Principal’s Message

Hello parents, carers and friends,

What a wonderful night was had by all at the 2014 ‘Our Spectacular’ at the Sydney Opera House with our choir and school dancers. The theme was Legends of Music with Mortlake Public School lighting up the stage with Fun! Fun! Fun! An old Beach Boys classic so I believe. (I wouldn’t know as I am too young to remember!) What wonderful costumes, choreography, enthusiasm and passion. The students, led by Mrs Hartman and Mrs Corbridge once again put Mortlake on the map. The students looked fantastic as they performed to everyone. Congratulations!!!

Our students also performed in the Combined Primary Choir. Their singing was music to our ears. Thank you Ms Miles, Mrs Bastianon, Ms McCarthy.

I would also like to thank Mrs Janet Harrison for the fantastic costumes and Mrs Lydia Burjan for all of her time. Thank you to the parents who accompanied the students to the Opera House.
PSSA Netball Champions

After an extraordinarily successful season, our senior PSSA netball team has been declared joint champions for 2014! Unfortunately three consecutive weeks of wet weather meant that the semi-finals and finals for winter PSSA could not be played this year. The four teams that qualified for the semi-finals (Mortlake, Summer Hill, Haberfield & Dobroyd Point) were declared joint champions for 2014.

Our senior team will be awarded their championship ribbons at a special assembly next term, and we will advise parents of the date beforehand.

Though the girls were very disappointed not to play in the last few weeks of the season, they should be extremely proud of being one of the top four teams, out of thirty, in the WSPSSA Senior Netball Competition.

To give you an indication of the remarkable season this team had in 2014, here are a few statistics:

Games played: 12
Wins: 11
Losses: 1
Goals scored: 280
Ave goals per game: 23
Goals scored against the team: 70
Goal difference: 210

These statistics really show how our girls dominated the opposition, in both attack and defence, throughout the entire season.

What you can’t see in the statistics is how hard the girls worked in training, how dedicated they were to improving their skills and how magically they combined on the court. It was truly a privilege to coach this amazingly talented and hard-working team in 2014.

Congratulations to these outstanding netballers:
Jemma, Joanna, Scarlett, Erika, Anna, Mia, Sophie, Sabrina & Georgia

Ms Wilson
NRL Gala Day
Many thanks to Mrs Emmans for the organization of the NRL Gala Day. We were so lucky with the weather and the students and teachers had a great day. The sure the children (and my staff) slept soundly that night after all the running around at the gala day.

The Fence
The money for the fence has finally arrived. We are hoping to have the fence installed during the January school holidays, (subject to DA approval). Fingers crossed. To speed up the process I will be self-managing the construction of the fence along with my fence committee which consists of Kaye Callander, Chantelle Sarkis and Natalie Miles. (I will dust off my hard helmet.....Bob the builder...) I will keep you updated.

THE NEXT THREE YEARS – Mortlake Public School Three Year Plan
The Department of Education and Communities are moving into a new exciting phase of planning. With this comes the need for all the school community to participate in the process.

The purpose of the new approach for school planning is to help guide a rich process for principals and school leaders to engage their school community (teachers, non-teaching staff, students, parents, carers, community partners) in deep conversations about the future educational directions and strategies of their schools. The new approach uses transformative, strategic, capacity-building and future focused planning to develop key improvements for the school. It is designed to support school leaders in engaging, inspiring and shaping the realisation of the educational priorities, dreams and ambitions of the school community in line with Local Schools, Local Decisions.

The school plan is made up of five pages that will be published for the community:

a school background page - a school vision statement, a brief statement of the school’s context, a summary of the process used to develop the school plan, including the engagement of the whole school community.

a page outlining the 3 strategic directions for the school and the purpose for each - is evidence based and data informed, is a succinct statement that drives the development of the school’s educational and organisational leadership culture, has a clear statement of purpose, defines the key improvements which combine for the school to achieve excellence, three planning pages, one for each strategic direction.

three planning pages, one for each strategic direction-To achieve a clear design for leading schools on a learning journey, the new school planning approach includes the 5Ps of planning for each strategic direction – purpose, people, processes, products and practices.

At Mortlake we have begun the process of thinking, surveying and discussing our New Mortlake 3 Year School Plan.
will use the results of my parent, staff and student survey to assist with the planning and will ask for volunteers at the next P&C meeting to work with the school in developing our vision for Mortlake.

NAPLAN
Our NAPLAN results are very pleasing. Here is some brief information about the schools results.

### Year 3 Top Two Bands

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>Spelling</th>
<th>Grammar &amp; Punctuation</th>
<th>Numeracy</th>
<th>Data</th>
<th>Number, Patterns &amp; Algebra</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>66.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>43.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% in bottom band</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Year 5 Top Two Bands

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>Spelling</th>
<th>Grammar &amp; Punctuation</th>
<th>Numeracy</th>
<th>Data</th>
<th>Number, Patterns &amp; Algebra</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>23.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>23.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% in bottom band</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I wish to take the opportunity to wish you all a happy and safe holiday. Students and Teachers will return to school on Tuesday 7th October (our staff development days are at the end of Term 4 -18th and 19th December, 2014)

I look forward to seeing you at our working bee on Sunday 5th October. (I have once again volunteered my husband to help, but I haven’t asked him Oops!)

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 students NOW! Please ring our school if you have any questions about enrolling your child.

Bored in the Holidays?

Holiday Reading
JAMIE REIGN: THE HIDDEN DRAGON written by our local resident writer PJ Tierney.

Mind Quest
Glenwood HS Cnr Forman Ave & Glenwood Park Avenue
Glenwood 2768
Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 November 9.30-3.30pm
On Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 November, the seventy fourth Mind Quest program will be held for gifted and talented students from Years1-6 at Glenwood HS. These include gifted and talented students, gifted underachievers and students with well above average ability with a special interest. Students will have the opportunity to participate in over 36 exciting, fast paced courses in the two day program. They include courses in chemistry, earth sciences, drama, Lego robotics and much more. The cost of the weekend in $175 (including GST) for details call Shelagh 02 4232-2494. Closing date: Tuesday 14 October, 2014.
Primary and High school

Reduce, reuse, recycle
Australians throw away 3.3 million tonnes of food every year – up to a quarter of the country's food supplies - mainly because we purchase too much. Consider planning your meals and only buy what you need. Reduce packaging in your child’s lunchbox and use re-usable containers rather than plastic wrap where possible. It also leaves our school grounds much cleaner!

Mobile Maths Games
Channel your child’s interest in playing mobile apps into a chance to improve their maths skills and recall. The free School A to Z app has a Maths Monkey game to help test times tables and the follow-up app, Maths Monkey's Quest ($1.99), challenges kids from Yr 2 to Yr 8 with addition, subtraction, ratios and percentages. Both apps are created by the NSW Department of Education and are available for Apple iPhones and iPads, and Android phones and tablets. You’ll find links to both here: [http://bit.ly/oSREYV](http://bit.ly/oSREYV)

Selective schools
Are you already thinking about your child’s Year 7 placement in a selective school in 2016? Selective high schools are government high schools that cater for highly-achieving, academically talented students by offering an educationally enriched environment. Application for entry to a selective high school in Year 7 in 2016 will be online only, from 14 October, 2014. You'll find more information about selective schools and dates for examinations here: [http://bit.ly/selectiveHS](http://bit.ly/selectiveHS)

High school

How you can help your child study.
Support your teen through the high school years with School A to Z. This online resource for parents contains study tips and homework help, information on dealing with exam stress, practical advice on health, wellbeing and cybersafety, plus lots more. Watch videos, read articles and listen to podcasts: [www.schoolatoz.com.au](http://www.schoolatoz.com.au).

Does your teenager work?
Many teenagers start a weekend or after school job in high school. A helpful guide to how much they should be getting paid and the minimum conditions can be found at: [www.fairwork.gov.au](http://www.fairwork.gov.au). If you have any queries there is a helpline at 13 13 94. You can also lodge an online workplace complaint if you feel your child has been unfairly treated.