SEED HARVEST SPOOL

Coming Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 1 Week 7</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 8/3</td>
<td>Zone Swimming</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Wednesday 9/3 | School Banking – 8.30am  
|               | School Photos  (Sibling Photos – lunchtime)  
|               | Being Brave Incursion – 2-3pm                |
| Thursday 10/3 | Marsden HS Gala Day Yr 4, 5, 6               |
| Friday, 11/3  | Ride to School Day  
|               | Assembly – 9.00am - 3L                      |
|               | Sausage Sizzle – 3L Parents to assist       |
|               | NO PSSA                                      |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 1 Week 8</th>
<th>Health Harold Visits this week with his Life Education Van</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 14/3</td>
<td>3 Way Reporting with Student Teacher and Parent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 16/3</td>
<td>School Banking – 8.30am</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Thursday 17/3 | Mufti Day P&C fundraiser – donation for Easter Raffles  
|               | Tuckertime – Red – 3L                                  |
| Friday 18/3   | National Day of Action Against Bullying                 
|               | Cancer Council Parent  Food Workshop  9.00- 10.30 in Canteen |
|               | PSSA – vs Ryde PS – Ryde Oval                           |
| Saturday 19/3 | Street Parade Easter Fair West Ryde  9.00- 10.30 all welcome to walk |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 1 Week 9</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, 21/3</td>
<td>“Dreamtime Experience” Whole School – Parents Welcome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 22/3</td>
<td>NAPLAN Workshop – pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 23/3</td>
<td>Open Afternoon –Prospective 2017 Kinder Enrolments – 2.15-3.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, 24/3</td>
<td>Easter Raffle drawn – 9.00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, 25/3</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 1 Week 10</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 28/3</td>
<td>Easter Monday</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Term 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 4</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term 4</td>
<td>Presentation Day Thursday  December 8th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

At Melrose Park Public School we are Respectful Responsible Learners
Principal's Report
Would you believe the term is half over? It is wonderful to see all students settled into their learning spaces and working towards achieving their learning goals. The celebration of Easter is early this year which determines many of activities. Our first Mufti Day of the Year is Thursday 17th March. We come to school in play clothes and donate an item to the Easter Baskets. They then get raffled off on Thursday 24th March to lucky families in time to enjoy a four day Easter Break. We look forward to participating in West Ryde Easter Parade on Saturday 19th March. The West Ryde Chamber of commerce is very generous in prize money for the best Easter hat, the most decorated wheels and the best school participation. Come along and join in the fun.

From next week Monday 14th March, our Term 1 reporting period begins. This year we invite all students along to participate in a 3 way conference. Your child will lead the meeting to inform you about their learning goals, what they are doing well, areas that they are working on and how you can support them at home.

Fiji Fundraiser
Thank you to the many students who participated in this fundraiser to help the families in Fiji recover after the recent devastating cyclone. We collected $350 on the day and received an extra special family donation from the Smart Family who have first-hand knowledge of the devastation that occurred.

School Photos
Tomorrow our 2016 school photos will be taken. Class and individual photos will be taken along with sibling photos if requested. Band photos will be taken early in the morning and a whole school photo will also be taken to capture a moment in time at Melrose Park PS.

Student Invoices
We thank you for your patience regarding the late delivery of Student Invoices. In fact they could be called Semester Invoices as all incursions and excursions up until the end of June are itemised on your child’s account.

The General Resource fund is for the year is listed on your invoice at the beginning of each year. In a previous newsletter the General Resource Fee was itemised to include your child’s subscription to internet learning programs, books, papers, paint, diaries magazines that make up the daily needs of a student.

It is appreciated if term invoices could be paid promptly. If there are special circumstances that inhibit your payment please speak to Mrs Price in the office immediately to arrange an individual payment option.

Methods by which you can pay your school monies has also changed. Temporarily you will still be able to EFT (if you have previously done so). We will now be offering POP (Parent Online Payment) – accessible through our school’s website “Make a payment”, EFTPOS at the school office, plus cash and cheque as per normal. If you are unsure about using POP please contact the school for an instruction booklet.

High School Application Forms
2017 Year 7 High School Application Forms will be distributed to Year 6 students this week. All forms need to be completed and sent back to the office by Friday 18th March.

These forms are used by the Department of Education to account for the movement of students each year from Year 6 to Year 7 across the state. As you can appreciate the enrolment process for high schools take many months to complete. The forms indicate your local comprehensive high school and a single sex high school within the local school area. If your child will not attend a government school next year, the forms still need to be returned to the school.

Selective School High School Testing is undertaken this Thursday 10th March At Marsden HS.

Clare Kristensen
Principal
At Melrose Park Public School we are Respectful Responsible Learners

Book Awards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Student</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5/6 M</td>
<td>Oscar B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4E</td>
<td>Jack M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3L</td>
<td>Jeremy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2R</td>
<td>Sebastian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/1 O</td>
<td>Holly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1S</td>
<td>Mia C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 KE</td>
<td>Marcus A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KP</td>
<td>Charlotte P</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Early Stage 1 and Stage 1 News

Developing literacy skills in K-2
Our teachers are highly trained in developing the literacy skills of the students in their class. The teachers focus on 8 critical aspects to support your child's literacy development. These include reading texts, comprehension, vocabulary knowledge, aspects of writing, aspects of speaking, phonics, phonemic awareness, concepts about print. Teachers use a literacy continuum to tailor teaching and learning activities to cater for your child’s individual learning needs.

Many literacy activities do occur in our English sessions, however literacy skills are targeted in all curriculum areas.

2R News
Students have been developing a range of literacy skills through English group activities. Students have expanded their concept of print and their writing skills through sentence a day activities, analysed how sounds can be presented through our spelling activities and have been reading a variety of texts with a focus on using the Super Six Comprehension Strategies.

2/1O News
2/1O have been exploring the way words work and a focus in our class is to practice our fluency and automaticity of our spelling words to enhance our speaking, reading, comprehension and writing skills. Students are developing their comprehension skills by making predictions and making connections when exploring new texts.

1S News
Students develop and apply their literacy skills in our reading group activities. They develop an understanding of phonics and phonemic awareness through rainbow writing and word chunking activities and demonstrate aspects of writing and comprehension when responding to information about characters or events from our whole class text.

1/KE
1/KE use their background knowledge to make connections to a book that they are reading. Some student in our class are developing their understanding of print, sounds and letter names while others are applying these skills by engaging in responding and composing activities through writing tasks.

KP
KP are developing their phonological knowledge and making effective connections between sounds and letters during our explicit teaching activities in our reading and spelling sessions. We are exploring concepts of print by learning about capital letters and full stops.
Stage 3 News
Last week we had a visit from Constable Chrystal to discuss cyber safety. With an increasing use of the internet, students have the potential to be easily ‘tricked’ into sharing private information. Constable Chrystal provided examples showing the perils of online gaming, cyberbullying and use of Instagram. Additional information can be found at www.thinkuknow.org.au.
Online Gaming

What is Online Gaming?
Online gaming can be a great way for young people to have fun, interact and compete with people from around the world. Online gaming can take place using a device that is able to connect to the internet such as a computer, mobile phone, gaming console (e.g. Xbox or PlayStation) or portable gaming device (e.g. PS Vita and Nintendo 3DS).

Some games are free to play, while others allow users to purchase and download software or pay a subscription fee to play. Online gaming is often much more than simply playing a game. Gaming communities also provide a communication platform, allowing players to take part in instant messaging (IM), chat rooms, blogs and even voice communication using headsets and Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP).

Among the most popular online games are massive multi-player online role-playing games (MMORPG), where a large number of users participate in an online, virtual world. Players interact using fictional characters, represented by self created avatars, of which they have complete control. There is also a market in trading cheats and gaming credits, and new versions of popular games continue to evolve to meet demand.

Gaming apps on mobile devices have also become very popular and many of these can be downloaded for free or for a small fee, but may also include in-app purchases.

What are the challenges of Online Gaming?
Issues may arise when young people are communicating or sharing personal information with players they do not know or know only from the game, or if they receive aggressive or hostile communication while playing.

Examples of Online Games
- World of Warcraft
- Clash of Clans
- Minecraft
- Call of Duty
- Steam

Tips for Safe Gaming
1. Where possible use private servers to restrict gameplay to a trusted group of people.
2. Encourage your child to avoid sharing personal or private information such as their name, the school they attend or even the name of their local sports team.
3. Ensure your child chooses a username or avatar that doesn’t identify personal information like their name or their age (i.e. MattEvanzz98 is not a safe username, WOWisthebest11 is safer).
4. Nothing in life is free—warn your child about accepting gifts (even virtually) from people they don’t know.

School Sport
Students participating in school sport are now developing their skills in table tennis and netball. In our photo, members of The Agents take on the The A Team in a closely contested match.

Alice Mee
Assistant Principal
Stage 2
This term, Year 4 are learning about living things and how animals can be classified into different groups using taxonomy. They have had fun becoming taxonomists and investigating the living things at Melrose Park. Below are some of the animals students sighted and took photos of.

SEED HARVEST SPOON
Each Monday Seed Harvest Spoon are engaging the students in skills and education about sustainability and their natural world through classes in the garden. Since the beginning of Term 4 2015, the students have explored the following topics:

Healthy Soil Healthy Life, Creative Compost, Wonderful Water, Seeds and Growing. Today it was all about worms and how these amazing little soil creators are essential for healthy ecology. We discovered how through the work of scientists such as Charles Darwin we have valuable information about worm behaviour and their anatomy. The students will be using science skills of observation and investigation to conduct their own simple experiment in the classroom exploring the eating preferences of worms reporting back to us in two weeks. Compost earthworms give us natural fertiliser for the garden through vermicast and worm juice - today we collected juice from the school worm farm to hydrate and fertilise our seedlings growing in the garden.

NAPLAN Workshop
Like to find out about NAPLAN?
Come to our parent Workshop
Tuesday 22nd March

   Session 1       3.15 – 4.00pm
   Session 2       6.00 – 6.45pm (Repeat)

All carers welcome to come and have your questions answered
P&C NEWS

**Easter Raffle and Mufti Day**

Each year we run an Easter Raffle, as part of this the P&C runs a mufti day. Mufti Day will be on **Thursday 17th March**. The kids can wear anything they like; they can try putting in a little bit of Easter into their outfits, this day is also St Patrick’s Day so kids can wear green.

The penalty for wearing mufti is to bring in an item for the Easter Hamper, such as a chocolate egg, bunny, small packet of eggs etc, it does not need to be chocolate so long as it is Easter themed like colouring book, stuffed bunny rabbit etc.

**Prizes for the East Raffle are**

- Family Pass to the Easter Show
- Subsequent prizes will be the hampers.

The raffle will be drawn on **Thursday 24th March @9am lines.** All tickets will need to be returned by **Tuesday 22nd March.** You will find your tickets in the school bags today.

Please ensure you write your name on each ticket (as some ticket numbers will be duplicated).

*** Please return any unused tickets

If you have any coloured paper (for shredding) or paper already shredded, that you are able to donate for the hamper making, please leave in the office by Thursday 17th March.

If you have any baskets that you would like to donate to the school please also drop them to the school by Thursday 17th March.

**Helpers Needed**

- I will need people to help on **Friday 18th March** in the Canteen from 9am to put the hampers together for the raffle. This will only take 1 hour maximum.

**Sausage Sizzle**

The next Sausage Sizzle for this term is **THIS Friday, 11th March** and **Year 3** will be the host.

If you are able to help on this day, please leave a message in the office for Yasmin Adami or contact Yasmin on 0432 420 628, or our P&C email below.

**Coffee Shop**

Coffee will be on sale in the canteen every Thursday and Friday morning. So head on over to the canteen for some freshly brewed coffee for just $3.00.

Kindy would have received a special deal via email for 1 free coffee.

**School Banking**

Banking will be on this Wednesday from 8.30 in the canteen.

**P&C Meeting**

The next P&C meeting for this term will be on **Monday 21st March 2016 @ 7.30pm.** All welcome.

**Facebook**

If you haven’t already done so, like the P&C page on Facebook – Melrose Park P&C PS.

**Dates to Remember for Term 1:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8th March</td>
<td>Raffle Tickets go home for Easter Raffle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17th March</td>
<td>Mufti Day, Easter hamper donation as penalty more info to come</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18th March</td>
<td>Easter hamper making – volunteers needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19th March</td>
<td>Easter Street Fair West Ryde</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21st March</td>
<td>P&amp;C meeting @ 7.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23rd March</td>
<td>open day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24th March</td>
<td>Easter Raffle Drawn</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

At Melrose Park Public School we are Respectful Responsible Learners
If you would like to contact me, my details are:
Mobile – 0416 130 274
Email – melroseparkpc@hotmail.com
Like us on Facebook: Melrose Park PS P&C

Cathy Lincoln
P&C President

BOOKCLUB
Orders due back to school by Friday, 11\textsuperscript{th} March.

Thanks
Nicola Rench and Georgia Pantic (retiring)
Bookclub Co-ordinators
PARENTS NEEDED FOR 15-MINUTE SURVEY

Parents are invited to complete an anonymous, 15-minute online survey to explore their thoughts and feelings about childhood behaviours. We are interested in learning how parents from different cultures interpret childhood behaviours and how they respond to them.

All participants will go in a draw to win a $50 Westfield gift voucher.

Eligibility Criteria:
- Caucasian or Asian ethnicity
- Have a child between the ages of 7-13

To complete the survey, please go to:

https://utshealth.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_0T9hiLz0VeU14gd

If you have any queries, please contact Sarah-Anne Nguyen:

Sarah-Anne.H.Nguyen@student.uts.edu.au
At Melrose Park Public School we are Respectful Responsible Learners

Melrose Park Public School
Learning and Growing Together

Please join us for our
OPEN AFTERNOON
Wednesday 23rd March
2.15 to 3.00pm
A special invitation for prospective enrolments and our local community.

We will have open classrooms and a variety of activities happening around the school for you to enjoy:

• Observe literacy and numeracy groups
• See students at work in ICT
• Explore our kitchen garden
• Enjoy a school tour

Enrolling now for 2017
110 Wharf Road West Ryde NSW 2114
melrosepk-p.schools.nsw.edu.au Phone: 9874 4669