Ned and Mitchell are happy to share their SMART learning projects.
Messages from your Principal

Dear Parents and Friends of Moss Vale Public School

With the end of the 2014 school year almost upon us, I would like to take this opportunity in the last newsletter of the year to acknowledge the many people who make up this wonderful school community. I would firstly like to congratulate all of our students on their many successes over the year and I certainly look forward to reconnecting with them all in 2015.

For our Year 6 students, next week will be a significant time as we farewell them and wish them well for the next stage in their learning journeys into their respective secondary schools. Of course, we will also be looking forward to welcoming our new Kindergarten children, as we do at the beginning of each year.

Our teachers and support staff members are a dedicated and committed team who provide the quality learning environment we appreciate at Moss Vale. Thank you so much for all the great work you do to support and educate our children!

I would also like to thank our volunteers who give so generously of their time and energies in supporting our children throughout the year. It is important too, that I recognise the hard working members of our P & C Assoc. Thank you also for your support of the children, staff and parents and for your commitment and energy you give to achieve our collective goals.

May I wish you all, on behalf of the staff, a very safe and enjoyable Christmas and new year with your family.

Student Progress Reports

Children in Years K—6 and our support class students will be issued their progress reports tomorrow, Friday 12 December. The reports summarise your child’s achievements over the 2nd semester (Term 3 & 4) in each of the Key Learning Areas.

For students in mainstream K—6 classes, the report provides parents with information about how their child has progressed over the semester using a graded scale. If you do not receive your child’s report, please contact us.

Presentation Assembly

A reminder to all that our school will be conducting our Annual Presentation Assembly on Monday, 15 December in the Covered Outdoor Learning Area (COLA). The Presentation Assembly provides our school opportunity to recognise students who have excelled in a range of academic work, citizenship or have improved significantly in aspects of their learning. There will also be musical items performed by various student groups to help celebrate this important event.

School String Program

Lessons in violin and cello will be available again in 2015 with tutor Alex Zachary. Accompanying this newsletter is an information sheet and contact details should you wish your child to be involved in group or individual lessons. Students who participate in the program will have opportunity to be members of the school string ensemble and perform at various events at school functions. Please make contact with Alex Zachary to register your interest for your child.

What are the benefits for your child in learning music?

- New Australian research has revealed that school kids who play music are better learners.
- Children who study music tend to have larger vocabularies and more advanced reading skills than their peers who do not participate in music lessons.
- Primary age children who are involved in music lessons show greater brain development and memory improvement within a year than children who receive no musical training.
- Learning and mastering a musical instrument improves the way the brain breaks down and understands human language, making music students more apt to pick up a second language.


As mentioned in last week’s school newsletter, the school is currently preparing the 3 year plan for the school and has invited parents to involve themselves in its development. I would like to thank those parents who took the opportunity to attend our first focus group held yesterday. There were many terrific ideas shared which we can draw on to achieve our common goals. There will be further opportunities for parents to be involved at the commencement of Term 1, 2015 including a survey. If you would like to express an interest in attending a focus group, please contact me or the school office to register. If you would like to discuss your involvement with me beforehand, you are most welcome to call or visit the school.

Important Term Dates

The last day of school for students K—6 this year is Wednesday 17 December. Teachers and staff members will return for the School Development Days on Thursday 18 and Friday 19 December. (These are pupil free days)

Students in Years 1—6 commence the 2014 school year on Wednesday 28 January. Kindergarten students commence school on Friday 30 January. Parents of Kindergarten 2015 will be advised of their Best Start Assessment meetings via individual letters.

It takes a community to raise a child

Laurie Connery, Principal
## COMING EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15th December</td>
<td>Presentation Assembly 9:30am</td>
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<td>15th December</td>
<td>Volunteer Morning Tea 11:00am</td>
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<td>15th December</td>
<td>Early Stage One Christmas Picnic</td>
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<td>15th December</td>
<td>Stage Two Christmas Picnic</td>
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<tr>
<td>16th December</td>
<td>Stage One Christmas Picnic</td>
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<tr>
<td>16th December</td>
<td>Stage 3 excursion to Aquatic Centre</td>
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<td>17th December</td>
<td>Students Last Day</td>
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<td>18th &amp; 19th December</td>
<td>Staff Development Day</td>
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<td>27th January 2015</td>
<td>Staff return for 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>28th January 2015</td>
<td>STUDENTS RETURN FOR TERM 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>30th January 2015</td>
<td>Kindergarten Start for 2015</td>
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## STAGE 3 INSPIRE

As part of the award winning transitional program between primary school and high school, Moss Vale Public School participated in Inspire Day on Monday the 8th December. Inspire Day 2014 saw staff and students from Moss Vale High School’s Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA) Department team up with groups of our students for a taster of the CAPA program they will experience in the coming years. Groups were broken up into Drama, Choral Singing, Dance, Creative Art, and Drumming. Workshops were held in the morning and the day culminated with a gala performance of the works created by the students. Inspire day has once again proven to be both highly enjoyable and richly rewarding for all staff and students involved.

## CYBER-SMART

**Screen time**

- Set a screen time limit of no more than two hours a day.
- Busy kids are less likely to have screen time issues.
- Eliminate food and drink in front of the screen.
- Ask your child how they are going to spend their time so they get into the habit of planning their screen time.
- Screen time used to mean how many hours you spent watching TV and playing on the computer.
- Experts around the world agreed that setting a limit of no more than two hours a day was best, and children under two shouldn't have any screen time at all.
- Today, with the growing number of tablet computer devices, students' ready access to laptops, an ever-increasing range of mobile applications (apps) for learning, gaming, pay-TV, movies on demand, e-books, digital textbooks and more – the question of what screen time means is far more complex.
Stage 1 recently had an enjoyable excursion to Killalea Education Centre and Kiama.
OUT AND ABOUT
United Nations International Day of People with Disability was celebrated on 3rd December!

There is a broad range of disabilities that people live with in Australia, the majority having a physical disability, while 14.5% live with multiple disabilities. Some disabilities are hidden while others are more apparent. The message here is not to make general assumptions about people living with disability.

Nearly 70% of carers spend from 8 hours a day to over 14 hours a day - every day - every year - caring for a family member with disabilities. Think about how difficult it would be to also hold down a job, do housework, raise your other kids, look after your own health and plan ahead, with even an extra 2 hours each day caring for a child, spouse or parent with additional needs.

With limited ability to work – even part time, there are huge financial burdens on people with disabilities and their families. This is made worse by much higher medical, therapy and support costs than average, costs of special transport, time off work to attend medical appointments or hospitalisation, or adapting houses and vehicles to support the person with a disability.

There are also high health costs for carers due to injured backs, necks and joints, muscle and tendon strain, mental health risks and constantly high levels of stress.

Lack of time, money and access to activities, as well as social attitudes isolate people with disabilities and their families from their communities. Consider including friends who have disabilities and carers in activities or social events. It is easy enough to discuss how to best meet any access needs in advance so everyone can enjoy themselves.

Submitted by SNAPS (Special Needs and Parent Support) Sub-Committee. A follow up article from SNAPS is available on the SNAPS website (www.mossvalesnaps.com). The second article is on the topic: "Tips to survive and thrive on the school holidays".

All 2015 SNAPS committee meeting dates are available on the SNAPS website and all are welcome.

P&C Cake stall at the carols

Baking donations and stall helpers needed Saturday 13th December

The P&C will host a cake stall fundraiser at the Leighton Garden carols on Saturday night. Please bring along a plate of baked goodies (with ingredients listed and a recommended sale price) to be dropped off at the stall from 5.30pm, Saturday 13th December.

Any assistance in serving and selling cakes is most welcome. Call Paul on 0410 703 215 to pick a 45minute spot in the roster. Timeslots available between 6.00—7.30pm.

Thank you and holiday wishes from the MVPS P&C

To our wonderful school community:

Thank you for your support of the school and for contributing to our fundraising activities in 2014. The P&C would like to wish the families and friends of Moss Vale Public School best wishes for the holiday season and a safe return next year.
COMMUNITY NEWS

Carols in the Park will be held on Saturday 13th December, 2014 at Leighton Gardens Moss Vale starting at 7pm.

A bush dance is being held at Berrima Gaol on Saturday, 24th January 2015 starting at 6:30pm. Cost is Adults $15 Children $5. For more information please go to www.gaolbreak.org.au

Wingecarribee Shire Council Libraries are hosting a variety of activities during the holidays for enquiries please contact 4861 1167 or www.library.wsc.nsw.gov.au

Southern Highlands Community Christmas Dinner is being held on Christmas Eve. It is open to everyone who may not have family, friends or finances. For further details please call Jade 0402 033 254 or Carol 0414 361 571.

A SPECIAL THANKYOU TO MOSS VALE NEWSAGENCY FOR YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT OF OUR SCHOOL.