



Newsletter

A small school where big things happen...

Week 2, Term 1

Wednesday, 7 February 2018

Upcoming Events

Feb	
Tue 6	Canteen opens
Tue 13	P&C meeting
Fri 16	Reading meeting
Mon 19	First assembly
Thu 22	District swimming
Mon 26	Parent/teacher info sessions this week
Mar	
Thu 1	Band begins
Fri 2	Clean Up Day
Mon 5	School photos
Tue 6	Life Education
	Paul Kelly Cup

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WELCOME BACK

The 2018 school year is shaping up to be another exciting one. Welcome back; it's great to have you with us! Read about [the year ahead](#) on our website.

SCHOOL TIMES

Please note the following school times:

8:30am: No formal supervision of students exists prior to 8:30. Any student who occasionally arrives early should be seated inside until 8:30. Otherwise, please arrange before school care in the hall with Camp Australia (details below).

9:00am: School begins. Students should be ready to line up when the bell goes at 8:55. Please be punctual. It's a good idea to be here around 8:45.

11:30am: Lunch

1:50pm: Afternoon recess

3:00pm: School concludes. Any child waiting for a parent who is running late should remain inside the building near the school office.

CAMP AUSTRALIA

Camp Australia operates our Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) service and placements are now available from 6:30 to 8:30am and 3:00 to 6:00pm every school day in the assembly hall. Ashleigh is our onsite coordinator and she is happy to speak with parents about registration. Alternatively, visit [our website](#) for more information.

INFORMATION UPDATE

If any of your personal details have changed over the holiday period (address, telephone numbers, email address, emergency contacts, etc) please advise the school in writing so we can update our records.

STAFFING

This year we welcome back James Dixon, returning from teacher exchange in Canada. We also welcome Joanne Crawford and Chelsea Van Dragt. Chelsea will share a 3/4 class with Neil Bramsen on Thursdays and Fridays while Neil is working on other projects.

CLASSES

This year we again have nine classes, with a slightly different structure to that of last year. Our class structure is governed by the number of students we have enrolled and the Department of Education's staffing formula.

- K: Suzy Duncan
- K/1: Nathan Couchman
- 1/2: Sally Anderson & Ricki Hart
- 1/2: Wendy Myers & Kloe Millet
- 3/4: Joanne Crawford
- 3/4: Savanna Brule
- 3/4: Neil Bramsen & Chelsea Van Dragt
- 5/6: Laura Shorter
- 5/6: James Dixon

Tiffany Sinton will be covering a number of roles off class, including a new initiative which will see all students become active social entrepreneurs. Leanne Blanche is our learning support teacher and Susie Hamers is once again looking after the library.

ANAPHYLAXIS

Our school has a number of children who are anaphylactic, meaning that if they come into contact with the antigen they are hypersensitive to, they could suffer a life-threatening allergic reaction.

As a result, we ask that you be aware of two things. Firstly, children should never share food with anyone else at school. Secondly, we seek your cooperation in not sending nuts or nut products to school with your child.

Our aim is to keep each of our students safe and we can do that with your assistance. It would be helpful if you would discuss this at home. Thanks.

**READING MEETING**

A workshop has been organised for Friday 16 February at 9.00am in The Studio (come to the office if you're not sure where to find The Studio) for any parents wanting to know how they can assist their child with reading at home. The meeting will be run by Leanne Blanche, our learning support teacher. Leanne has a wealth of experience in learning support and has a long list of ideas you're bound to find useful in helping your child to learn to read.

This meeting will be followed by a session for any interested parents who'd like to help with reading at school. Leanne would like to train parents to become reading helpers in classrooms and we'd love as many parents as possible to become involved in the Rocket Reading and Multilit programs.

Rocket Reading has been running at MOPS for a number of years and targets younger children experiencing difficulties with reading. Multilit is designed more for older readers who find reading difficult. Please come along to find out what's involved. We need your help!

**ASSEMBLY**

Please join us for the first whole school assembly on Monday 19 February at 2:15pm in the hall. Assemblies occur fortnightly and parents are encouraged to attend.



BAND

Our school band will begin practising on Thursday 1 March, with tuition once again provided by staff from the Wollongong Conservatorium of Music. Anyone wishing to join the band is invited to have a chat with either myself or Tiffany Sinton. We can provide you with details about what you can expect from the program, which instruments are suitable to play and how to source an instrument. Any student from Kindergarten to Year 6 is able to participate. See [our website](#) for more.

Weekly tuition fees remain at \$10 and are payable in advance. There will be seven weeks of tuition this term (\$70 total cost).

An expression of interest note to join the band is available on request from the office. Alternatively, you can find it on the [Notes page](#) of our website.

CLASS INFORMATION SESSIONS

In the week beginning Monday 26 February class information afternoons will be held. You will be invited to visit your child's classroom to ask questions and be informed about class routines and expectations. Details of session times will be provided by class teachers. The sessions are designed to address things of a whole class nature, rather than being a forum for questions about individual children. Individual interviews should be arranged at a separate time.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

School photos are set to be taken on Monday 5 March. Information about what's available and cost will be sent home in the near future.

P&C MEETING

The first P&C meeting for the year is scheduled for Tuesday 13 February at 7.00pm in the 3/4B classroom. It's a general meeting; not the AGM which will be held in March. Please come along and take part in the school's decision making process. It would be great to have your company!

The main agenda item is the presentation of the Mount Ousley School Plan for 2018-2020. The plan was collaboratively constructed, and after a period of consultation is now ready for everyone to see. We'll take you through its history and explain what it means for our school. Hope you can join us!



PSSA TRIALS & CARNIVAL DATES

Dates for 2018 PSSA team trials and carnivals have been published on the [Notes page](#) of our website.

Generally, students in Years 5 & 6 only are nominated by the school to participate in the trials, to try to gain selection in representative sporting teams. Prior to each trial we invite expressions of interest from children who are highly skilled in that sport.

SCRIPTURE & ETHICS CLASSES

Scripture and Ethics classes started this morning. Ethics classes will again be offered K-6 to any child who does not attend Scripture, as long as we can locate volunteers to teach it. We have large numbers of families indicating a preference for Ethics, but at this stage we need more teachers. Do you know of anyone who may be able to commit to half an hour each Wednesday morning?

SPORTS HOUSE CAPTAINS

Congratulations to the following students who were elected as sports house captains.

Lawson

Captains: Shelley C & Alexander B

Vice captains: Bellana F, Jumana A & Aston R

Paterson

Captains: Georgia T & Darby T

Vice captains: Shilah T & Andy B

Gordon

Captains: Erin T & Blake W

Vice captains: Lexi P & Cooper W

Kendall

Captains: Talisha C & Max B

Vice captain: Arvin S

**SWIMMING CARNIVAL**

A huge thankyou to all of the parents who were able to help out at our school swimming carnival earlier in the week. We couldn't have done it without you! Students who have qualified for the Brokers District carnival will receive a note in the near future. The district carnival is scheduled for Thursday 22 February at Corrimal Pool.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION

In the unlikely event of having to evacuate our school site for any reason and not being able to return, our plan is for teachers to walk children to The Fraternity Club, Fairy Meadow (Tel: 4283 3333). In that circumstance, collection of children will be arranged from there. Parents will be notified via our Skoolbag app and our social media accounts, so make sure you follow us and have Skoolbag downloaded on your phone. In Skoolbag's settings, you may have to turn on notifications. A [help sheet](#) is available on our website.

1:1 DEVICES

Any student new to the 1:1 BYOD program and who intends using a school laptop or iPad will need to have a parent agreement signed before the device may be taken home. These will be sent home on request. In addition to the signed agreement, a \$250 refundable levy is required before any school machine is allowed to go home. Anyone who took a school device home last year does not need to pay or sign for it again.

Insurance is an important consideration for anyone who owns their own laptop or iPad. Please check that in the event of loss or damage your device is covered by your home contents policy. School insurance does not cover privately owned assets.

School devices are covered by Department of Education insurance, but not for accidental damage. Therefore, anyone taking a school device home that ends up damaged, will be asked to cover the cost of repairs or replacement. If this is a concern to you, school devices should be left at school rather than taken home.

**SKOOLBAG**

The Mount Ousley PS Skoolbag app is free to download. It's available from the App Store (Apple users) or Google Play Store (Android users). Simply do a search for our school name and you'll find it.

Skoolbag helps us to communicate more effectively through newsletter alerts, emergency alerts, reminders, changes to routine and the like. We therefore encourage every parent to download the app onto mobile devices.

WHSPA AUDITIONS

Applications are available from our school office for Year 6 students wishing to audition for a performing arts placement at Wollongong High School of the Performing Arts in 2019. Please contact us to have an application package sent home. Applications to audition close on Friday 9 March.

UNIFORMS

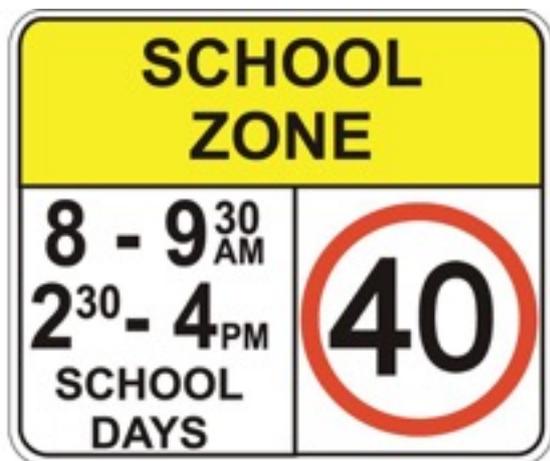
Green hair ribbons are available for purchase from the uniform shop, which is open every Thursday morning between 8:45 and 9:15. It is preferred that any hair ribbons worn to school are in school colours.

Hats are also available for purchase, for anyone who doesn't have a school hat.

We've had to change suppliers for our sports shirts and we're currently waiting on stock to arrive. If you don't have a sports shirt, please dress children in their regular Monday to Thursday polo shirt.

ROAD SAFETY

Thank you for helping to keep everyone safe!



DOGS

Please ensure that dogs are not brought onto the school site, nor tied up outside where they may impact on people leaving the school. Thank you very much for your cooperation.

CANTEEN ROSTER

FEBRUARY

Tue	6	Anthea G
Wed	7	Jess T
Thurs	8	Tareyn V, Katrina O
Fri	9	Katrina L, Alexandra H
Tue	13	Amy W
Wed	14	Kate H, Sarah B
Thurs	15	Sarah S
Fri	16	Andy L, Layla J
Tue	20	Anthea G
Wed	21	Amy W
Thurs	22	Jenny L
Fri	23	Leanne N, Mel H

The canteen is now open for business. We plan to operate the canteen every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, dependent on volunteers. If you are able to assist and have not yet approached the school, please complete and return the attached note. We need volunteers if we are to maintain the canteen service.

Our menu full of healthy choices is available on [our website](#).

It's great to see everyone again! Let the fun begin and let's make 2018 the best year ever!

Peter Holmes
Principal



CANTEEN HELP

Please complete and return this note or contact the school to register your interest.

I am happy to be included on the school's canteen roster once a month.

My preferred day to help is:

- Tuesday
- Wednesday
- Thursday
- Friday

Parent name: Mobile:

READING HELPERS

Please complete and return this note or contact the school to register your interest.

I am keen to attend the meeting for reading helpers on Friday 16 February at 9:00am.

Parent name: Mobile: