Principals Message

Wonderful news parents! Our school has been invited to perform at the official opening of the Margaret Olley Art Centre at the Tweed Regional Art Gallery on Saturday 15th March. Margaret was a former student at Murwillumbah in the 1930’s. Around 800 guests will be attending this event including the Governor of NSW Mrs Marie Bashir and the Federal and NSW Minister’s for the Arts.

38 children have been selected as part of a special school choir. They will perform an Australian School Medley and the National Anthem on the day. Students have already commenced rehearsals with Mrs Armour and are looking forward to this wonderful opportunity which will no doubt, stay with them for many years to come.

At every Wednesday whole school assembly, I like to talk to the children about different values that all staff like to reinforce with our students at Murwillumbah. It is also an opportunity for parents to reinforce these values at home each week. On Wednesday this week, the focus will be on being RESPONSIBLE. Responsibility involves children taking care of their things, being accountable for their actions and trustworthiness.

Why is being responsible important?

Responsibility is being dependable when students have things to do such as homework, projects or jobs around the house.

Responsible students:

• Understand and accept consequences for their actions and try to correct their mistake
• Complete homework and classroom tasks
• Clean up after themselves
• Do the “right thing” and apologise if they are wrong
• Help others in need
• Persevere without giving up
• Understand the effect they have on others.

At lunchtime, children have the opportunity to play quiet games in the Hall.
School News

• deciding which school you would like your child to attend – we recommend consulting the website of the high school of your choice for information regarding non – local applications and information evenings
  • completing the Expression of Interest for placement at the school of your choice – this is to be completed and returned to Mrs Power (Assistant Principal)
  • completing an Application to Enrol sent to you by the school offering your child a place – this will be sent to you in term 2 or term 3
  • following consideration of your application by the school principal, you will be advised if your child’s application has been accepted.

HOMEWORK HELP
Do you struggle to understand your child’s homework? Does your child need to practise their spelling and times tables? Are you looking for inspiration for projects and assignments?
The free School A to Z app has been created by the Department of Education and Communities to help parents and their school-aged children, wherever and whenever they have homework and study questions.
Find out more: http://www.schoola-toz.nsw.edu.au/about/mobile-applications/school-a-to-z

WHEN LUNCH COMES HOME UNEATEN
Almost nine out of 10 Australian parents say children’s resistance is a major obstacle in their efforts to provide a healthy diet, and in many cases school lunches are one of the battlegrounds.
But it’s a battle families can do without and there are some simple steps to help avoid it.

VISITORS AND VOLUNTEERS PLEASE SIGN IN
It is a Work Health and Safety requirement that anyone who is working, volunteering or is a visitor at our school, must sign in at the office and wear a visitor badge while you are here. Please then sign out as you leave.

www.murwillumb-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

GREAT WORK!
Congratulations to the following students who have come to my office to show me their fantastic work during the last two weeks. It is always a highlight of my day to see these children. KL-Noah, Hudson, Charlie, Caleb, Alyssa, David KR- Nikita, Mia, Finnian, Will and Jack. 1SA- Sarah and Rory. 1W-Aurelia, Maighsi, Lily, Thomas, Cowan, Riley, Ava, Ryleigh. 2/3P-Avalon, Charlie, Cedar, Emma, Chloe, Therese, Taya

SCHOOL PHOTOS!
A reminder that next Tuesday 11th March, the following school photos will be taken. Family photos, groups and leaders. Thank you for your support.

MOVING TO A SECONDARY SCHOOL
In NSW, students are required to continue education and training, gain full-time paid employment, or a combination of education/training and employment until at least age 17. All students must complete Year 10 of secondary school.

Shortly, our school will be providing to each Year 6 student and parent a copy of Moving into Year 7 in a NSW government school in 2015 – an information guide and Expression of Interest form for parents and carers.
Parents are required to complete the Expression of Interest and return it to the school on or before Friday 21 March 2014. There are four steps to enrolling your child in Year 7:
• deciding which school you would like your child to attend – we recommend consulting the website of the high school of your choice for information regarding non – local applications and information evenings
• completing the Expression of Interest for placement at the school of your choice – this is to be completed and returned to Mrs Power (Assistant Principal)
• completing an Application to Enrol sent to you by the school offering your child a place – this will be sent to you in term 2 or term 3
• following consideration of your application by the school principal, you will be advised if your child’s application has been accepted.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MERIT AWARD WINNERS FOR WEEK 5 TERM 1:
KL: Sienna, Charlie
KR: Jack, Jordan
1SA: Jordan, Cree
1W: Lincoln, Maighsi
2/3G: Skye, Anna
2/3K: Dorian, Tristan
3/4H: Maddie, Griffin
5/6K: Thomas, Jade
5/6P: Chloe, Alexander
Computers: Mackenzie, Finnian
Library: Clare, Kathleen
Mr Stowe: Ellie, Nik

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MERIT AWARD WINNERS FOR WEEK 6 TERM 1:
KL: Noah, Riley
KR: Kase, Keiralee
1SA: Ruby, Lily
1W: Ryleigh, Bree
2/3G: Noah, John
2/3K: Stacee, Stella
3/4H: Xanthia, Claire
4/5F: Jordan, Jorja
5/6K: Taliah, Harley
5/6P: Cate, Therese
Library: Taylah, Sienna
Computers: Hudson, Griffin
Mr Stowe: Josh, Danika
Mrs Anderson: Lily, Summer

Progression of Awards
4 merit certificates = 1 Principal Award
3 Principal awards = 1 Silver Award
3 Silver awards = 1 Gold Award

Children receive Merit Certificates at the primary/infants assembly. Children who receive a silver award will be presented with these at the whole school assembly held each week. Children receiving a Gold Award will have their photo taken with the Principal and published in the school newsletter. Gold Awards are presented on Presentation Evening.

Regards
Les Daley

This includes parents who are helping out in classrooms, reading with students or helping to run our school canteen.
Thank you for your help and understanding in keeping our students, and you, safe.

SCHOOL MERIT AWARD SYSTEM
At Murwillumbah Public School we acknowledge the hard work, excellent behaviour and attitude and outstanding effort applied by students through our merit award system. Teachers award merit certificates to students who are seen to be going ‘above and beyond’ what is expected of them, or are trying exceptionally hard at school. These awards are presented at our weekly assembly.
When a child has achieved four merit awards, they will then be presented with a Principal Award. When a child has earned three Principal awards, they will receive a silver award. After receiving three silver awards, students will be presented with a Gold Award (Plaque).

We encourage all students to strive to achieve their personal goals, and feel proud of what they have accomplished in all areas of school life.
School News

SCIENCE
On Friday the 7th of February 1SA had the opportunity to conduct some experiments with Ms Turnbull, an experienced and dedicated science teacher from Murwillumbah High School. She taught the children about solids, liquids and gases. She discussed the three states of matter and their properties. The children were exposed to a number of experiences such as an interactive Powerpoint and hands on activities including an interesting, exciting and ‘messy’ Magic Mud experiment.

KEEPING UP WITH OUR BUSY SCHOOL!
As well as our fortnightly newsletter, our school website and facebook site are great ways to keep up to date with what’s happening here at school. Unlike the newsletter the website and facebook page are updated weekly, sometimes even daily.

Our website hosts an abundance of information from school policies and DEC advice to our latest newsletter, calendar of events and news articles. We even have sections of the website dedicated to educational computer games, the P&C Committee and Canteen.

For those social media users liking our school facebook page ensures you can celebrate your student’s successes and achievements right as they are occurring. Photo’s of quality student work, special assemblies and exciting events are posted onto our facebook page on a very regular basis. Currently we have almost 100 likes on our page but hundreds more see our posts and photo’s each week as they are shared and liked throughout social media.

If you would like to keep up to date with what’s happening at our school in between newsletters please visit our website at http://www.murwillumb-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/ or like our facebook page https://www.facebook.com/MurwillumbahPublicSchool Thankyou for your interest and appreciation!

P & C News

Thank you to all those who were involved with the P&C in 2013, and we look forward to your continued support in 2014. I would like to personally thank Natalie Hall for all she has done in her role as president for the past three years, and I am very grateful that she has decided to remain a part of MPS P&C for 2014. Our AGM last week saw a change in the executive positions, with some new faces putting their hands up.

President: Sonya Taylor
Vice President: Courtney Cowderoy
Amanda De Lyon
Treasurer: Rebecca Inglis
Secretarial
Minutes: Megan Lindsay
Correspondence: Jasmine Bennett
Social: Naomi Kingston
The three Delegate Officers for MPS remained the same with Natalie Hall, Amanda De Lyon and myself taking up the roles for 2014.

Following the AGM; we held the February meeting for MPS P&C. The following areas were covered:
• An overview of the Small Schools Conference recently held in Byron Bay
• The Principals Report
• The Music Program Overview
• The donating of P&C Funds to the school for pin boards to be put in more classrooms
• The setting of the School Voluntary Payment rates for 2015
• And, lots of general discussion.

Our March Meeting will be held on Wednesday 26th March @ 6:30pm in the School Library. There is tea & coffee and usually a sweet treat or two!! A brief agenda will be put in the next newsletter. We hope to see your there, Sonya

Canteen News

Thank you to the parents who have put their name down to do canteen. It is very much appreciated by your child and myself.

Each term I try to have a fun day for the children, and this term it is going to be St Patricks Day on Monday March 17th. This will involve all things GREEN as well as celebrating with Irish shenanigans! Lots of green food, fruit, wraps and ice blocks as well as all the treats. This is the one day that the children can buy different treats. So please support your canteen that day. Hopefully prices can be kept to a minimum with most items from 50c to $1.

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<td>Monique R</td>
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If you are unable to do canteen on your rostered day please notify Debbie (0422698542) or the School ASAP, so a replacement can be found.
**Stop, Drop and Roll!**

K-3 students were in for a special treat last week when Fireman Phil and his team from the Murwillumbah Fire Station visited the school to share a very important safety message.

Students learnt about the difference between safe and unsafe fires and how to respond in an unsafe environment. Students learnt to “Get down low and Go, Go, Go!” if they find themselves in a building on fire, and to “Stop, Drop and Roll!” if part of their body or clothing catches fire. Students also learnt to call 000 if they see an unsafe fire, 112 can be called from mobile phones even when out of service or credit.

Fireman Phil recommends each family puts in place an emergency fire plan, which includes checking the batteries in your smoke alarm, talking about how to safely exit your home and agreeing on a designated meeting point outside of the home, such as your letterbox.

After some very serious discussions about fire safety students were very excited to look at the fire engine and each have a turn using the big fire hose!

We would like to thank Fireman Phil and his team, in particular Damien Freeman, who gave up his day off to share these important messages with us. If you need any further information about fire safety please visit the home fire safety website at: https://www.fire.nsw.gov.au/page.php?id=879.

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**CALENDAR**

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School Holidays 14th April 2014 - 24th April 2014
Staff Development Day - Monday 28th April 2014
Students return to school Tuesday 29th April 2014

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**Community News**

**BUILDING BRIDGES**

The onward journey from early years support. An information expo for parents of kids with additional needs 0-8. Friday 14th March 9:30am - 2:30pm at The Family Centre Tweed (16-17 Rivedell Tweed Heads South) Morning Tea, Lunch and limited childcare provided.

**DO YOU HAVE A CHILD IN YEAR 4, 5 OR 6**

In 2001 the Government introduced the ‘First Child Tax Offset’ and surprisingly many Australians did not know about it and have NOT claimed any benefits. If you have ANY child that was born between 1 July 2001 and 30 June 2004 you may be eligible to receive up to $12, 500 of entitlements. The government has a deadline of 30 June 2014, so please email childoffset@twelve.com.au today to receive more information.