‘Read Around The School’ initiative gave our students a platform to showcase their SMART Learning books to their peers!
Dear Parents and Friends of Moss Vale Public School

With the school year coming to a close at the end of next week, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the many people who contribute so much to making our school the great learning place that it is.

Firstly, I acknowledge and congratulate all of our students K—6 on their many successes over the year and I certainly look forward to reconnecting with them all in 2016. For our Year 6 students, next week will be a significant time as we farewell them and wish them every success as they transition to their respective secondary schools in 2016. Of course, we are also 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 Public School.

Thank you so much for all the great work you do to support and educate our children!

I also wish to acknowledge and thank our volunteers who have given 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. for your support of the children, staff and parents and for your commitment and energy 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.

Classes 2016

At this stage, we are anticipating 75 children to commence the school year in Kindergarten. We have planned for 4 Kindergarten classes for next year. Overall, we anticipate that there will be 20 mainstream classes K—6. The Department of Education has approved the formation of an additional support class for 2016 at our school. The new class will be designated as ‘Multi-categorical’ which will cater for a range of students with a diagnosed disability. The establishment of the new class is strongly supported by the school community and is a welcome addition to the provision of educational opportunities for special needs students in our local area. Further information about support classes can be found on the link below:


Appointment as Principal, School Leadership

Over the next 2 years, I will be active in a new role, that of Principal, School Leadership (PSL) with the Department of Education’s Leadership and High Performance Directorate. It is a part time position and on the days that I will be engaged in the role, Mrs Hines will be leading the school. This will mean that Mrs Hines and I will be Co-Principals of Moss Vale Public School. There is significant opportunity for our school to benefit from my role as a Principal, School Leadership. I will be able to visit many schools and therefore bring back knowledge of programs that are effective and will benefit our children’s learning. There will be opportunities to share this knowledge with our school community during the school year at meetings such as the P & C Association and with staff.

Student Progress Reports

Children in Years K—6 and our support class students will be issued their progress reports on Friday 11 December. The reports summarise your child’s achievements over the 2nd semester (Terms 3 & 4) in each of the Syllabus 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. The reports utilise a 5 point scale using the language of Limited to Outstanding and is referred to as the A—E scale to indicate overall achievement in each Key learning Area. Students in support classes have reports which are based on their Individual Learning Plans and should not be compared to the achievement of students in mainstream classes. In all reports, a general comment from the class teacher provides more detail concerning your child’s particular strengths, achievements and areas to be developed.

Playscape Project

The Playscape Committee is pleased to announce that we have a draft plan available for viewing by interested parents and staff over the coming week. The plan will be located in the school office foyer. The playscapes, when complete, will provide increased play opportunities for playground play for our children. We anticipate construction of these areas of the school will commence in Term 1 next year.

Important Term Dates

The last day of school for students K—6 this year is Wednesday 16 December. Teachers and staff members will return for the School Development Days on Thursday 17 and Friday 18 December. (These are pupil free days).

Students in Year 1—6 commence the 2016 school year on Thursday 28 January. Kindergarten students commence school on Monday 1st February. Parents of Kindergarten 2016 will be advised of their Best Start Assessment meetings via individual letters.

It takes a community to raise a child

Laurie Connery, Principal
## Important Aspects of Writing

**Writing** involves using spelling, grammar, design features, handwriting and digital tools to create texts for specific purposes.

### Holiday Writing

Writing is a very complex, recursive process that consists of forming intentions, composing and drafting, editing and publishing in order to produce a text. Writers move back and forth across these phases as they produce a quality piece of writing. The holidays are a great time to create learning opportunities centred around books, storytelling, writing and family adventures. Identifying the purpose of your writing provides you with the focus to write an effective text which will have the intended impact on your audience. Below are some ideas to stimulate your holiday writing.
On Tuesday 8 December, Stage 2 had a fabulous time reading our SMART Learning books to K-2 students. As part of the ‘Read Around The School’ initiative, Stage 2 had an opportunity to share their books and reflect on the writing process.

“Kids really wanted me to read them my book” Sam Speechley

“It was really hard to engage an audience that wasn’t who you wrote the book for” Ned Wooll

“The kids I read to were really excited about me reading my book” Ella-Rose

“I learnt it takes a long time to finish a book properly to get it published” Declan Englefield

“They really listened and asked questions about Shelby” Jaryah Pilkington
Christmas Fair!

Tomorrow, Friday 11 December, students will be participating in a ‘Christmas Fair’ held at school. The day has been organised by a group of Year 6 students as a fun and festive way to raise money for a local charity, Bowral Youth Refuge. Christmas Fair activities will include musical Santa, pick a present, relays, name the reindeers, talk to Santa, present toss, obstacle course, reindeer knock, and gooey Santa! Students are asked to donate $2 on the day to participate in the Christmas Fair.

Links to Learning – Transition to Teens Program

Throughout Semester 2, a group of Year 6 students have participated in the ‘Transition to Teens’ program. The program is designed to support students in transitioning to their local high school. During the program, participants have completed a number of projects including ‘Belonging to Place’ where items were created to enhance the school environment; the ‘Drum Beat’ musical education program and a fundraising activity. For the ‘Belonging to Place’ project the students designed and created a bird bath mosaic and a mural. Both items will be placed in the playground to enhance the school’s physical environment.

Congratulations to Todd Jeffery, Jade Burston, Ryan Johnson, Jacob Simpson, Bradley Farmer, Jacob Walker and Thomas Anderson for graduating from the program last Monday. A huge thank you goes to a number of people who supported the program including Mrs Pratt, Mrs Robinson, Mr Phillips, Mr Ryan and especially Kyle Jones and Nastasia Pemberton from Links to Learning.

Transition to Teens – Fundraising

A guessing competition was held last Monday as part of the Transition to Teens project. Participants from the program ran the competition which required entrants to correctly guess the number of marbles in a large jar. The competition was a success with $56.00 raised. The funds will be used to purchase sports equipment for use by students at break times. A big thank you to all the students who entered the competition. Congratulations to the competition winner Jaryah Pilkington (3/4B) who correctly guessed 649 marbles and to Colin Cooksley (6P) who took out 2nd place. Jaryah chose to keep the jar of marbles as his prize with Colin taking home a family movie voucher.

‘Lives on the Line’

Moss Vale Public School students had the opportunity to participate in a public artwork project run by Trainworks in Thirlmere. It’s an Anzac Centenary called ‘Lives on the Line’.

Students had the privilege to work with local artist Celeste Coucke to develop a public artwork that commemorates the 8,500 railaymen who contributed to WW1. The artwork will eventually have a permanent home at Trainworks. Students were involved in the creation of the artwork by making clay objects using press-molds. Celeste made molds based on small objects like keys, badges, whistles etc – the type of personal items found in the mud on the Western Front following the war. Trainworks are trying to create 8,500 objects – one to represent each of the men – and they will eventually be assembled mosaic-like into a beautiful artwork that will be installed into the floor of the museum.
Let’s Get It Sorted

The holidays are almost upon us and both teachers and students have been discussing the importance of reducing waste, reusing materials and products and recycling items. This is because they decrease the amount of waste on the planet and preserve natural resources by maintaining space and cutting down on landfills. Individuals, households, communities and businesses can all help to protect the environment.

REDUCE simply means living more carefully so that you have less rubbish to get rid of and avoiding waste is the preferable option of waste management.

REUSE means to use the same item more than once, preferably many times rather than disposing of it after one use. Reusing saves the energy and resources that would have been used to make a new product and results in fewer products going into the rubbish bin and ending up in landfill.

RECYCLE means to return a waste product to a factory where it is remade into either the same product or something different.

Parent Tip for the Week

The best earth friendly practices require the cooperation of everyone in the household. As with most good habits, the best way to teach children is to be a good role model yourself. By showing that you care about and respect the environment, your children will do the same.

Remember to REDUCE, REUSE AND RECYCLE over the holidays.

To help identify the different plastics, a Plastics Identification Code is stamped on the final product to indicate what type of resin it contains as shown below.

The code is displayed as a number inside a triangle of chasing arrows.
Thank YOU

Wow, what a year!

As your P & C we’ve had a wonderful year of fun and positive results for our school. I’m sure I speak on behalf of all P & C members when I say it’s a privilege to be involved in such a wonderful school community. We are proud of the contributions we’ve made this year, to help the school in areas such as:

- **The Snack Shack.** Our canteen is run 100% by volunteers. Special thanks must go to Lynda Rough and Madeleine Atallah for taking on the Supervisor roles every week and to Mindy Hindmarsh who is retiring from doing a fantastic job as canteen convenor and will now be focusing on events only.

- **The clothing pool.** Another volunteer run service which wouldn’t be possible without the generosity of those willing to lend a hand. Don’t forget that if you have any school clothes which your child has outgrown, the clothing pool will gladly find them a new home.

- **Communications policy.** Our Communications sub committee has been working closely with the school to help understand the best methods of communicating effectively between the school and the broader community. If you haven’t yet filled out the communications survey, we’d love to hear your thoughts so we can help the school deliver first class communication.

- **Sustainability.** There are many ways the P & C have been involved in helping the school focus on environmental sustainability. The ‘Let’s Get It Sorted’ program is turning out to be a huge success. A big focus of the P & C over the coming year will be on more sustainable energy options.

- **SMART Learning, Homework.** Our P & C have been involved in providing feedback on the current SMART learning format and have assisted in compiling the SMART Learning parent survey. This is your chance to have your say on homework policy, so please share your thoughts, if you haven’t already done so.

- **SNAPS.** Our Snaps Committee have been hard at work helping support families and learning all about the NDIS which is to be implemented in 2016. Leaders in supporting families of children with special needs, we are very proud of the work our SNAPS committee undertake, graciously led by Sophia Farrington.

- **Playscape.** Planning is well underway for our next garden project, which will bring many fun elements to the playground in a safe and natural environment. Look out for progress in 2016.

- **Fundraising.** How good was our Country Fair? A fabulous time was had by all and we raised significant money which will be put towards more energy efficient and environmentally friendly heating for classrooms. Huge thanks to everyone who was involved and supported the fete.

As P & C President, I’d like to extend my personal thanks to everyone who contributes or helps out, in any capacity, as without you, our P & C wouldn’t be the success it is. Your time and dedication is very much appreciated.

To everyone moving on next year, to High School or to other areas, we wish you all the very best and trust that Moss Vale Public School will always hold a special place in your hearts.

Have a safe holiday, making precious memories and we’ll see you all, plus a few new faces, in 2016.

Tonia Krebs on behalf of your P & C.
COMMUNITY NEWS

Carols In The Park Saturday 12 December from 6pm. Leighton Gardens, Moss Vale. Family activities and entertainment. Carols from 7pm.

Marulan Christmas Family Fun Day Saturday 12 December from 3pm. Marulan Soccer Fields. Entertainment, Market Stalls, Santa, Rides, Pizza, Carols and Fireworks. All proceeds to Marulan Volunteer Fire Brigade.

Walk through the Bethlehem of the first Christmas A free interactive Christmas experience for all ages. Friday 18 & Saturday 19 December 4pm - 7pm (Approx 30 minutes to walk through). Free entry and refreshments. St. Stephen’s Anglican Church, Main St Mittagong. More information www.mittang.com.au/bethlehem or call 4871 1947.

Lego Brick Building Workshop Thursday 21 January 2016 for boys and girls aged 5-10 years. East Bowral Community Centre. Online bookings www.trybooking.com/juxl. For more information contact kristy@littlebuilders.com.au or 0416 038 724.