1W enjoying a library lesson with Mrs Gardiner
Dear Parents and Friends of Moss Vale Public School

School Evacuation Procedures
No doubt you would have been alarmed to learn that the school enacted its evacuation plan as a precaution last Thursday. This was due to us receiving a threatening telephone message. Fortunately, we were able to secure all students and staff at our external assembly point and all were accounted for. Police attended as a precaution and later deemed it safe to return to school for normal classes to continue. I would like to congratulate our students for the way in which they responded to the directive to evacuate and acknowledge the school staff on how they supported the children so well. I would also like to thank those parents who took the time after school that day to express their appreciation for our efforts in ensuring that all students were safe and reassured during this action.

I would like to emphasise that whilst we will reassure parents about what is happening as soon as possible, our priority will always be to make sure everyone is safe and secure. For this reason, I would remind you to download the School App. if you haven’t already done so, as alerts and messages are regularly communicated via this medium.

Please be aware that we regularly practice and review our evacuation, lock down and lock out procedures during term.

The Tell Them From Me Student Feedback Survey
I am delighted that this term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education initiative: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices. More information about the survey is available at: http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents

The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 14 March and 8 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the consent form to school by Friday 4th March 2016. The FAQs and copies of the consent form, including translated consent forms, are available from the website above.

Parent Information Meetings
These meetings, held over the last two weeks for each stage, provided parents with an opportunity to meet with their child’s teacher and learn about the learning plans for the year. The meetings also informed parents of class routines, timetables and equipment needs of the class their child is placed. To assist those parents unable to attend these meetings, Stage Leaders have produced an information sheet which outlines important details presented at the meetings.

School Jargon
It takes a community to raise a child
Laurie Connery, Principal

Is Your child in a Composite Class?
‘Multi-age’ or ‘composite’ classes are a necessary pattern of organisation in many government and non-government schools across NSW and Australia, especially in rural areas. They will continue to be a significant proportion of classes formed in NSW schools. While in larger schools, forming classes by years is the more common practice, multi-age classes are usually formed because of the uneven pattern of enrolments at the school. Sometimes, however, these classes are formed for educational reasons in schools where it is considered that mixing children of different ages is educationally and socially advantageous. There is an increase in the number of schools choosing to introduce multi-age class groupings on the basis of the belief that they provide a better match structurally with a curriculum grounded in developmental learning principles. Given that the curriculum is organised from Kindergarten to Year 6 in stages with related learning outcomes, this has encouraged some schools to arrange their classes on the basis of stages rather than ages.

Research continues to confirm that multi-age classes do not disadvantage students academically and may benefit them socially and emotionally. Moreover a growing number of teachers and principals believe that forming multi-age classes on sound educational principles (rather than as just a reaction to administrative necessity) results in academic benefits to students. Some teachers, particularly those teaching a multi-age class for the first time, reported an additional workload. Others who identified as predominantly student centered in approach did not believe that multi-age classes created more work than a “straight” Year class, where the teacher was balancing whole-class activities with flexible group activities to address a range of abilities and interests. The range of academic abilities in a “straight” Year class could be wider than that in a multi-age class, depending on the criteria for placing students in the multi-age class.
# Coming Events Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
<th>Sunday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb Week 4</td>
<td></td>
<td>15 Competitive Swimming Carnival</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17 West Tigers visit Wellbeing committee meeting 11am S1 Parent Information 4pm</td>
<td>18 Last day to pay District Swimming Assembly S3 12.40pm</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb Week 5</td>
<td>22 District Swimming</td>
<td>23 Year 6 Taster Day MVHS</td>
<td>24 Scripture starts</td>
<td>25 Volunteer’s Workshop 9.15am Book Club orders due</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar Week 6</td>
<td>29 National Young Leaders Day</td>
<td>1 Assembly S1 2pm</td>
<td>2 School Photos - All students to bring envelopes today</td>
<td>3 Assembly S3 12.40pm S2 2pm</td>
<td>4 S2 &amp; S3 Recreational Swimming S1 Moss Vale Show</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar Week 7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10 Assembly ES1 11.50am</td>
<td>11 ANZAC Performance</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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## School Contributions Due

These payments are made to the school by each family to provide much needed resources for our children. The contributions are allocated to each grade K - 6. The contribution amount is determined in consultation with the P & C Assoc. We encourage you to do so as soon as possible. This will ensure that we will be able to provide the best possible resources for your children. **The contributions are $35 for the first child or $55 per family.**

Parent Online Payments are our preferred payment method. Payments are made using either a Visa or MasterCard credit or debit card on a secure payment page, hosted by Westpac. The site is accessed via our school website by selecting the $ Make a Payment link. Cash/ Cheque also accepted at the front office.

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## Important Aspects of Writing

### Punctuation

Punctuation is used to create sense, clarity and stress in sentences. You use punctuation marks to structure and organise your writing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Punctuation Mark</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>.</td>
<td>A full stop should be used to end a sentence. The full stop indicates that a point has been made and that you are about to move on to further explanations or a related point. Examples: The house is made of bricks. On the weekend I went shopping with my mum and we had lots of fun together.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>?</td>
<td>The question mark simply indicates that a sentence is asking a question. Examples: Is it playtime yet? When are we going to the zoo to see the penguins?</td>
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<tr>
<td>!</td>
<td>An exclamation mark indicates strong feeling within a sentence, such as fear, anger or love. It is also used to accentuate feeling within the written spoken word. Examples: Stop! Police! The bus is early today!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“ ”</td>
<td>Quotation or speech marks are used to mark out speech or when quoting someone else’s speech. Examples: &quot;I hope you will be here,&quot; John said. Bill said, &quot;That job we started last April is done.&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sydney Swans Visit

Last Tuesday our students in Stage 2 and stage 3 were visited by players from the Sydney Swans AFL team. The players spoke to the students about the game of Australian Rules Football, positive things about playing a team sport, what is it like to be a professional sportsman, the importance of education in allowing you to achieve your goals and the benefit of regular exercise and eating nutritious foods.

Students from Stage 2 and 3 with Sydney Swans players Nick Smith and George Hewett.

West Tigers Visit

Yesterday, two players from the West Tigers visited our students to promote the wellbeing of students through sport and healthy eating. The students thoroughly enjoyed the visit and were very responsive to the discussion around physical fitness and health.

School Swimming Carnival

On Monday 15 February students participated in the school swimming carnival at Bowral Pool. It was a fantastic day and all the students are to be congratulated for their outstanding behaviour and sportsmanship.

Thank you to all the parents/carers, family and friends who attended the carnival to support the students from our school. A special thank you to those parents who assisted as time keepers on the day. It was greatly appreciated.

Congratulations to following students who will compete in the District Swimming Carnival on Monday 22 February: Will, Jayden, James, Tyson, Lachlan, Nicholas, George, Declan, Curtis, Kayne, Kye, Izaak, Harrison, Mitchell, Lachlan, Ashley, Charlotte, Mia, Willow, Safiya, Eva, Samantha, Ella, Mackenzie, Annabel, Jessica, Abigail, Grace and Keeley.

Wellbeing

Evidence suggests that a small improvement in wellbeing can help people thrive, cope through challenging times and prevent some mental health problems.

CONNECT

• Connect with the people around you.
• Connect with family, friends, colleagues and neighbour.
• Re-connect with those people important to you that you may have drifted apart from.

Think of these as the cornerstones of your life and invest time in developing them. Building these connections will support and enrich you every day.
Kindergarten students engaging in writing tasks and talking and listening activities.

Kindergarten students participating in TEN (Targeting Early Numeracy) activities. Students were making friends of 10.

For example:

- $8 + 2 = 10$
- $3 + 7 = 10$
- $6 + 4 = 10$
- $10 + 0 = 10$
- $1 + 9 = 10$
- $5 + 5 = 10$
The ladies from the community garden came to our school to demonstrate to our students how to make a paper pot plant and then how to plant seedlings in the pot. Students were then able to take their pot plant home and plant the seedlings in their own garden. Students learnt to cooperatively work on real tasks, participate in sensory experiences and explore the beginnings of food.

Parent Tip for the Week

Try planting some seedlings in your garden to initiate your very own vegetable garden. Seeing something emerging and growing from seed-soil-water-sunlight-newseed-food-preparation-eating-health, leads to a better appreciation of food and food waste.

Students from 3SC planted some seedlings in our vegetable garden. They applied their literacy and numeracy skills in practical situations.
Our P & C Appreciates Our Volunteers

As you may or may not be aware, our school’s P & C, like any other, is 100% volunteer run.

As a collective group of volunteers some of our responsibilities include:
- Maintaining open communication between the school and parents and carers.
- Running a healthy Canteen.
- Managing a basic Clothing Pool as well as Lost Property.
- Fundraising – we have funded educational tools, garden and play area improvements and purchased expensive equipment for the school, over the last few years, as well as supporting various smaller programs. We are now planning to provide a healthier, more environmentally friendly heating and cooling system for our students in their classrooms.

All of this is possible because we have dedicated volunteers who give their time to help our school.

Of course, we understand that not everybody is able to volunteer.

However, if you feel that you are able to contribute in any way to the P & C, whether you would like to hold a position on the committee or you’d like to help out for half an hour a week or even once a month, in the clothing pool, please put your hand up and join in. You and your time will be very much appreciated and you’ll have the extra benefit of knowing that you’ve made a positive contribution to the future of our school, for the sake of your children and the broader community.

Every now and then, I hear complaints about the way our P & C do things. So, I’d like to ask you to remember that all our helpers are volunteers and if you feel you can help us improve on our current systems and procedures, then we absolutely welcome you with open arms.

The way to do that is to make sure you are on our email list for P & C updates. If you haven’t already done so, you can email our secretary mossvalepandc@gmail.com to request updates. You will then receive the agenda for our AGM which is to be held on TUESDAY 8th MARCH at 7pm in the school library.

You can nominate for ANY position or simply have your say. We look forward to seeing you there.

With huge thanks to ALL our volunteers,
Tonia Krebs
MVPS P & C President

Thank you to some of our fete sponsors..
Raine and Horne Moss Vale for donating the amazing first prize stay in a Perisher Chalet!
Photo and Finish for some lovely prizes including frames and pictures
Services Club Bistro for 2 generous dinner vouchers
Coble Stephens Architects for a very generous gold sponsorship!
Ha Ha Hair for an exciting voucher to use instore!
Highland Lady for a couple of vouchers for their great clothes

Clothing Pool Update
Open Mondays 2.30 - 3.00pm only at this stage. Anyone who can volunteer 30 minutes regularly one morning or afternoon each week should contact Danise on 0411 261 805 to offer assistance. Any donated polo-tops are gratefully received. The clothing pool is no longer accepting old yellow t-shirts. Currently sold out of school bags. Bucket hats are available for $10.
Community News

Southland’s Care & Highlands Grace are working together to serve our local Highlands Community by opening a Moss Vale outlet for the $20 Food boxes from Soul Food Co-Op. Amazing value for money. Available to those who hold a current concession or Health Care Card. Distribution and Pick Up on Thursday mornings at Southlands Care Op Shop - Willow Drive, Moss Vale from 10am.

Taronga Zoo Mobile - Animals of the Dreaming is a program that combines Australian Animal encounters with Aboriginal Dreamtime Stories. Animal displays and performance by Col Hardy, an Aboriginal singer born and raised in outback NSW.

9 April 2016 from 10.30 - 2pm at the Aboriginal Cultural Centre 1a Rainbow Road, Mittagong.

Southern Highlands Netball Association Registration day 20 February 2016, Eridge Park Courts, 9.30am - 12.30pm. For online registration go to www.southernhighlandsna.nsw.netball.com.au or for more information email shnetball@gmail.com

Moss Vale Hockey Club To register, visit the Hockey NSW website, click the ‘participate’ tab and register with Moss Vale Hockey Club. For more information contact mossvalehockeyclub@outlook.com or contact Jackie on 0402 082 314.

Junior Rugby League Free 3 week program, including fun games, sausage sizzle and giveaways, Friday 26 February, 4 March & 11 March 2016 6pm - 7pm at Loseby Park Bowral. Register at www.playnrl.com

Bowral Blacks Rugby Registration 20 February 2016 at Bowral Rugby Club Eridge Park Burrawood from 1pm - 2.30pm. For more information visit www.bowralrugby.com.au

Moss Vale Soccer Club 2016 Winter Comp Junior Registration now open. Registration can be completed online at www.myfootballclub.com.au. For more information visit www.mvsc.org.au or contact Cathie 0408 802 201