



Newsletter

A small school where big things happen...

Week 10, Term 3

Wednesday, 20 September 2017

Upcoming Events

Sept

Fri 22 Band performance, Wollongong

Last day of term

Oct

Mon 9 School resumes for staff & students

Tue 10 P&C meeting

Sat 14 Family photo day 1

Mon 16 Swimming scheme begins

Sun 22 Family photo day 2

Tue 24 Instrumental Festival

Nov

Wed 1 Kinder orientation begins

Fri 3 Obstacle

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MERCURY STORY

If you haven't yet seen our recent feature in the Illawarra Mercury, [you can view it here](#). The school has received an extraordinary amount of positive feedback from the wider community and that's something we should all be very proud of. Our school is held in very high regard within educational circles and the general Illawarra community.

STATE RUNNERS-UP

As you know, our Tournament of Minds team was crowned regional champions in the primary school engineering and mathematics challenge when we competed in Nowra.

The team went on to compete at the NSW state championships at UNSW and was up against a quality field from the public, private and independent sectors.



Our team was given a challenge to solve and then perform, with only three hours in which to prepare. The performance occurred in front of a large audience in a university lecture theatre.

Congratulations to Lucas F, Bridget B, Jessie V, Nick O, Bellana F, Yadin H and Kataraina P for their outstanding creative talent, intellect and team skills. They were awarded state runners-up in the primary engineering and mathematics challenge!



SURVEY RESULTS

We had a fantastic response to our recent planning survey with a total of 74 families returning the survey. Those families represented a broad cross section of cultural backgrounds within our school community, as well as a broad range of student ages.

The survey was divided into three sections. The first asked parents to rate the importance of various qualities and skills that students should learn. The second focused on rating how important various qualities of the school culture and school environment were to parents. The third sought opinions about the importance of different skills and qualities expected of teachers.

The overwhelming majority of responses for every survey item (in many cases 100% of respondents), indicated that what we were asking about was valued by parents as either highly important or absolutely essential. There was no strong or consistent survey data to suggest that the school should be delivering education differently to the way it does.

As a result, the school plan for the next three years will be framed around the survey content. A small planning committee of teachers and P&C members will draft a new school plan, with focuses in learning, teaching and the school environment, based on what we know to be well supported directions and ideas. The plan will be ready for feedback in Term 4.



BAND PERFORMANCE IN THE MALL

A reminder that the band is performing in Wollongong Mall at approximately 1:30pm this Friday. Band tuition will still proceed as normal on Thursday (tomorrow), so children will need to bring instruments to school on both Thursday and Friday. We hope that you'll be able to come to the mall and cheer on the school band!

Students may come to school out of uniform on Friday, but should bring full school uniform in their bag, to wear for the performance.

FAMILY PHOTO DAYS

You have to be quick! That's the message with the family photo days we advertised via Skoolbag and social media last week, which completely sold out in less than 24 hours! Full details of the events may be found in this week's Community News which follows. Thank you to Jennifer Piazza Vello for donating her time and all of the session fees to the school. We really appreciate your support.

BAND FEES

Anyone with outstanding band fees is asked to make payment as soon as possible. Invoices have been sent home, but if you are unsure of how much you owe, please contact the school this week so accounts may be finalised. We appreciate band payment for the term in advance, if you are able to do so.



WEBSITE UPDATE

Photo galleries are regularly uploaded to our website. [Click here](#) for photos of our recent Outdoor Classroom Day. Please visit the Programs and Special Events pages of the [school website](#) for other recent galleries.

INSTRUMENTAL FESTIVAL

We will once again participate in the annual Instrumental Festival at UOW on Tuesday 24 October. Brass and woodwind players are also required to attend a massed band rehearsal at Helensburgh PS on Thursday 12 October.

All band members will have a daytime rehearsal on Tuesday 24th, with the evening performance beginning at 7:00pm. Adult tickets for the performance are \$20.

[Notes with information](#) and permission slips for both days have been sent home.

All band members K-6 are encouraged to participate in the Instrumental Festival. The Mount Ousley performance has been scheduled early in the program to allow for the early pick-up of younger students if required.



P&C MEETING

The next P&C meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 10 October, in the first week of Term 4. The meeting will be a great opportunity to catch up on all the latest happenings in the school, hear about fundraising plans and get updates on the canteen and uniforms.

Anyone wishing to raise an issue in general business is asked to please consider raising it with the relevant staff members prior to the meeting. This is often the best and most efficient way of getting a response and, if necessary, a resolution.

DOGS AT SCHOOL

Parents are asked to not bring dogs onto the school site. Dogs should be restrained outside the school, away from our pedestrian entrances and exits. Thank you for your cooperation.

MUFTI DAY

The last day of term is a mufti day, when students may come to school out of uniform. A gold coin donation is appreciated. All money raised will be passed on to the [Daniel Morcombe Foundation](#), which aims to raise awareness about keeping children safe.

SAVE THE DATE

[Obstacool](#) is returning to MOPS on Friday 3 November! More information will follow, but please save the date. Parents and toddlers are welcome to join us for the day.

CANTEEN ROSTER

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

| | | |
|-------|----|------------------|
| Wed | 20 | Amy W |
| Thurs | 21 | Jenny L |
| Fri | 22 | Leanne N & Mel H |

| | | |
|-------|----|-------------|
| Wed | 11 | Anthea G |
| Thurs | 12 | Kimberley C |
| Fri | 13 | Katrina L |

| | | |
|-------|----|------------------|
| Wed | 18 | Kate H & Sarah B |
| Thurs | 19 | Sarah S |
| Fri | 20 | Andy L |

****Urgently needed - volunteers on Tuesdays for baking. Contact Amanda on 0410 587 499.**

Have a safe and happy holiday everyone. See you all next term!

Peter Holmes
Principal



RED MERIT AWARDS

- Kinder:** Isla S, Amber H, Amy A & Luke V
- K/1D:** Maggie B, Savannah C, Sam W & Will T
- Year 1/2C:** Jacob F, Decoda R, Emma B & Leo C
- Year 1/2F:** Cheye V, Ishym S, Onaya E & Mack S
- Year 2/3M:** Seattle B, Jed P, Desmond F & Ella M
- Year 3/4A:** Isaac V, Rade D, Nikita T & Holly P
- Year 3/4S:** Emma F, Amelia R, Fatimah M & Raihana S
- Year 5/6B:** Ben L, Erin T, Tien M & Jumana A
- Year 4/5/6S:** Lavanya C, Darby T, Jasmine R & Malachy R
- Library:** -



GOLD AWARDS

Gold awards were awarded to Daniah K, Gensun M, Obie R, Isaac L, Blake W x2, Hussain A & Tejasvi R
 Congratulations!



ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS' AWARDS

Congratulations Stefanie R for commitment to learning and Ayla H for being a passionate learner.



PRINCIPAL'S AWARDS

Congratulations to Ethan C and Jayke G for receiving the Principal's Award. Ethan and Jayke have been wonderful helpers who want to look after our school.



CLASS OF THE FORTNIGHT

The Class of the Fortnight was awarded to 1/2C. Congratulations!



CLASS ITEM

K/1D performed a special show about friendship. [Click here](#) to watch their performance. When we return next term, 2/3M will present at our first assembly.



MOPS FM

MOPS FM will be back next term!



KIDSPACE

Tournament of Minds

Congratulations Lucas F, Bridget B, Jessie V, Nick O, Bellana F, Yadin H and Kataraina P, who were state runners-up in the primary engineering and mathematics ToM challenge!



"Working with my teammates, I got to know my friends better. People I didn't used to spend much time with are now my friends. In the room at first I was happy and there was a real 'we can do this' kind of feeling. Then the worry set in when we thought we wouldn't be ready in time to perform. While we were waiting to present there was some self-doubt but afterwards it was pure joy!"

"I used to get stage fright but now I'm way more confident. I enjoyed the performance!"

"I was excited beforehand but then got a bit nervous when performing. We all felt pretty good about ourselves and I felt really proud. The best bit for me was doing the problem solving and working in a team. I was so thankful that the Year 6 kids knew what to do because they'd had experience last year. Next year, that'll be me!"

"The best part was getting to know the strengths of everyone in our team. We're now much better friends and we've got the whole

ToM experience in common with one another. It's pretty special!"

Some Sensational Artwork

Students in 2/3M have been busy showcasing their artistic abilities to usher in spring and create Australian landscapes.

Ada W and Ella M: "Every season we paint a new scene. For spring, we painted native plants and flowers. We used different techniques to create different textures and looks. We used cardboard squares, pom poms in pegs and both ends of a paintbrush."

Karim I and Seattle B: "We created different Australian landscapes using paint and oil pastels, with sponges and brushes."





jennifer vello
PHOTOGRAPHY & DESIGN

FAMILY PHOTO DAYS

Jennifer Piazza Vello has again arranged to take family photos over a couple of weekends in October. When we advertised the mini sessions a week ago via our Skoolbag app and social media, all of the spots filled in less than 24 hours!

[Details of the photo days](#) can be found here. A huge thankyou to Jenny for donating her time and all of the session fees to the school. Her generosity and support are very much appreciated.

We apologise if you were eager to book a session but missed out. Families may of course contact Jenny [via her website](#) to arrange photo shoots that are independent of our event.

