidays is well underway and will be released soon!

A menu survey was recently undertaken by parents and children. All feedback has been taken into consideration, and a new winter menu has just been released and introduced.

We aim to broaden children’s experience in OSHC by acknowledging community events which are initiated by health, cultural or environmental issues. Recently we have been talking about National Tree Day, International Friendship Day, and International Forgiveness Day. The 21st to 25th July saw the centre participate in the Children’s Hospital Westmead Bear Cottage “Superheroes Week”. With the help of the children, we programmed a wide variety of ‘superhero’ activities for them to partake in and learn about what happens at Bear Cottage and why, and the concept of Superhero Week. See photos at the end!

We also like to include community participation in the service by inviting families and other visitors to the Centre. As part of Superheroes Week, one of our lovely parents Natalie Duns, came and visited the centre to talk with the children about her job as a nurse at the Children’s Hospital at Westmead, what she does there, why she does it, and letting us have some fun with her stethoscope!

If you have any suggestions for an interesting visitor or initiative of this type please speak to staff at the centre. Similarly, if you have something to share with the children, such as information about your work life or cultural background, or even a simple story or cooking experience, we would love to have you.

All families are warmly welcomed to come and see our room to observe the children’s activities, daily journals, programs and work displayed.

Clubs for Term 3 are as follows

- Every morning- breakfast club
- Every afternoon- homework club
- Monday mornings- language club
- Tuesday afternoons- sustainability and garden club
- Friday afternoons- science club

Our next parent community meeting will take place this term on Friday 29th August at 9:30am. If you would like to attend the meeting you need to RSVP to Daniella. If no names are listed down as attending on the day before the scheduled meeting, it will be cancelled. We will also be emailing out a survey to accompany the agenda for parents who cannot make it to these meetings on a regular basis but would still like to be kept up to date and contribute.

OSHC Staff/Managers will also be attending the P&C meeting this term on 26th August.
Ezia Cimillo and Daniella Beckett volunteered at the MPS Winter Fair on the chocolate wheel stall (lots of you may have seen us!). We also held a competition where one lucky parent won 2 free Vacation Care days! We would like to thank the school and the P&C for letting Primary OSHCare be a part of the day, and say well done for doing such a wonderful job at organising it all, and providing such a successful event to the wider community.

Feedback we have received in recent times:

- QA1 (educational program and practice) and QA2 (children’s health and safety) online surveys were mostly positive. Statements were made such as the staff are doing an excellent job, that staff make them feel welcome, that they appreciate that we have male staff members to be role models to the boys, that their children are telling them they are having fun, and that overall they are happy with the quality of service and care given.

  Additional feedback included reinforcing to children that they can approach an educator if they get stuck on a homework question, to hold language club in the morning in term 3, to provide alternatives for children with milk allergies, that inside the OSHC room is too small/restricted/ cramped/noisy, and that children who attend almost every day are getting annoyed at having to listen to the same announcements during group times.

  Many of these suggestions have already ben take up and we are grateful for the honest feedback and the support of the school for assisting us in achieving some of our objectives, In particular, the access to the creative arts room which has now been facilitated to great effect for the over 9s. Full details of improvements made are documented on our QIP (Quality Improvement Plan).

- A parent commented that she might get her daughter fish as pets because her daughter wants them, and she thinks it’s because we have them at OSHC.

- A parent wanted the recipe for one of our dips so he could make it at home for his daughter because she loves it so much.

- A parent complimented the quality of our service and that her son loves MOSHC so much that he won’t leave.

- A family who will be leaving the service shortly to move overseas thanking us for helping make their child’s first school experience so positive and settled, and for reinforcing the good manners and behaviour they try to instill at home.

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, Sam, Niki, Rachael, Tereza, Annabel, Andrew, Jessica
Community News

Confirmation

For Catholic children, the Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated in St Patrick's Church Mortlake this year on Friday 12th September in Saint Patrick's Church, Gale Street Mortlake, at 7.30pm. There will be four weeks of compulsory instruction to prepare the candidates the first of which will commence on Monday 18th August in the parish hall in Gale Street Mortlake from 4.15pm-5.15pm.

If you wish to nominate a candidate, please contact Robert Mayor via email mayor@leasing.net.au or phone 97461161.

Websites and Apps

Banish the “I'm bored” complaints
It's harder in winter to keep kids occupied with anything other than a small screen. Here are some websites that have great tips for things your family can do:

Destination NSW (http://bit.ly/1niJ7sI)
Winter school holidays in Sydney (http://bit.ly/1nQsVC6)
School holidays in Newcastle (http://bit.ly/1lnjlpg)
Winter school holidays Central Coast (http://bit.ly/1ingSwX)
Attractions for kids in regional NSW (http://bit.ly/1IE8vMw)
Keep brains ticking?

If your child is working on a personal project or a school assignment (or you want to make use of the break for a little revision), don’t forget www.SchoolAtoZ.com.au has lots of information and fact sheets to help with homework. For students polishing their spelling skills, the free Spelling Bee mobile app also allows them to record a list of their own words and then test themselves. You might even want to challenge them with a list you create. Here’s where you’ll find the free app to download: http://bit.ly/Q9ez0G