Dear parents

Holiday time is almost here again! It is very hard to believe that we are almost half way through the year. Reports and interviews are over (except for Stage 3) and planning and preparation is well under way for Term 3. Please remember however that you are always welcome to make an appointment with your child's teacher for progress updates or to address any concerns.

A big thank you must go to our wonderful P&C for their efforts with the Mother's Day stall. I'm sure all our mums who were recipients of the wonderful gifts were thrilled. The P&C has also purchased some shirts, ties and blazers for loan to students for special occasions or when representing our school. Our debating team were the first to use them and when you see the photo later in the newsletter I am sure you will agree with how fabulous they look. It is wonderful to see our students demonstrating such pride in our school.

At the end of this term Mrs Smith will be retiring from our school. Mrs Smith started coming to our school when her children started here and she hasn't left! Over the past 39 years Mrs Smith has participated in the life of MPPS in a variety of roles both voluntary and paid. Working in the front office Mrs Smith has been the face of our school and often the first person our community have contact with. Without exception, Mrs Smith has performed her duties in a kind and professional manner often going way beyond the call of duty. Her service to our school will be greatly missed by all the staff, the students and their families. Personally, I am extremely grateful to have had the opportunity to work so closely with her in the time I have been at this school. I am sure you will join me in wishing both Mrs and Mr Smith a wonderful and well-deserved retirement.

Mrs K Synnott
Principal
A Message from Our School Captains

This term has been a really exciting term for all students. We have had lots of exciting activities and events.

Earlier this term our prefects had a lot of fun at Ashcroft High School where we learnt about renewable energy and ate lots of delicious cakes.

In May many students enjoyed our schools cross country carnival and some talented runners made it to the zone carnival. One of our students Kamila Beg even made it to the regionals!

This term we also introduced new playground equipment for students to play with at lunch time. Our younger students, especially kindergarten love playing with all the different items.

One of our favourite things to watch this term has been watching kindergarten and stage 1 assembly items.

All the classes have been excited about being on stage and we love seeing their smiling faces.

We are now looking forward to the school holidays and an even better term 3.

From Jenny and Zayne

Say no to bullying
I am very excited to announce that we have won our first debate! A big congratulations to Elissa, Abbey-Jane, Minh and Alec. 2013

Thursday 6th June 2013

Ms. C. Hide

Debating Team Co-ordinator
MPPS JACKETS

We have been very fortunate thanks to our wonderful P & C to have a range of jackets purchased for our students to wear on official school business. The first students to wear the jackets were the wonderful debating team,. Don’t they look very smart?
STAGE 1—WATCH IT GROW

This term, Stage 1 have had a lot of fun looking at the Science unit Watch it Grow. In Literacy we were following Procedures. This is the Procedure that 1/2R followed to see if we could blow up a balloon with yeast.

HOW TO BLOW UP A BALLOON WITH YEAST

Things you need/materials

Put the sugar in the water

Add the yeast to the water

Stir the yeast and water with the spoon
STAGE 1—WATCH IT GROW

**Place** the funnel inside the bottle

**Tip** the water, sugar and yeast into the bottle

**Stretch** the balloon onto the bottle top

**Place** the balloon and bottle in the sun
STAGE 1—WATCH IT GROW

How does it work?

As the yeast eats the sugar, it releases a gas called carbon dioxide. The gas fills the bottle and then fills the balloon as more gas is created.
Wonderful Pictures from 3/4S Students

Christian

[Image of colorful seashells and a starfish drawn by Christian]
Wonderful Pictures from 3/4S Students

Isabelle
Wonderful Pictures from 3/4S Students

I have a super protective shield to fight off hurtful words.

William
Rachel, Shirley, Kathy, Sarah, Deborah, Eliza, Matthew, Albert, Manel, Rania, Lazar and Ryan, are an enthusiastic group of year 6 students who became library monitors this term. They have been wonderful school leaders.

**NSW Premier’s Reading Challenge**

Many primary children are busy reading books to complete the challenge. They need to read 20 Premier’s Reading Challenge books by 23rd August.

Mrs O’Connor
At the recent Engadine Band Festival our students were once again awarded the trophy for 1st Place. Well done everyone!
STAGE 3 ELECTIVE

Bernard Chau, Reem Nasir, & Jacinta Brammam with the beautifully decorated pieces of cake from their baking class - a Stage 3 Elective subject.

Would you like to have a taste?

Yum Yum
Stage 3 Elective

Alec Raymond

eyeing up the tasty treats!!
Well done to the staff who supported our red & black day!!!!

Gorgeous group of ladies.

Mrs Spagnardi, Mrs Dellow, Mrs Hannan & Mrs Haskey
NAIDOC WEEK 2013

NAIDOC week is held each July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander peoples.

We will be celebrating this special event on Monday 22nd July. The children will be given the opportunity to participate in some art and craft activities with buddy classes. A note will go home closer to the event.

Mrs Hannan and Mrs O’Connor,
Co-Ordinators
During the April school holidays Mrs Raymond, Mrs Trotter and Mrs Berkeley moved the four garden beds into a sunnier position and the plants are growing well. We are very grateful to Bonnyrigg Garden Centre for their generous donation of vegetable seedlings. We were able to plant cauliflower, beetroot, lettuce, peppermint, silverbeet, onions and peas.

Growing pumpkin has proved to be very successful and we have made some delicious pumpkin soup from the bountiful supply of pumpkins that we have grown.

Unfortunately, our cauliflower seedlings seem to be really tasty to caterpillars at the moment. Some of our Friday Pritchard Planters (Ethan, Jaytin and Yousef) are keen to find them before they eat all our cauliflowers!

The Pritchard Planters for Term 2 are:

Hussein 3/4W
Tan Anh 1/2R
Tiffany 3/4D
Dani-Leigh 5/6J
Chloe 1/2T

Ashley 5/6M
Mitch 5/6S
Kava 3/4H
Isabelle 3/4S
Ivana 5/6H

Jaytin 1/2H
Alex 1/2B
Ethan 1/2S
Yousef 1/2RD
Isaac 5/6P

Mrs Raymond and Mrs Trotter
“PRITCHARD PLANTERS’’

Carrots

Spinach

Soup

Pumpkins
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK 1</th>
<th>16 July</th>
<th>K-6 Students return</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>17 July</td>
<td>Stage 3 Interviews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEEK 2</td>
<td>22 July</td>
<td>NAIDOC Celebrations</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>24 July</td>
<td>OC Placement Testing</td>
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<td>WEEK 3</td>
<td>29 July to 2 August</td>
<td>Education Week—Open Day 31 July</td>
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<td></td>
<td>30 July</td>
<td>Athletics Carnival</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>31 July</td>
<td>English University Competition</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEEK 5</td>
<td>13 August</td>
<td>Mathematics University Competition</td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
<td>19 August to 23 August</td>
<td>Book Week ‘Read Across the Universe’</td>
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<td>Week 7</td>
<td>26 August to 30 August</td>
<td>Special Swimming Scheme</td>
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<td>28 August</td>
<td>Zone Athletics</td>
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<td></td>
<td>30 August</td>
<td>Finals - PSSA</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 9</td>
<td>13 September</td>
<td>Season 3 - PSSA</td>
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<td>Week 10</td>
<td>18 September</td>
<td>Stage 3 Carnivale (Bonnyrigg High School)</td>
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CROSS COUNTRY
This year our school Cross Country was held on Thursday 16 May and included all students who were 8 or turning 8 this year. The enthusiasm and sportsmanship of the runners made the event a great success. Following the Cross Country, 4 students from each race were selected to compete in the Zone Cross Country which provided an opportunity for the selected students to race against other students at different schools. As a whole, Mt Pritchard did a fantastic job and we were lucky enough to have one of our Stage 3 students, Kamila Beg continue to the Regional Cross Country where she did a fantastic job representing our school. Mrs Stefanik, Mr Stacey and Mt Pritchard are very proud of all the students who participated in our school Cross Country this year!
We contacted you at the beginning of the year to let the families at your school know about the introduction of the Schoolkids Bonus, a twice yearly payment to help lighten the load of school costs. The first instalment was paid in January.

We are seeking your assistance to spread the word that the second instalment of the Schoolkids Bonus will be paid in July and that eligible families who have not updated their child’s education details with Centrelink have until 29 June to do so to ensure they receive the correct payment in July. Eligible families who have updated their child’s education details with Centrelink do not have to do anything.

For your school, this means eligible families will have extra money on hand to help with mid-year and ongoing education expenses, like school excursions, winter uniforms, new stationery and other school supplies.

Please include the information in your school newsletter, website and official correspondence. We also have a range of information materials, including:

- an information brochure and factsheet (in English and ten languages)
- a pathfinder to help families understand if they are eligible for the Schoolkids Bonus

You can download these materials at australia.gov.au/schoolkidsbonus. Hardcopies of the brochure and factsheet are also available (free of charge) and can be ordered by contacting us at schoolkidsbonus@fahcsia.gov.au

Thank you in advance for your support. If you have any questions or require any further information please feel free to contact us on schoolkidsbonus@fahcsia.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Schoolkids Bonus Communication Team
Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
E: schoolkidsbonus@fahcsia.gov.au
This year the students in Stage 2 and Stage 3 are being given the opportunity to attend a three day camp to Milson Island from Wednesday 6\textsuperscript{th} November to Friday 8\textsuperscript{th} November. \textbf{The total cost of the camp is $325.}

This price includes the following:
- Coach travel to and from Kangaroo Point
- Ferry travel to and from Kangaroo Point to Milson Island
- Two night’s accommodation
- Meals (dinner on both nights; lunch and breakfast on day 2 and day 3)
- A wide variety of fun activities that will provide opportunities for your child to be a leader, challenge themselves and develop independence, self-confidence and team work skills.

There are limited places available for this excursion. A maximum of 95 students will be allowed to attend.

\textit{In order to secure your child’s place, we ask that you please pay either the full amount of $325 or a deposit of $55. Please note this deposit of $55 is non-refundable. Payments should be made by Thursday 27\textsuperscript{th} June to guarantee your child a place.}

If you choose to pay in instalments, rather than paying in full, the following payment option is available.

- $55 initial deposit and three incremental payments
- ($90 payment 1 (22\textsuperscript{nd} July),
- $90 payment 2 (12\textsuperscript{th} August),
- $90 payment 3) (30th August),
- with the full balance being paid by 13\textsuperscript{th} September 2013

Karen Synnott
Principal
A LITTLE LIGHT HUMOUR!

Alphabet taught to kids nowadays

A: APPLE  B: BLUETOOTH  C: CHAT:  D: DOWNLOAD  E: EMAIL  F: FACEBOOK  G: GOOGLE
PARKING AT THE BACK GATE - HEMPHILL AVENUE

Can we please remind parents that the kiss and drop zone is not to be used for parking - you are only allowed to drop your child and then move straight off so that the next parent can drop their child.

The carpark driveways are not to be used for student or parent access, it is very dangerous for your child to be entering this way, please make sure you tell them to only use the pedestrian gates.

MONEY COLLECTIONS:
Please post in letterbox outside office, in an envelope clearly labelled with your child’s name, class, amount and reason. Please do not take to classroom or give to casual teachers. We are no longer able to provide your child with an envelope, therefore please make sure this is done at home. Money can be placed in either of the following: sandwich bag, paper bag, envelope, or wrapped in paper and sealed.

LATE ARRIVALS:
All students arriving late at school must be signed in by a parent. The Home School Liaison Officer will be checking all attendance rolls and phoning or paying a visit to those parents whose children are arriving late.

WHAT TO DO IF YOUR CHILD IS ABSENT FROM SCHOOL
When your child is going to be absent for an appointment, always write a note in advance. If your child is ill, write a note of explanation and send it with your child on the day they return to school. The Department of Education has attendance officers who contact any home where students’ attendance levels fall below 85%. It allows them to check on the whereabouts of each child and to ensure that all students are safe. If your child is upset by any family matter, let the school know so they can provide support.