Term 1 - Week 8

Calendar

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Principal's Message

MRPS Goes Tropicana!!
What a wonderful night had by all on Saturday as our annual Trivia Night saw a community come together to work out if we knew the road rules, guessing the names of celebrity children, and seeing if we could putt a golf ball on a very uneven surface. Lots of hearts, diamonds, spades and clubs had us up and down on the night but many of us came away with lots of chocolate goodies. All of this resulted in lots of laughs, and some of the best singing I’ve ever heard – especially a rendition of John Denver’s Take Me Home Country Roads!! Thank you Mrs Steele and Mrs Jarman for organising a wonderful event. Thank to Mr and Mrs Clarke for running the night – brilliant effort!!!

Working Bee – This Sunday
This Sunday will be our first Working Bee for the year. We will be planting our new gardens and fixing our long jump pit. We will be meeting under the 3-6 COLA at 8.00am finishing at 2.00pm (or earlier) with a BBQ. Staff will be here on the day to provide fun activities for children so bring them along!

If you own a post hole digger or a shovel please bring it along as we have lots of plants to dig in!

Second Hand Clothing Stall
The second hand clothing stall is well underway. We are always looking for donations especially in the smaller sizes of all pieces of our uniform. All donations are most welcome in the office.

Education Support Centre
The Education Support Centre has been a great success so far this term, with many teachers able to assist parents and students with techniques on how to help with such areas as homework and reading. The Centre will continue on Tuesday...
about punishing other children.

4. If you are still concerned, my door is always open to parents. We really appreciate parents who want to find solutions rather than lay blame, and understand it is not always parents. We really appreciate parents who want to find solutions rather than lay blame, and understand it is not always

Parking Within The School Grounds
A reminder to parents not to park in the school car parks at the front or back of the school to drop students off in the morning or in the afternoon.

School A to Z app
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? This free homework helper app provides maths and English glossaries, assignment starters and more. Find out more:

http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/about/mobile-applications/school-a-to-z

Wild Australia app
Your child can use this terrific app as an interactive educational tool at Taronga Zoo in Sydney or at Taronga Western Plains Zoo, Dubbo. Wild Australia can also be used at home to discover more about the zoo’s amazing animals and interesting keepers. Find out more:


What To Do When Things Go Wrong At School
I would like to pass on some thoughts and suggestions for what to do when your child comes home and tells you about something that has gone wrong at school. Here are some ideas:

1. We all want to spring to our children’s defence when they are upset or life seems unfair. Before taking any action, it’s a good idea to sit down with them and let them tell you, without interruption, what has happened. Find out what has upset them. Ask them what they think would put things right. Children, like us, need the chance to unload to a sympathetic ear. Often children are prepared to fight their own battles and just want to vent. There’s nothing worse than charging into the fray and discovering your child has got over it and moved on.

2. Help them think through what has happened. Often, clearly thinking about events gets things into perspective or helps them see how they contributed to what happened. A good lesson for children is to learn which battles to choose. Life holds many irritations and we learn to take most of them in our stride. Erupting over minor incidents is no way to build sound relationships with classmates or teachers – or our own credibility.

3. After you have slept on it, if you are still worried, or your child asks you to, contact the class teacher. The teacher may be worried too and will be able to suggest the next step. Or you will be able to get a clearer picture of, for example, class dynamics or reassurance that the incident was a minor one with no consequences for your child.

4. If you are still concerned, my door is always open to parents. We really appreciate parents who want to find solutions rather than lay blame, and understand it is not always about punishing other children.

5. Build on your relationship with your children’s teachers. Being familiar with the school and the other children helps you put together a more complete picture of what goes on at school. When you and your child’s teachers keep communications open, trusting and positive, your child is the one who will reap the benefits.

Electronic Copy Of Our Newsletter
If you would like to receive a copy of the newsletter via email please send an email to metellard-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Enjoy the rest of your week!

Mr P. D’Ermilio
Principal

Kindergarten Report
On Wednesday 5 March, 2014 we had the pleasure of hosting our annual Kindergarten Parents Welcome Morning Tea. The Kindergarten parents had the opportunity to visit their child’s classroom and look at some of the work that the students have produced this term. The Kindergarten students were very excited about the visits and thoroughly enjoyed showing their parents the work that they have completed so far at ‘big school’. The Kindergarten teachers are very proud of the students’ efforts. After the class visits the parents were invited to have some morning tea. This was a great opportunity for them to meet other parents who have children in Kindergarten.

The Kindergarten teachers would like to thank the parents for their attendance and we hope you found it a worthwhile experience. We would also like to thank the Parents Auxiliary for organising the morning tea. Your support is greatly appreciated.

We are looking forward to more exciting events at the end of this term.

Mrs S. Larobina
Assistant Principal

Stage 1 Report
The students in Stage One are continuing to have a great and productive term. They have been working hard in class; demonstrating that they are motivated learners. We have been reading lots of quality texts focusing on the theme of friendship. Students have been busy analysing the author’s intentions in texts; identifying various devices that the author and illustrator use to convey meaning. It has been exciting to watch them discuss and unpack these complex concepts. Students have also been learning various addition strategies in Mathematics. They soak up lots of new information every day!

It is pleasing to see that our Stage One students have also been using the BouncED online learning website to extend their learning. Teachers have set work specifically for students to target their needs. Students are encouraged to explore the BouncED website at home; practising, revising and learning through play.

Stage One has ‘Crunch and Sip’ every day, with students eating fruit and vegetables in class during the morning. We encourage all parents to provide their children with fruit and water every day so that they can participate in this valuable program. Also, with the opening of our new playground, it has been wonderful to see the students enjoying climbing, sliding, playing and taking turns on the equipment.
In Week 10, we will be having our parent/teacher interviews. We look forward to being able to discuss the progress of our students.

Ms J. Minenko and Mrs L. Bartlett
Stage One Supervisors

Stage 2 Report
WOW! I can’t believe that it’s already Week 8. The term has certainly flown by and Stage 2 has continued to work very hard. Congratulations to the students who have already earned their Assistant Principal’s Awards this year.

On Friday 21 March we will celebrating Harmony Day with our buddy classes. The theme for Harmony Day this year is “Everyone Belongs”. Harmony Day is a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home – from the traditional owners of this land to those who have come from many countries around the world. Stage 2 students will be working with their buddy classes on art and craft activities to learn how all Australians from diverse backgrounds enrich our nation.

Stage 2 teachers are looking forward to meeting with all parents and caregivers during Parent/Teacher interviews at the beginning of April. This is important because it fosters open communication and provides important information about your child’s progress this year. Please book on-line early to secure your preferred time.

Finally, thank you to all students who contributed to Clean up the Playground as part of Clean up Australia. You all did a fantastic job – keep up your great work!

Mrs N. Parker
Assistant Principal

Stage 3 Report
What a busy term it has been so far. There have been lots of things happening in Stage 3, with lots more to come!

Year 6 T-shirts have been ordered and will hopefully be arriving before the end of the term – we look forward to seeing our senior students wearing these in the coming terms.

Stage 3 students have begun participating in training for Friendship Ambassadors and Play Support roles. This training will assist them to support the teachers who are on duty and help other students in the playground, in particular our younger students.

Year 6 students have been asked to donate Easter eggs, baskets and bunnies for the Easter raffle that is fast approaching. This raffle will be drawn at the Easter Hat Parade and all money raised will go towards Year 6 events. Tickets will be on sale at recess and lunch times under the 3-6 COLA.

Stage 3 classes are now beginning to use Mathletics during Mathematics and ICT lessons, with the idea that this will also form a component of Stage 3 homework. Passwords will be given to students when they have paid for this subscription.

Mrs A. Saad and Ms E. McKenzie
Stage Three Supervisors

Literacy Portfolio Group
The Literacy Portfolio Group are continuing to work on a range of different literacy related tasks this year.

During Term 1, classroom teachers have begun implementing the New NSW Syllabus for the Australian Curriculum for English. This is being taught through the units of work that were developed across the school at the end of last year. These units are based around a particular topic or theme and utilise the three English strands to teach students in this Key Learning Area. Literacy Portfolio Members are now working on purchasing and collecting resources and creating quality literature text sets to support these English units and the implementation of the new syllabus from Kindergarten to Year 6.

Members of the Literacy Portfolio Group have also begun looking at how the Home Reading system in K-2 can be altered to allow teachers an easier way to keep track of our valuable home reading resources. This will involve not only revamping how home reading is run but also looking at the resources we currently have and ordering more as needed.

We appreciate your support in returning these readers to the K-2 classrooms as your children finish with them.

Mrs A Saad and Ms E McKenzie
Literacy Portfolio Group Leaders

BouncED
We are pleased to see our students accessing the BouncED On-Line Learning website on a daily basis. Last week, parents were sent out reminder letters regarding how their child can access the program. All students at Metella Road Public School have been allocated BouncED user accounts and can access these at school or at home. Their log-in details have remained the same from last year.

There is no cost to either the school or the students for our inclusion in this trial. With full access to programs such as Ziptales, Sunshine On-Line, Britannica School and Studyladder, this provides a saving to the school of approximately $10,000 per year! Parents receive even greater savings with students’ full after-hours access to the Studyladder program, which normally costs parents $88 per year. This is a huge saving to parents also! We are also excited to see that students now have access to the ZooWhiz program. This is an amazing resource!

We are also pleased to announce that an iPad solution has been found!! Previously, students were unable to access some of the BouncED programs on the iPads. There is now an app for the iPad that allows BouncED (or any Flash based software) to work perfectly. The new iPad App available from the App store is titled ‘Photon Browser’ and allows the use of Flash based media and therefore runs BouncED programs perfectly. When installed, the Photon Browser is used in place of Safari to browse the web and access www.bounced.com.au.
We strongly recommend all parents to support their children and the school in allowing them access to this valuable resource for homework. If you experience any issues with accessing BouncED at home, please feel free to contact me via email at metellard-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Ms Minenko
Computer Coordinator

NSW Premier’s Reading Challenge 2014
Just a reminder that students are now able to log into the NSW Premier’s Reading Challenge which is a program designed to challenge students to read. Logs had been sent home for you to start recording books read so far this year - now you need to register your child online using the following:
http://www.premiersreadingchallenge.nsw.edu.au. When you go online it asks for a username and password. Students are to use the same username and password that they use to log into school computers. K-2 read 30 books and Kindergarten may have the books read to them, Years 3-4 20 books and Years 5-6 20 books. Most of the books need to be on the Premier’s Reading Challenge approved list of books and in the library these are marked with a PRC sticker. There are a number of rules governing the challenge so please read those online. There were issues last year regarding reading too many from one author for older students so please read them carefully. Upon completion of the year students receive a certificate from the Premier, a gold one is issued for those completing 4 years and a platinum one for 7 years. The gold and platinum are given out at our award ceremony at the end of the year. Enjoy reading in 2014 by listening to your child and making it a special family time. If you have any questions please see Mrs Aylett in the library.

Mrs B Aylett
Librarian

K-2 Easter Hat Parade
The K-2 Easter Hat Parade will be held on Thursday 10 April at 9:30am under the 3-6 COLA.

Please remember to send in craft materials to school (before Friday 28 March) so your child can start making their hat in class with their teacher.

Parents and relatives are invited to attend and watch the parade. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Mrs A. Fekkes

PSSA
The summer PSSA competition games will be played as follows:
Friday, 21 March
Softball vs Westmead PS @ Parramatta Park
Newcombe Ball vs Westmead PS @ Westmead PS
Cricket vs Westmead PS @ Girraween Oval
T-Ball vs Westmead PS @ Parramatta Park
AFL vs Darcy Rd PS @ Binalong Oval

Friday, 28 March
Softball vs Girraween PS @ Parramatta Park
Newcombe Ball vs Warriors @ Westmead PS
Cricket vs Warriors @ Bathurst Street
T-Ball vs Girraween PS @ Parramatta Park
AFL vs Toongabbie West PS @ Binalong Oval

Mrs L. Wilkinson
PSSA Sport Coordinator

District Swimming Carnival
On Thursday 6 March we had 25 students compete at the District Swimming Carnival. We had a wonderful day and our students competed to the best of their ability. We came 7th overall. Congratulations to Zoe Ross on finishing 5th overall in the 12 year old girls age group. While we had a few students make the finals of the 50m freestyle, only Jordan Hickman of 2N was successful in selection to the Regional carnival to be held at Homebush Aquatic Centre. Good luck Jordan and congratulations to all our swimmers. You all represented Metella Road with pride, class and demonstrated great sportsmanship throughout the day. Well done!

Mr T. Calnan
District Swimming Carnival Coordinator

Sports Update
PSSA has started and the students have demonstrated excellent sportsmanship. We had a highly successful year last year so fingers crossed that we have as much success this year. Recently the Seven Hills Wentworthville district conducted trials for a variety of sports. Students chosen for these teams are representing our district. Congratulations to all who trialled. We were successful in getting representatives in the following sports:

Boys Softball:   James W, Thomas H
Boys Soccer: Tyren B
Girls Soccer: Haylee H, Jasymn B, Bronte C
Open Rugby League: Zac B, Graham T
Boys Touch: Matua T
Girls Touch: Haylee H
Boys Basketball: Thomas H

A special mention to Thomas H who progressed to the next level in basketball. He represented the region (Eastern division) at the recent Sydney West selection carnival. Congratulations to all. As the carnivals take place, we will keep you updated with the progress of these students.

Mrs M. Holburn
PSSA Co ordinator
Junior Dance Red Group

The Junior Dance Red Group is now well underway. Students are eagerly learning new steps and combinations for our dance ‘Gone Safari’. It is great to see how motivated the students are. Rehearsals take place at lunch time on Tuesday and Thursday. Please remember to hand in your permission note and money to the front office if you haven’t done so already. We are looking forward to another great year of dance!

Miss Cheetham, Mrs Bekiaris and Mrs Land
Junior Dance Coordinators

Senior Dance Group

The Senior Dance Group has been rehearsing every Tuesday after school in the school hall. They have been busy preparing their Sydney West Dance audition piece, ‘Beat Again’ which tells the story of a community pulling together and helping one another through times of hardship. The girls have been working hard to learn this routine and you can see a preview performance at the K-6 Assembly in week 9. Keep practising at home girls, you are shining like stars!

Miss Jennings
Senior Dance Co-ordinator

Junior Choir

What a busy term the Junior Choir has had. We have been learning the words to ‘The Marvellous Toy’, ‘You are my Sunshine’ and ‘It’s a Small World’. It is wonderful to see so many children come each week to choir. You are sounding amazing and I am very proud of your dedication.

If you would like to be a part of the Junior Choir please come to 1M at lunch time on Wednesday. Keep up the great work Junior Choir!

Miss Cheetham
Junior Choir Coordinator

SRC Update

This year we have decided to fundraise for a number of children’s charities. The first two charities are Stewart House and the Starlight Foundation. Both help children in different ways but they both attempt to make children’s lives a little easier and provide them with some relief.

A mufti day is planned later this term and a disco early next term. The funds raised will go directly to these charities. Each member of the SRC has been placed on a committee. The committees each have different jobs but will hopefully provide our future leaders with skills to assist them later in life.

The committees are:
1 Promotions
2 Selling items / Collecting money
3 Student Welfare
4 Running Events
5 Documenting Events

We have recently received our Woolworth’s earn and learn rewards. Lots of art resources, stationary for the library and new readers will be utilised in the near future. Thank you for helping us to provide resources for the students. Fingers crossed they continue the program this year.

Mrs M. Holburn, Mrs M. Gafa and the SRC

Can Count

Our thanks to Bailey W (1-2C), Kye F (1-2C), Luke F (6B), Sophie F (5C) and Joshua S (5-6S) for collecting aluminium cans. Also thanks to other people who have donated cans who no longer have children at our school. The money we receive from the recycling helps us to provide classroom resources for your children. Aluminium cans which are bagged, labelled with your child’s name, class and the number of cans can be left outside my workshop in “D” Block on Friday mornings ONLY. Large amounts of aluminium cans can be picked up by arrangement.

Mr M. Nash
General Assistant

Parents Auxiliary News

CHOCOLATES! CHOCOLATES! CHOCOLATES! We hope you have been successful in selling your fundraising chocolates. EARLY BIRD PRIZE - For a chance to win ONE of THREE Chocolate Easter baskets, you must sell all the packets in your fundraising box and have your full money returned before the 20 March 2014. We ask that all money collected be returned to school in the envelope provided no later than 28 March, 2014.

Our next meeting will be held this Wednesday, 19 March at 2pm in the staffroom. All parents welcome.

Mrs A. Steele
Parents Auxiliary Convenor
KA has had a wonderful start to the year. I am very pleased with how well the boys and girls are learning school and classroom routines and are becoming more independent.

In the playground, we are learning how to make friends by speaking politely and asking to join in games. KA are very excited that they can now play on the 3-6 field and they eagerly await Tuesday's, as this is when we get to play on the new equipment with their buddy class 5/6Y.

In the classroom, KA have already started to learn how to read and write in the 'engine room' during Literacy and we are also learning to count, recognise and write numbers to 20 in Mathematics. We really enjoy participating in art lessons too!

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go."

— Dr. Seuss

On Wednesday 5th March, it was the Kindergarten Parents Morning Tea. Some parents visited our classroom before they enjoyed a cuppa and something sweet to eat.
Everyone in KB have settled into Kindergarten and we are having lots of fun learning many new things. We are enjoying learning how to read lots of new words and books. We are getting more clever each day with our writing and counting. We have made so many new friends at school. Mrs Bratovic is proud of us for trying so hard every single day. We love our new playground equipment and we get very excited when it's our turn to play on it. We all try really hard to be Bright Stars and to earn Captain Metrellas and Dojo points. We love having picnic lunches outside whenever we can and using the computers in the lab on Mondays. We love doing art lessons every week too. Kindergarten is lots of fun!
What a wonderful start to the year KG has made. We are learning lots about school and how to be motivated, respectful, proud and safe learners.

KG enjoy literacy groups every morning where they are learning all about reading and writing. Their favourite activity in class is using the Ipads and working on the computers.

KG enjoy participating in their P.E lessons with Mrs. Holburn every Wednesday and borrowing books from the library on Tuesday. One of their most favourite things to do is to play on the new climbing equipment.

KG have a lot of fun in music and drama with KM. Their favourite song that we love to sing and dance to is "Let it go" by Idina Menzel.

It is wonderful to see a lovely group of children learning all about school and developing friendships. We also made a new friend this week with our class pet the Hermit crab.
Wow, it's hard to believe that it's almost the end of Term 1. The students in KL have enjoyed their first term of 'big school' and they have learnt many new and exciting things. They worked hard throughout the term and have made significant gains across a range of areas.

KL would like to share some of this term's highlights with you.

**Annabelle:** I like doing familiar reading.
**Darien:** I like going to Drama with Mrs Cartwright.
**Georgi:** I like drawing beautiful pictures.
**Ishan:** I do Sport on Friday with Mrs Wilkinson.
**Jacqueline:** I like going to the back field.
**Joseph:** I went on the play equipment.
**Julia:** I read a book.
**Kashika:** I play with the play dough.
**Lacey:** I write my sight words.
**Lani:** I like doing writing in the Engine Room.
**Levi:** I like doing my work.
**Lihena:** I like playing counting games.
**Maximus:** I go to the Library on Tuesday.
**Nekhha:** I go to the Computer Room on Wednesday.
**Rohaan:** I make words on the overhead.
**Ruby:** I get lots of Captain Metellas.
**Sahana:** I like doing Reading Groups.
**Samuel:** I like doing Sport.
**Sarah:** I play outside with my friends.
**Yaseen:** I like going to the Computer Room.
KM News

The children in KM have settled beautifully into M.R.P.S. and are enthusiastic about learning sight words, numbers to 20, living things and of course, playing on the new equipment!

KM really enjoy going to the library with Mrs. Berville on Tuesdays and look forward to sport with Mrs. Wilkinson on Wednesdays. They are learning the school expectations and how to play fairly.

Every Wednesday afternoon, KM joins their neighbours, KG, for music and drama. The children love playing with the musical instruments and singing along to funny songs. Their favourite song to sing is ‘Twinkle Twinkle Little Star (my dad has an electric guitar)’ and can often be heard singing this during independent work! Be sure to join in if you catch them singing it at home!

KM love having parent helpers in the classroom. They are invited to come in and help with groups every morning. If you would like to help out please let Miss Jennings know (even if it is just occasionally!).

Keep working hard KM!

Miss Jennings & KM.
**Numeracy Committee 2014**

**Tips and Strategies for Students and Parents No.1:**

*Newman’s Prompts: Finding out why students make mistakes*

The Australian educator Anne Newman (1977) suggested five significant prompts to help determine where errors may occur in students’ attempts to solve written problems. She asked students the following questions as they attempted problems.

1. Please read the question to me. If you don’t know a word, leave it out.
2. Tell me what the question is asking you to do.
3. Tell me how you are going to find the answer.
4. Show me what to do to get the answer. “Talk aloud” as you do it, so that I can understand how you are thinking.
5. Now, write down your answer to the question.

These five questions can be used to determine why students make mistakes with written mathematics questions. They can also be used to help guide students to answer mathematics problems.

*How can parents use Newman’s prompts to assist their children?*

Below is an example of how Newman’s prompts can be used to solve a mathematics problem.

Clare wrote a number pattern. She added 4 to each number to get the next number.

Which is Clare’s number pattern?

- 12, 15, 18, 21, … 12 + 3 = 15; 15 + 3 = 18; 18 + 3 = 21
- 11, 15, 19, 23, … 11 + 4 = 15; 15 + 4 = 19; 19 + 4 = 23
- 4, 14, 24, 34, … 4 + 10 = 14; 14 + 10 = 24; 24 + 10 = 34
- 4, 8, 16, 32, … 4 + 4 = 8; 8 + 8 = 16; 16 + 16 = 32

Clare’s number pattern is 11, 15, 19, 23, ...

1. Please read the question to me. If you don’t know a word, leave it out.
2. Tell me what the question is asking you to do.
3. Tell me how you are going to find the answer.
4. Show me what to do to get the answer. “Talk aloud” as you do it, so that I can understand how you are thinking.
5. Now, write down your answer to the question.
NEWMAN’S PROMPTS BOOKMARKS

NEWMAN’S PROMPTS

Read the question twice. If you don’t know a word, leave it out. Replace tricky names with your own.

Locate the question and look at the key words. Work out together what the question is asking you to do.

Plan how you are going to work out the answer. You may want to draw a tape diagram.

Write down all of your working out. Use another strategy to check your answer.

Now, write down your answer to the question separately. Have you answered what the question was asking?

NEWMAN’S PROMPTS

Read the question twice. If you don’t know a word, leave it out. Replace tricky names with your own.

Locate the question and look at the key words. Work out together what the question is asking you to do.

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Write down all of your working out. Use another strategy to check your answer.

Now, write down your answer to the question separately. Have you answered what the question was asking?
Community Noticeboard

Metella Road Public School, as a service to parents, will advertise community events that may be of interest.

Metella Road Public School does not necessarily endorse or sponsor the events and accepts no responsibility for the management or organisation of these events.

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Greystanes

Physie & Dance
Combining modern dance, ballet, lyrical, pvis, core & warm ups, jazz and hip hop.

1st Lesson Free

For girls and women 3 yrs - fun filled classes promoting flexibility, strength, rhythm, coordination and teamwork.

Explore the Magical World of Dance
Become part of Australia's leading and most progressive dance movement

0414 711 692
www.greystanesphysiedance.weebly.com

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LIQUID cinema

7pm every Friday from 21 March until 11 April
Boat and Zorb hire 4pm until 7pm

FREE MOVIES BY THE RIVER
Parramatta River foreshore, between Barry Wilde Bridge and Elizabeth Street Footbridge

Bring along your cushions and blankets and take in a family friendly movie sure to satisfy all tastes.

21 March 7:00pm Finding Nemo (G)
28 March 7:00pm Babe (G)
4 April 7:00pm Toy Story (G)
11 April 7:00pm Wall E (G)

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Santa Paws

free School Holiday
GARDENING CLASSES

11am daily
Mon 14 - Thu 17 April
Tue 22 - Thu 24 April

"pot your own seedling to take home"

Children under 12 yrs must be supervised at all times

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NSW Government
Education & Communities