



The News

Moree Public School

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EXCITED TO BE LEADING MPS!

Welcome back to a new school year at Moree Public School. A special welcome to the new families who have enrolled at our school this year. I am pleased to be joining Moree Public School as Principal in 2020.

The teachers and staff have been busy over the holidays and the last two weeks working hard to plan engaging, creative and rewarding learning experiences which meet the students' learning needs, support their wellbeing and challenge their thinking. 2020 promises to be another great year at Moree PS!

A warm welcome to the new staff members who have started this year. Mr Michael Thomas, Mr Daniel Bonora, Miss Michaela Atkins and Mrs Karen Cook. A complete list of teachers, support staff and classes will be published in the next newsletter.

New kindergarten students enjoyed a great start to 'big' school last week and their teachers were very pleased with how settled and ready they were to begin their learning journey at Moree Public.

Thank you to our P&C for their support in running the uniform shop!

Ms Sharyn Cox
Principal



2020 student leaders – Captains Lucy and Harry, Vice Captains Brydie & Mitchell and Prefects Rylee, Jeremy, Trixie and Benjamin enjoyed welcoming the new kindergarten families.



Ready for sports day each Friday!

2. COMMUNICATION

How can we all know what is going on? We have various methods by which we keep parents informed. The **school newsletter** is published each fortnight and is sent home with each child. Newsletters are uploaded on the website on Wednesday. Our **school website** is a valuable communication tool with a large amount of information about school policies and plans. Parents and friends can visit our website by either searching (Googling) *Moree Public School* or go to the following web address: <http://www.moree-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/>

Many parents have taken the opportunity to download the Moree Public School **Skoolbag App** for mobile phones. The **electronic school sign** provides information on events and school/student achievements. Messages change each Monday. Radio 2VM very generously presents **School News** each morning at around 7.10am. This may be a helpful reminder of daily events as your family is preparing for the day ahead.

We encourage all parents to take advantage of these avenues to be informed and avoid missing key events. Alternately, a phone call to school office personnel, Mrs Pilon, Mrs Nelson and Mrs Penfold will ensure that the appropriate staff member returns your call. The office is open from 8.30am through until 3.20pm. However, please be mindful that teachers cannot take calls during class time and will return calls after teaching.

Important Information ... MPS website: www.moree-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/

• Friday 14th February – MPS swimming carnival & Thursday 20th February – McKechnie Shield zone carnival

• Primary toilet upgrade commencing soon ...

2. UP AND READY ...

MPS has a very clear uniform policy and our students look fantastic in their correct summer uniform. The children especially look smart when wearing the school hat – the bucket hat being particularly functional. Thank you in advance for ensuring your child continues to wear correct school uniform each day.



Catching up with friends on our first day ...

3. SWIMMING CARNIVAL Yrs 3-6

A refreshing day at the pool scheduled for this Friday will launch a wonderful start to the 2020 sporting events. Student participation is always a feature and we look forward to some very close finishes in races, many PBs and perhaps some records being broken – best wishes to everyone!

Parents are welcome to assist during the carnival – there are always many jobs, so please go along and support your child.

4. BEST START

Kindergarten students are currently participating in the *Best Start Kindergarten Assessment* program. This assessment is designed to identify each student's literacy and numeracy skills and understanding at the beginning of kindergarten. Children come to school with different levels of literacy and numeracy. The teacher will look at each child's early reading and writing, their ability to communicate with others, and how they recognise and work with numbers, groups and patterns. The information gathered will guide the teaching of your child. It is very important to emphasise that the *Best Start Kindergarten Assessment* is not a test. Feedback from the assessment will be provided later in the term.

5. OUR SCHOOL DAY ...

Procedures at school are implemented to ensure optimum learning time within a safe and orderly environment. The following information is provided, particularly to assist our new families but also as a reminder for others.

When and where are we at MPS throughout the day?

8:30am Playground Supervision
 9:00am Morning Session
 11:00am Recess
 11:20am Middle Session
 12:50pm Lunch
 1:35pm Afternoon Session
 2:50pm Class dismissal

Parents are reminded supervision is not available prior to 8:30am, therefore students should not arrive at school before that time.

6. PARENTS VISITING SCHOOL

Moree Public School welcomes visitors to our school. We do however need to know who is in the school so we ask when parents and friends come to the school during the day, to present at the front office upon arrival. Parents and visitors should not go to classrooms or the playground. This is a requirement and is followed for the safety and security of all children and teachers.

Should parents need to drop off lunches or money for children the office staff will arrange for it to be delivered to the classroom. Likewise, if you need to collect your child for an appointment, please send a brief note to the teacher indicating the time. Your child will meet you at the school office. Should there be an unforeseen event, please present at the office and a staff member will make arrangements for you. Your assistance in following this procedure is appreciated.

7. ROAD SAFETY

Road Safety is everyone's concern and responsibility. The periods between 8:30am and 9:00am and between 2:40pm and 3:20pm are extremely busy times at the front of the school as parent and buses drop off and pick up children. Parents are reminded to abide by the parking signs at the front of the school. Cars dropping off children in the bus zone are in breach of the law. Please be very careful when crossing the road and model road safety by using the designated crossings. **Pedestrians must not use the taxi entrance gates nor cross the road between buses.**

8. MOBILE PHONES & TECHNOLOGY

Children should not bring mobile phones and personal technology such as iPads to school. The school is **NOT** responsible for lost, stolen or broken personal technology.

9. EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Can we contact you in an emergency? Are your details current? It is important that emergency contact details are up to date to ensure parents can be contacted promptly should your child become sick or injured. If you have changed address or your phone number, please advise the office immediately.

Updated medical information is also important for the care of your child. Parents of students who have allergies, medical conditions or other health issues, need to alert the school and provide documentation if special care is required. Where a child needs medication at school, parents must deliver the medication (in its original packaging with child's name) to the office along with written directions for administration.

10. ATTENDANCE

We want to see your child every day! Regular attendance at school is important for each child's education. Frequent absences from school can have serious academic and social implications for students. The school is required to check irregular attendance and report it to the appropriate people in the Department of Education for follow up by the Home School Liaison Officer.

A reminder that if your child is absent from school an explanation is required. Please ensure that you inform the school in writing of the reason for your child's absence from school. Your note should:

1. explain why your child missed school;
2. include how many days your child was away; and
3. include the date or dates.

Please remind your child to give the note to the teacher. If your child is going to be absent for an extended period of time a phone call is appreciated.

11. FOOD ALLERGIES

Healthy food options for school lunchboxes are numerous! **However, please do not send children to school with nut products.** Some children in our school are at risk of Anaphylaxis.

Anaphylaxis is a severe allergic reaction that is potentially life threatening. Food allergies are the most common cause of anaphylaxis. There is no cure for food allergy therefore avoidance of known food allergens is crucial. **Peanuts and tree nuts** are the foods most likely to cause anaphylaxis.

We ask you to support children at risk of anaphylaxis by:

- not sending food which has peanuts or tree nuts (eg hazelnuts, cashews, almonds etc) in the main ingredients list.
- teaching your child not to share food with friends that have a food allergy,
- encouraging your child to wash their hands after eating,
- asking your child to get help immediately if their allergic schoolmate gets sick, and
- explaining to your child that teasing a child with an allergy or tampering with their medication, is bullying and could be life threatening.

Moree Public School is supporting children at risk of anaphylaxis by:

- training staff,
- developing individual health care plans in consultation with health professionals and parents,
- encouraging children to wash their hands after eating,
- educating children about food allergies, and
- choosing not to sell food in the school canteen which contains nuts.

With everyone's help and co-operation we can continue to provide a safe environment that meets the needs of all our children.

12. P&C ASSOCIATION

• **MEETING:** The P&C meeting will be held on Monday, 17th February commencing at 6.00pm in the school library. Everyone is most welcome.

• **UNIFORM SHOP:** The uniform shop is kindly opened by volunteer co-ordinators, Mrs Debbie Hardman and Ms Erin Livet each Wednesday and Friday morning between 8.30 and 9.30am.

• **CANTEEN:** Congratulations to canteen manager, Mrs Melissa Lobsey and P&C canteen chair, Ms Naomi Berger who have worked hard to develop a menu and procedures that comply with the mandatory Healthy School Canteen policy.



Parents are advised that the ordering procedure continues as per 2019, either online or by dropping the order at the canteen upon arrival at school.



Year 1 excitement with children ready to learn ...



13. LIBRARY

The MPS library has a fantastic range of books and children are able to borrow during their weekly class visit and/or during second half lunch. A library bag is required to ensure books can be transported to and from school safely. The library staff is again co-ordinating the *NSW Premier's Reading Challenge* that is open to all students from kindergarten through to Year 6. An information sheet is attached outlining the procedure – a wonderful way to encourage reading!

Mrs Beattie - Librarian

14. HEALTH AWARENESS

Preventative measures greatly assist in minimising the spread of numerous childhood health concerns that may arise from time to time. Children are encouraged to wash their hands frequently at school and soap is provided in each of the bathrooms. *Head lice* is a common issue in all schools. Please be vigilant with regular checking, treat if required and notify the school office. Further advice with all of these matters can be obtained through your family doctor, pharmacist and/or the fact sheets on the NSW Ministry for Health website. These small measures will greatly assist in keeping all children and staff happy and healthy.



Skipping – a favourite playground activity...

15. COMING EVENTS – Term 1

Please check each week for possible variations or listen to local radio 2VM for the daily Harvey Norman Superstore School News segment a little after 7.00am.

Term 1

1	Mon	3	
	Tues	4	Staff resume
	Wed	5	Years 1-6 resume
	Thurs	6	Kindergarten commence
	Fri	7	
2	Mon	10	
	Tues	11	
	Wed	12	
	Thurs	13	
	Fri	14	MPS swimming carnival – Yrs 3-6
3	Mon	17	6.00pm P&C meeting - library
	Tues	18	
	Wed	19	B & G zone tennis trials
	Thurs	20	McKechnie Shield District swimming carnival
	Fri	21	
4	Mon	24	Young Leaders conference – Brisbane; B&G tennis trials
	Tues	25	
	Wed	26	
	Thurs	27	
	Fri	28	
5	Mon	2 March	Assemblies: 10.30 Yrs 1/2; 11.30 Yrs 3/6 Host classes TBC
	Tues	3	PSSA NW swimming carnival - Armidale
	Wed	4	
	Thurs	5	11.20 B hockey; G soccer; 1.00pm G hockey; B soccer
	Fri	6	Assemblies: 10.30 K; 11.20 Yrs 3/6
6	Mon	9	
	Tues	10	
	Wed	11	
	Thurs	12	5.30pm Kindergarten parents – meet the teacher
			Selective High School test (Yr 7 2020)
	Fri	13	Assemblies: 10.30am Yrs 1/2; 11.30 Yrs 3/6
7	Mon	16	6.00pm P&C AGM - library
	Tues	17	9.30 B&G northern soccer trials
	Wed	18	
	Thurs	19	11.20 Open & U 11 zone r league trials; 1.00 rugby union trials
	Fri	20	Assemblies: 10.30 K; 11.30 Yrs 3/6
8	Mon	23	Final B&G Nthn soccer trials
	Tues	24	
	Wed	25	
	Thurs	26	
	Fri	27	B & G reg hockey trials
9	Mon	30	Assemblies: 10.30 Yrs 1/2; 11.30 Yrs 3/6
	Tues	31	
	Wed	1 April	B northern cricket trials
	Thurs	2	
	Fri	3	Assemblies: 10.30 K; 11.30 Yrs 3/6
10	Mon	6	PSSA State swimming - Homebush
	Tues	7	
	Wed	8	
	Thurs	9	9.30am K-2 Easter hat and dancing display; Final day of Term 1
Holidays	Fri	10	Good Friday
	Mon	13	
	Tues	14	
	Wed	15	
	Thurs	16	
	Fri	17	
	Mon	20	
	Tues	21	
	Wed	22	
	Thurs	23	
	Fri	24	Moree Show
	Sat	25	ANZAC Day – Moree PS participating in community Service
	Sun	26	Moree Show
Term 2			
1	Mon	27	Staff Resume Term 2
	Tues	28	Students resume; 10.00 ANZAC Service at MPS
	Wed	29	Final rugby league trials
	Thurs	30	Final B cricket trials
	Fri	1 May	

Dates to remember! More events to be added in next newsletter as they come to hand ...

- Kindergarten parent meeting - Wednesday 12th March at 5.30pm
- P&C AGM - Monday, 16th March 2019 commencing 6.00pm at the MPS library