Helping Children To Learn Well

Our school vegetable garden is flourishing! Tomorrow the Snack Shack will be using our produce to make delicious zucchini muffins!

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Welcome to the 2016 school year at Moss Vale Public school!
What a fantastic start to the school year! We were delighted to welcome back all of our returning students and welcome new ones on the first day last Thursday. There were plenty of smiles as we also welcomed our new Kindergarten children last Monday. As I visited classrooms over the last week, I am really impressed with how ready for learning the children appear and how happy they seemed. For that, I thank you for preparing your child so well.

For advice on how to help your child get off to a good start, check out the School A to Z website:  

Enrolments and Classes
The number of children K - 6 including support students enrolled at our school is 570. This allows us to retain 20 mainstream classes together with 6 support classes and the Early Intervention Unit. At the end of the 2015 school year, the school was given approval to form an additional support class. The newly formed support class is classed as Multi-Categorical, which means we cater for a wider range of students with disabilities. This is a welcome addition to our school and will allow us to further strengthen the opportunities for a number of students with disabilities to gain the support they need to access a quality learning environment.

Welcome to our new staff members
The beginning of the school year also gives us the opportunity to welcome new staff members to Moss Vale Public School. At Thursday morning’s assembly, I had the pleasure of introducing teachers Mr Straughan (Out of Home Care Teacher), Mrs Beifield (6B), Mr Hutt (4H), Mrs Reardon (Senior IO Class), Mrs Preedy (KP) and Mrs Long (Reading Recovery Teacher and RFF Stage 1) and Mr Budden (School Counsellor) to our school community. I’m sure they will bring their own professional strengths to their respective roles and find working with our Moss Vale students highly rewarding.

In addition, I wish to advise that Mr Hart has made the decision to retire from teaching and therefore, I would like to acknowledge his valued contributions to the education of our children during his time at the school. Mrs Carter, our extraordinary School Learning Support Officer also made the decision to retire and we also acknowledge her outstanding support of our students over many years at the school. Mr Sims (School Counsellor) is on leave this year, whilst Mrs Geary (School Counsellor) has undertaken a Learning and Engagement role for the year. Ms Stokes (4/5SD) has been successful in gaining a 2 day per week position as a teacher mentor for Better teachers: Better Beginnings. Mr Dawson will be teaching 4/5SD on Monday and Tuesday.

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 and I will be Co-Principals of Moss Vale Public School. The full list of ‘Who’s Who’ can be found in the middle pages of this newsletter.

Volunteer Workshops
Volunteering is a great way to be involved in the life of the school and support your child’s success in learning. To support this, the school will be hosting the first workshop of the term for parents who wish to become volunteers in the classroom, canteen, library and sporting events during the year. The next workshop will be held on Tuesday, February 9, at 9.15am and will be conducted in the school staff room. If you are unable to attend this workshop there will be a number of these held during term and we will advise you of these through the school newsletter.

Parking Safely Near the School
Parking or stopping in the wrong place can put children’s lives at risk. The following behaviours put them at risk outside the school:

- Calling children across the road
- Dropping children on the wrong side of the road
- Leaving children in vehicle without adult supervision
- Double Parking
- Parking in a bus zone or driveway
- Making an illegal U-Turn

Please observe all road signage around the school and help make our school environment as safe as possible.

School Uniform
Pivotal to maintaining a positive school climate is the expectation that all students wear the Moss Vale School uniform. If this expectation is dropped then not long after, so too are other expectations like showing a willingness to be persistent and resilient and striving to be the best that one can be. The Moss Vale Public School uniform includes black school shoes. Your support in ensuring your child wears black school shoes is appreciated.

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**.

## Punctuation

The set of marks used to regulate texts and clarify their meanings, principally by separating or linking words, phrases, and clauses.

Punctuation is "the use of spacing, conventional signs and certain typographical devices as aids to the understanding and correct reading, both silently and aloud, of handwritten and printed texts." (Encyclopaedia Britannica).

Punctuation is used to create sense, clarity and stress in sentences. You use punctuation marks to structure and organise your writing. Punctuation shows how the sentence should be read and makes the meaning clear.

The rules of punctuation vary with language, location, register and time and are constantly evolving. Certain aspects of punctuation are stylistic and are therefore, the author’s (or editor’s) choice.
Moss Vale Public School Staff 2016

Principal  
Mr Laurie Connery
Deputy Principal  
Mrs Meredith Hines

Early Stage 1
KP  
Mrs R Preedy
KC  
Mrs E Clewett
KBS  
Miss J Bucknell & Miss J Simpson
KKH  
Mrs T Knowles & Ms R Harvey

Stage 1
1K  
Miss M Kennedy
1C  
Mrs C Coyle
1W  
Mrs N Wilkinson
1/2V  
Mrs C Vandenbergh (AP)
2B  
Mrs J Brookfield
2D  
Mrs P Diaz

Stage 2
2/3H  
Miss A Hadwell
3SC  
Mrs S Sreckovic & Mrs J Croudson
3/4B  
Miss T Bryon
4B  
Mrs L Brogan
4H  
Mr N Hutt
4/5SD  
Ms V Stokes (AP) & Mr B Dawson

Stage 3
5A  
Mrs D Snodgrass
5/6R  
Mr G Ryan (AP)
6P  
Mr B Phillips
6B  
Mrs L Belfield

Support
KD  
Mrs K Davies
1/3B  
Mrs L Bellach (AP)
4/6A  
Mr C Armstrong
K/2E  
Miss A Evans
3/6R  
Mrs D Reardon
3/6M  
Mrs A McCunn
EIU  
Mrs N Churchill

Librarian  
Mrs C Gardiner
RFF  
Mrs N Carroll
LAST  
Mrs J Ryan
RR  
Mrs L Pratt (AP)
RR/RFF  
Mrs Carolyn Long
IT  
Mrs S Lintern

School Administrative & Support Staff
Administrative Manager  
Miss M Wilson
Administrative Officer  
Mrs L Ebeling
Administrative Officer  
Mrs T Webb
Learning & Support  
Mrs L Webb
Learning & Support  
Ms M Rose
Learning & Support  
Ms D Robinson
Learning & Support  
Mrs J Miller
Learning & Support  
Ms C Ewen
Learning & Support  
Mrs P Burke
Learning & Support  
Mrs M Burke
Learning & Support  
Ms K Eldridge
Learning & Support  
Mrs P Higson
Learning & Support  
Mrs L Moore
General Assistant  
Mr P Bowditch

Itinerants
Hearing  
Mrs K Snaith
Hearing  
Mrs S Schymitzek
Out of Home Care  
Mr D Straughan
Counsellor  
Mr T Budden

Festival of Instrumental Music - Opera House Recorder
Expression of Interest

Once again students in Years 3 to 6 from Moss Vale Public School have the opportunity to participate in the Festival of Instrumental Music (FOIM) Mimosa Concert at the Sydney Opera House on Thursday 25 August 2016. Students who are interested are asked to attend a meeting during **Break 1 on Tuesday 9 February** in Ms Byron’s room. Further information regarding the commitment and rehearsal schedule involved in performing will be provided.

Championship Division Winners - Chess

Last year students from Moss Vale Public School competed in Chess competitions at Tudor House. In the Highlands Zone there were two Championship Grade divisions. Our school won one of these divisions and were awarded trophies as Championship Division Winners. Our team then moved forward to compete in the zone final against Tudor House to which they were defeated. Well done to Heath Robertson, Rohan Touma, Jake Davies and James Smith!
Welcome to our new 2016 Kindergarten students

KP students developing their fine motor skills.

KBS students locating letters on their word wall.

KC students sitting on the floor listening to a story.

KKH students using magnetic letters to make words.

KKH students in the reading corner looking at books.

KKH students using Cuisenaire rods.

KBS students talking about themselves to their peers.

Come along to our Parent Information Session to find out more about our new school routines and what we are learning in Kindergarten.

Tuesday 9 February 3.15pm
Let’s Get It Sorted

Our school vegetable garden is a wonderful way to use a section of our playground as a classroom. It connects students with the natural world and the true source of their food, as well as, teaching them valuable gardening and agricultural concepts and skills that integrate with several subjects.

Our school vegetable garden also develops and promotes:

- Food scraps as a resource not a waste
- Growing your own food reduces packaging waste
- Student’s knowledge about healthy lifestyle choices
- Student’s understanding of seasonal foods
- Student’s knowledge of plants and living things
- Student’s knowledge and experience of foods
- Social and personal responsibility
- A rich vocabulary
- Student’s understanding of sustainable practices
- Student’s cooking skills and healthy eating habits

Students in 1/3B had the pleasure of picking zucchinis from our vegetable garden and turning them into delicious muffins which all the students thoroughly enjoyed.

Parent Tip for the Week

Growing your own organic food is easier than you think and will save you time and money for years to come.

Create your own vegetable garden and experiment with different seedlings.
Welcome

On behalf of your P & C, we welcome all new families to our school. We hope that you and your children settle in well, make new friends and build precious memories.

Perhaps you’re wondering what the P & C is all about and why it might be relevant to you?

The purpose of a P&C Association is to;

- promote the interests of the school by bringing parents, citizens, pupils and teaching staff into close cooperation;
- assist in providing equipment required by the school;
- report to the Minister the material requirements of the school;
- assist the teaching staff in establishment of school policy and management in all facets of school activity.

Membership of P&C associations is open to all members of the school community: parents, teachers and citizens.

We meet once a month, generally alternating between daytime and evening meetings. Some people come to keep informed, some to get involved occasionally and some come to form new friendships and expand their experience in a practical and positive way, which can benefit the whole school community. You can choose to participate in the P & C in whichever way interests you. Dates of our next meeting are always in the newsletter and you are welcome to email us any time mossvalepandc@gmail.com

Interested in Whole-of-School Wellbeing?

Whether you are a parent with a child just starting Kindergarten or have been part of the school community for some years, here is a great opportunity to connect, share knowledge, resources and experiences to develop a school culture which supports conditions that allow all staff, parents and students to flourish on our journey towards a purposeful and meaningful life.

The proposed “Wellbeing Committee” is a developing special interest group that will be seeking endorsement from the MVPS P&C to form a new subcommittee this year. This proposed subcommittee would incorporate all the functions of the existing Special Needs and Parent Support (SNAPS) Sub-Committee, but would operate under the broader framework of a whole-of-school positive-education approach to teaching and learning for all students. This committee would aim to support the school to produce well-educated, well-rounded, resilient individuals of all abilities who are capable of flourishing.

Any parents or carers with an interest in this area are welcome to attend a meeting at the school on Wed 17/2/16 at 11.00 am to open up conversations about positive education, take our understanding of wellbeing to new depths, bounce ideas off each other and share experiences with staff, other parents, service providers and the wider community.

The proposed Wellbeing sub-committee would continue organising SNAPS activities, such as the annual parenting seminar on how to help your child develop essential social and emotional life-skills. However, it would also seek to liaise with the school’s Social Handprint working group to support practices that build a flourishing school where all students are provided with the best support possible to develop the skills of wellbeing, build mental health, discover their strengths of character and put them to use.

A Wellbeing sub-committee would continue to support school practices which allow all students to feel safe to be themselves, valued for their own unique character strengths, and encouraged to develop the beliefs, skills and resilience necessary to successfully face the challenges that are a normal part of school life. The focus of this sub-committee would include the wellbeing, strengths and abilities of all members of the school community including teachers and parents, as it takes a healthy community to raise a healthy child.

If you have an interest in how the school could be supported to further embrace wellbeing you are welcome to join us for a discussion of the aims of this proposed sub-committee at a meeting on:

Wednesday 17/2/16, 11.00am-12.00pm  Venue: MVPS Main Office, Browley St.
Younger children are welcome under your supervision and morning tea/refreshments will be provided. For further information or to RSVP please contact the committee coordinator on Email: mossvalesnaps@gmail.com or mob: 0401350461.
COMMUNITY NEWS

Moss Vale Soccer Club 2016 Winter Comp Junior
Registration now open. Registration can be completed online at www.myfootballclub.com.au or by attending the registrations sessions at the Church Road soccer fields on:
- Tuesday 2 February 5.00-6.00pm
- Saturday 6 February 12.00-2.00pm
- Tuesday 9 February 5.00-6.00pm
More information visit www.mvsc.org.au or contact Cathie 0408 802 201

Riding the Wave Surf Life Saving Program is an opportunity for children with disabilities to join a modified Nippers program. Sundays from 21 February to 13 March 2016. Cost is free. 1 hour morning session for 6 years and over up to young adults. 1:1 ratio instructor/child. Surf Life Saving Clubs: Towradgi, Bellambi, Woonona, Bulli and Coledale. Bookings close 15 February 2016. For more information or to enrol contact 4228 5355.

Lost Property
Lost property is located near the canteen. Items that are clearly labelled with names are returned to student’s classes regularly, however there are many items without names. All items not collected by Wednesday 10 February will be donated to the clothing pool or to charity.

Clothing Pool
The clothing pool is open:
- Monday 2.30-3.00pm
- Tuesday 2.30-3.00pm
- Wednesday 8.30-9.00am

Canteen
The Snack Shack is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Orders need to be placed before 9am and can be submitted online through flexi-schools or placed in the box outside the canteen.