Dear Parents and Carers,

LOTS GOING ON!

Taking a look at the diary dates on the left shows we are off to an amazing start to the year. Each week is full of activities and events for our students and the community. To ensure no one misses out all the dates for upcoming events can be found on our website where we have a link to the school calendar and also on our smartphone app.

OUR NEWSLETTER

Our newsletter has always been a fantastic source of information for our community about the happenings @MRPS. We will continue to produce a fortnightly newsletter but you will notice a few changes, starting with this edition. From now on each fortnight a Stage, for example Stage 3 (Year 5 and 6) this week or Stage 1 (Year 1 and 2) will be presenting a two-page spread of what is happening in that Stage. As well, the Week 4 and Week 8 editions of our newsletter will be our “bumper” issues with reports from all over the school. We hope you enjoy these bumper issues and as always if you have any thoughts, ideas or comments please do not hesitate to let me know.

LEADERS INDUCTION ASSEMBLY

Our new school leaders will be inducted at our first whole school assembly on Tuesday 26 February. This will be a great opportunity to congratulate our leaders and celebrate with their family and friends.

REMINDER—MEET THE TEACHER AFTERNOON

The Meet The Teacher afternoon will be held this Wednesday 20 February, beginning at 5.15pm for K-2 classes. We will be holding a free sausage sizzle between 6.00-6.30pm and selling drinks from $1.00 before the Year 3-6 class session between 6.30-7.15pm.

FRIENDSHIPS TO BOOST YOUR CHILD’S LEARNING

If children are happy socially they tend to be more engaged in their learning. So teaching your child about the importance of making friends is as vital as learning their ABCs. Please take a look at http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/development/how-friendships-boost-your-childs-learning

HELPING YOUR KINDY KID SUCCEED AT SCHOOL

A great way to kick off your child’s formal education is to understand the school culture and what your child is doing in the classroom. Please take a look at http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/health/speech-problems
KINDERGARTEN NEWS

The Kindergarten students have settled well into school and class routines and seem ready for a busy term. Although they have only been at school for a couple of weeks, the Kindergarten teachers have noticed improvements in a range of skills.

At the beginning of the term the Kindergarten students participated in the Best Start Kindergarten Assessment. This assessment process enabled teachers to identify the literacy and numeracy knowledge and skills that each child brought to school as they entered Kindergarten. The teachers assessed the students’ early reading and writing, their ability to communicate with others and how they recognised and worked with numbers, groups and patterns. The students participated well and the teachers were generally impressed with the results. The Kindergarten teachers will use the data to plan and develop quality teaching and learning programs designed to meet the individual and diverse needs of their students.

Another aspect of school life that the Kindergarten students have been involved in is meeting their Stage 3 buddies. Each Kindergarten class has a Stage 3 buddy class and the Kindergarten students have been allocated a buddy from their buddy class. Their Stage 3 buddies will help them become familiar with places around the school and will help to make their transition to ‘big’ school much smoother.

Throughout the year the Kindergarten students will have the opportunity to participate in a range of activities with their buddy class.

Last week the Kindergarten students met their buddy class and had the pleasure of having lunch with their buddies. It was a worthwhile experience for all involved and the students thoroughly enjoyed it.

The Kindergarten teachers would like to take this opportunity to thank the parents for their efforts in preparing their child for school. The ongoing support of parents and caregivers is greatly appreciated.

We are looking forward to a productive term.

……..Mrs Larobina
Assistant Principal

STAGE 1 NEWS

Welcome back to 2013! Stage One has been very busy over the last 3 weeks. Year 1 and Year 2 have settled back into the school routine and are working very hard to be motivated, respectful, proud and safe.

We held our very first Stage assembly in Week 3 with 1F running the assembly. Stage assemblies will be held every odd week on Friday afternoons from 2.15-3.00pm. The next class to run assembly in Week 5 will be 1-2C. Stage One teachers are looking forward to ‘Meet the Teacher Night’. On the night, we will be asking for parent helpers for reading and mathematics groups. If you are unable to make it on the night but would like to be a parent helper, please contact your child’s teacher. We hope to see you all there!

……..Miss Cheung
Relieving Assistant Principal

STAGE 2 NEWS

Congratulations Stage 2 for a spectacular start to the year! It’s wonderful to see the students so motivated and settling
well into their new classes. The Year 3 students have transitioned very well into Stage 2 and their teachers are extremely proud of both their behaviour and hard work.

A massive ‘thank you’ to Mr. Byrne for the fantastic job he has done establishing the Western Sydney Wanderers Football Program. This is the first school based program (of this magnitude) to be run in Australia and our students are learning a wide range of fundamental and sports skills from fully qualified, professional coaches. You never know…we may produce a football star of the future!

Finally, thank you to the Year 4 students and their teachers for the wonderful artwork display they created for the administration foyer – it is clear we have some very talented students. Please drop in and have a look. It’s going to be another great year in Stage 2 and we look forward to seeing you at Meet the Teacher on Wednesday evening.

........Mrs Parker
Relieving Assistant Principal

STAGE 3 NEWS

With a very exciting start to 2013 Stage 3 is looking forward to being the leaders of the school. They enjoyed running their first cake stall and are already beginning to practice their culinary skills in preparation for the Metella Chef.

This term we have begun to review Expositions in English and we are learning the power of persuasive text. Mathematics presents new challenges and problem solving skills as we continue to discover Number. Reflection on learning will be an important skill that we will continue to develop throughout the year.

Science and Technology involves looking at the ‘Wonderful World of Living Things’ and in HSIE we are learning about the different explorers who discovered Australia.

We have enjoyed meeting our buddies and we are looking forward to developing our leadership skills with such programs as Play Support and Friendship Ambassadors.

All the Stage 3 teachers are looking forward to a wonderful year and we look forward to seeing you Wednesday evening.

........Mrs Gafa
Relieving Assistant Principal

NUMERACY PORTFOLIO

Welcome back for 2013! The Numeracy Portfolio is excited about the implementation of a new Mathematics program from Pearsons called EnVisionMATHS. This incorporates a variety of interactive teaching tools on the interactive whiteboard and activity cards which allow small group work. The program also provides a set textbook and worksheets that cater for the individual needs of each child. We will also continue to purchase new resources to ensure the effective implementation of the program. Please check the school website for tips on how to help your child at home with Mathematics and stayed tuned for more updates!

........Miss Cheung and the Numeracy Portfolio

JUNIOR DANCE GROUP

The Junior Dance Group has been selected and rehearsals are underway for 2013! This year, the dance group comprises of students from Years One and Two. The students rehearse every Monday and Wednesday during lunch time. The dancers have begun to learn a dance piece that they will use to audition for the Sydney West Dance Festival. The auditions for this festival will take place at the end of Term One. Mrs Bekiaris and Mrs Land would like to thank all the students who came along to the auditions and are looking forward to a wonderful year of dance!

........Mrs Land and Mrs Bekiaris

SENIOR DANCE GROUP

The Senior Dance Group is up and running for 2013! We are fortunate enough to have so many talented dancers that we have been able to form two groups: Senior Dance Group A and Senior Dance Group B. Senior Dance Group A will be rehearsing as a sport group during Friday sport time. We are very lucky to have Mr Pilason back to assist Miss Jennings with this group as he did such a fantastic job with J-Rock last year.

Senior Dance Group B is a smaller group that will be rehearsing after school on Tuesday and during lunch time on Thursday. They will be working on an audition piece for Sydney West Dance Festival. Miss Cheetham, Miss Jennings, Mrs Land and Mrs Boase will be running this group.

We will also be selecting a smaller group of students from years five and six to audition for the School Spectacular so stayed tuned for more information! Keep up the great work Senior Dance! We look forward to dancing with you this year!

........Miss Jennings, Miss Cheetham, Mrs Land and Mrs Boase

NEWS FROM THE BOYS DANCE GROUP

The Boys Dance Group is up and running for 2013. The boys are students from Years 1 and 2. They are very enthusiastic and are working hard in preparation for an audition at the end of Term 1. They rehearse every Tuesday lunch time in the school hall. We love the energy you bring to the group boys, keep up the great moves!

Senior Dance Group A will be rehearsing as a sport group during Friday sport time. They will be working on an audition piece for Sydney West Dance Festival. Miss Cheetham, Miss Jennings, Mrs Land and Mrs Boase will be running this group.

The Senior Dance Group is up and running for 2013! We

........Miss Jennings, Miss Cheetham, Mrs Land and Mrs Boase

NEWS FROM THE GIFTED AND TALENTED COMMITTEE

MRPS has a long history of offering students a wide range of extension and enrichment activities to maximise their learning, and foster creativity and imagination. This year is no exception as 2013 is shaping up to be very busy! Information about programs and competitions can be found on our school website and in newsletters. Notes are also sent home to parents / caregivers when necessary. Dates for the ICAS competitions are listed below, and notes will be sent home soon outlining the cost of the competitions. We look forward to your continued support and wish all students a successful and exciting year!

Computer Skills 21 May
Science 5 June
Writing and Spelling 18 June

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INFANTS DRAMA GROUP

A new Infants Drama Group has been formed for 2013, with some new and old faces. I am looking forward to a year of dramatic games and activities with my new group of Year 1 and 2 students, who are all very keen and eager. We have already begun to enjoy some drama fun on Thursdays at lunchtime and look forward to presenting our performances in assemblies throughout the year.

----------Mrs Fekkes
Infants Drama Teacher

JUNIOR CHOIR

This year the Junior Choir is on Tuesday at lunchtime in Miss Cheetham’s room (1M). Junior Choir is open for all students in Years 1 and 2. We are very excited this year to be singing songs from a variety of genres to help students to develop a love and appreciation of music. Our time together is always lots of fun and students are encouraged to try their best in a supportive and inclusive environment. If you LOVE to sing, we hope that you will join us in Junior Choir!

----------Miss Cheetham and Miss Minenko

SENIOR CHOIR

The Senior Choir will commence in Week 5, on Tuesday, 26 February. We will meet at lunchtime in the Multi Purpose Centre and welcome any new students who wish to join. In 2013 we will be participating in two music festivals outside the school. We were successful in auditioning for The PULSE Concert which will be held at the Opera House on Thursday, 8 August. Interested students from Stage 3 can audition for this choir in the next few weeks. The Blacktown Music Festival will be run on 10, 11 and 12 September. All Senior Choir members may be included in this choir. We look forward to an exciting year of singing.

----------Mrs Cartwright

SWIMMING CARNIVAL

On Tuesday we have our annual swimming carnival at Blacktown Aquatic Centre. All 3-6 will be attending. It would be great to see as many parents as possible to join in the cheering and war cries supporting our students becoming fish for a while. Please note that spectators need to pay upon entry to the pool. Parents are welcome to use the kiosk at the pool but please note that no students are permitted in the kiosk area as hot food and drinks being served. We have hire of the indoor pool only and are confined to this area. Parents wishing to stay longer with their children will need to exit the facility at 3:00pm with the school and pay again on re-entering as a member of the public. Good luck to all our students!

----------Mr Calnan
Carnival Co ordinator

P & C NEWS

Karl Holdsworth – Good Guys Prospect have a sponsor system where if you spend $35.00 or more in the store you can earn $1 per $35.00 spent in store credit. Metella Road P & C have registered. All you have to do when you purchase anything for $35.00 or over is let them know at the pay point that you want your Skool is Kool dollars to be allocated to the Metella Road P & C Association. This is a great way for the P & C to get prizes and giveaways for the chocolate wheel and raffle at the Spring Fete. This offer is only available at Good Guys Prospect Store - Homebase Prospect, 19 Stoddard Road Prospect.

----------P & C Committee

PARENTS AUXILIARY NEWS

A reminder that our first meeting for the year will be held on Wednesday, 20 February at 2.00pm in the staffroom. Everyone is welcome to attend and we would love to see some of our new mums and dads join us. Please remember that babies and toddlers are welcome to also attend the meeting.

----------Parents Auxiliary

CAN COUNT

Welcome to new and existing parents. At Metella Road PS we have an aluminium can recycling program where students are invited to collect cans and bring them to school on Fridays only. Aluminium cans are to be crushed bagged and labelled with your child’s name, class and the number of aluminium cans for recording purposes. At the end of the year, with the help of the principal, a prize will be given to the student who collects the largest amount of cans. Please leave bagged cans outside my workshop in ‘D’ Block. Large quantities can be picked up (by arrangement). The money collected from the recycling helps to provide resources for your children.

----------Mr Nash
General Assistant
Stage 3

Events stage 3 are looking forward to in 2013 are:

Easter Hat Parade

Helping with play support

Mini-Fete

Stage 3 camp

Helping Buddies

Spending time with friends

Becoming a Friendship Ambassador
Stage 3

Friendship Ambassadors
Throughout Term 1 all year 6 students will participate in our Friendship Ambassadors program. This program runs through some conflict resolution skills that will enable them to sort out some of the social issues that come up between friends from time to time. The Friendship Ambassador program is then employed on the playground catering for all our students. Year 6 volunteer to assist our students who may encounter some friendship issues on the playground during lunchtime. This is a valued program in our school and is added to our year 6 students’ achievements as an extracurricular activity which is favoured by our local high schools.

Play Support
Every Year 5 student will be involved in Play Support during the year. Play Support is a playground program which offers games for K-2 students. Play Support helps younger students to learn to play, share, develop social skills and rules of the game. Is also provides students who are isolated the opportunity to join in a game and learn social skills. Each Year 5 student will be rostered on for one duty a week. In a few weeks, Year 5 will be part of a Play Support training day, where they will learn the skills they will need.
Support for students with disability in regular classrooms: a factsheet for parents and carers
Every Student, Every School: Learning and Support

The Department of Education and Communities is implementing a new approach for meeting the additional learning and support needs of students with disability in all NSW public schools, through its strategy Every Student, Every School.

Many students with disability have additional learning and support needs. The level and type of support that each student needs is different. Many students need adjustments in their daily learning. A small number of students need more intensive or specialised support.

Every Student, Every School aims to provide better outcomes for all students with disability. It will provide more immediate support for students and their classroom teachers, increase the expertise of teachers, significantly reduce administration and improve the coordination of educational services to students in regular classes who have additional learning and support needs.

To achieve this, Every Student, Every School will build a Learning and Support Framework in all NSW public schools to improve support for students with disability, wherever they enrol.

This Learning and Support Framework will ensure that students receive the highest quality education from trained teachers and support staff who are focused on personalising each student’s learning experience. It will strengthen the capacity of all public schools to meet obligations to students under the Commonwealth Disability Standards for Education 2005.

A wide range of projects will be put in place during 2012 and 2013 to establish the Learning and Support Framework and assist all public schools to better meet the diverse educational needs of their students, including those with disability.

For more information about the Learning and Support Framework and details about the full range of projects being implemented in our schools, please go to our website at www.det.nsw.edu.au/every-student-every-school

Increased training and support for teachers and staff to better meet the needs of students with disability

Every Student, Every School has a strong focus on building the professional knowledge and understanding of teachers, school leaders and support staff.

This focus will build the skills and knowledge of all staff to better understand and respond to the needs of students with disability and to effectively work in consultation with students and their parents or carers.
Physical Culture (Physie) is a form of dance, incorporating marching, exercises, jazz dance, ballet and gymnastic movements. The choreography is designed to develop good posture, strength, flexibility, co-ordination and fitness.

Physie also has other benefits: Building self-confidence, enhancing musical understanding and making friends. Best of all, physie is fun!

We provide a new syllabus and music every year and there are annual competitions for teams and individuals. Girls can choose to participate in individual or team performances or just enjoy coming to class.

Classes for girls and ladies resume from Monday 11th February, 2013. For new members your 1st lesson is free.

MONDAYS: Vardy's Road Public School Vardy's Road, Kings Langley
Preschoolers: 8 & 4 yrs 4.00 - 4.30pm
Junior Girls: 5 & 6 yrs 4.30 - 5.15pm
7 & 8 yrs 5.15 - 6.00 pm
9,10,11 & 12 yrs 6.00 - 7.30pm
Ladies: All ladies 7.30 - 8.30pm

THURSDAYS: Marayong Public School Davis Road, Marayong
Preschoolers: 3 & 4 yrs 4.15 - 4.45pm
Junior Girls: 5 & 6 yrs 4.45 - 5.30pm
7 & 8 yrs 5.30 - 6.15pm
9,10,11 & 12 yrs 6.15 - 7.30pm

TUESDAYS: Seven Hills High School Johnson Avenue, Seven Hills
Senior Girls: 13,14,15 yrs & 1st Year Seniors 5.30 - 6.30pm
2nd Year/Novice and Open Seniors 6.30 - 7.30pm

Enquiries please contact:
Robyn: 0414 983 189
Kelly: 0418 623 154
Pam: 9631 1068

Email: club2000sevenhillsphysie@hotmail.com
Website: www.club2000physieanddance.com
Trouble with Bullies! Take a Stand!!

A free 6 session group for children in Year 5 & 6 to learn about managing bullying at school. Topics covered will include: Knowing more about myself, making friends, What is Bullying? Building resilience, communication, Understanding feelings, strategies that help.

When: Tuesdays, 5 March - 9 April, 2013
Time: 3.30 - 5.00pm
Where: Parramatta/Holroyd Family Support Ince
37 Collins Street, Pendle Hill
Places are strictly limited, so bookings are essential.
For enquiries, call Wendy on 9636 8437

LOURDES SOCCER CLUB

Home ground: Best Road, Seven Hills
Registrations are now open for the 2013 season. To register, please visit the website MyFootballClub.com.au and click on ‘Register Now’.

For more information, contact the Registrar on 0498 741 378 or email: registrar@lourdesfc.org.au
Registrations close on 28 February

NETBALL VACANCIES

From 7 years to 14 years of age

Model Farms Netball Club has vacancies in these age groups in 2013, so if you want to have great fun, keep fit and make lots of new friends we can place you in a team. Call Chris Hockley on 9674 6629 or 0415 907 132 for all the information that you need or log on to: www.modelfarms-netball.com
POSITIVE PARENTING PROGRAM (TRIPLE P)

“The Positive Parenting Program is not just telling us how to be a parent: it’s giving us the tools to be better at it!”

Kids don’t come with an instruction manual. Whether you’re a mum or dad, single parent family, step parent, grandparent or a carer—the Positive Parenting Program can assist you with a specific problem, or provide tips with on parenting and help with understanding your child’s behaviour and emotions in relation to their development. This program is for parents with children aged 2-12 years. The program gives you the tools to:

- Encourage behaviour you like from your child
- Teaching your child new skills and behaviours
- Deal positively and consistently with behavioural problems
- Take the stress out of parenting

Cost $30 or $45 per couple
Tuesdays 19 Feb - 26 March 10am - 12pm
The Hills Family Centre, T1 Level 4 Unit 437, 14 Lexington Drive, Bella Vista. To register contact Kamalini on 8805 7208
Childcare is provided: $2.00 per child per visit.