Welcome Back

A big welcome back to all our families to term 3, a special welcome to the three new families that started with us this term. Term 3 is always a fantastic term, full of events and happening things. Week 3 will see us celebrate Education Week with open classrooms and Week 7 will showcase our artistic talents in this years Art Show. More details on these programs to follow.

Staffing News

With a mixture of school sadness and genuine happiness for them both, I can announce two staffing changes that will occur this term.

Ms Ana Andreu has been appointed Assistant Principal of Mascot Public School through merit selection. Ms Andreu has been a passionate, vocal and enthusiastic staff member for Maroubra Junction PS over the last 8 years and will be a massive loss to our school. Her dedication to her classes, support groups and new arrivals is unmatched in this school and we wish her all the best at Mascot PS. Ms Andreu’s last day will be Friday 24 July.

Miss Jessica Boyne has applied, and been accepted, as a school teacher overseas. This is a position that will further develop Miss Boyne’s teaching skills and make her an even better teacher on her return. Miss Boyne has been a fantastic classroom teacher over the last two years and has developed a wonderful rapport with her classes. Miss Boyne’s last day will be Friday 31 July.

Mrs Mihajlovic will replace Ms Andreu and Mr Tait will be the 4B classroom teacher.

New Gardens

At the end of last term, the Castrisos family donated and planted a range of plants around the 3T demountable and in front of the container. This has made a wonderful difference to a neglected area and we thank the Castrisos family for their donation and their time.

Canteen

Canteen leases are held for five years and this Friday will see the conclusion of the current lease by Skool Snaks. Jan and the team have done a wonderful job servicing our students over the last five years and we thank them for their service.

Starting next Monday, a new company will be providing our canteen service. The new provider is called Total Canteen Solutions and they service many large schools across Sydney. Parents are asked to be patient whilst the new providers get underway, however the company has assured me that a canteen service will be provided from Monday. Details on the company, menu and online ordering will be sent out as soon as possible. Thanks to Lisa and Karen from the P&C and School Council for being part of the selection committee.

Enjoy your week.

Matthew Ackerman
Principal (rel)
Welcome back to Term 3 everyone! I am very excited to have received my own column in the school newsletter. A space to fill you in on some of the fantastic things that occur around our school.

**Staff Development Day**

On Monday our executive team worked together to organise a very productive staff development day. We had a strong focus on our learners and how we can improve **TEACHING**, **LEARNING** and **ENGAGEMENT** in 21st century classrooms. We were inspired by current educational research, pedagogies and leaders. At the core of our planning, were the skills and attributes that parents, teachers and students had identified as most important for our learners to take with them as they leave Maroubra Junction PS.

We received a lot of positive feedback from staff about the day and we are very excited about working together to implement our school directions. I would like to thank the staff of MJPS for their high standard of professional and collegial input on the day.

Watch this space and I will keep you updated on where to next!

**Education Week**

In week three of this term we will be celebrating Education Week. Our open day will be held at school on **Wednesday July 29, 2015**. The students and teachers of MJPS would love to see parents come along and join in on the day. Please refer to the schedule below:

- **9.15-10.15am** - K-6 Open Classrooms
- **10.15-10.45am** - Parent morning tea and creative arts performances in the hall.

This year there will be a focus on how we teach science and use technology as a learning tool in classrooms. Please note there will not be separate open classroom sessions for different grades allowing parents to move freely between rooms within the allocated hour.

Come along and help us celebrate our Love for Learning!

**Expanding Horizons Choir Rehearsal Day**

Mr Fitz will be taking a group of students along to Marie Bashir PS next **Wednesday July 22, 2015** to rehearse for their Opera House performance later in the term. They will be joining over 60 schools on the day. Wow, that’s a lot of voices! Permission notes have already been collected last term and payment will be on this term’s invoice. Please note that departure time as been pushed forward and is at 8:15am. Students need to meet Mr Fitz outside the 5G classroom at **8am** sharp. More information about this performance will follow in newsletters to come.

Well, that’s about all from me this week everyone. I hope you enjoy your first week of Term 3, 2015.

*Catherine Pierce*
Deputy Principal (rel)

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**Core Value Corner**

A regular feature of our newsletter has returned! We ask parents to support our schools core value code by regularly checking the weekly core value corner in school newsletters and discussing the focus expectations with your child/children. This week’s expectation is **PLAY SAFELY IN THE RIGHT AREAS** and it belongs to the **SAFETY Core Value**.

Please remind students to

1. Stay in supervised play areas.
2. Ask for help if there is an accident.
3. Use toilet areas appropriately.

**Core Value Mural Call-out**

This is a call-out to any talented artists or designers amongst our parent and friends community. We invite you get creative with us and take part in the development of a mural based around the schools three core values **SAFETY LEARNING & RESPECT**.

At this stage, the mural will be painted on the green brick stairwell wall near the admin block. Please submit your designs with attention to Mrs Pierce to the school email by the end of July. If you require further information about submissions please contact Mrs Pierce through the school office or school email.

Thank you

Core Value Coordinators

Catherine Pierce and Caroline Durstan

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Maroubra Junction Public School

**SAFETY**

**LEARNING**

**RESPECT**

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**Core Value Coordinators**

Catherine Pierce and Caroline Durstan
Sports Information

Winter sport resumes this week.

Please ensure your child’s payment is finalised before Friday 24 July - Week 2

This Friday, 17 July:

Rugby League
MJPS v LAPA/MSSPS 1 at Heffron Park (corner of Jersey Rd)

Netball
MJPS v Matraville at Heffron Park Netball Courts

Soccer
MJPS (Red) v Matraville at Heffron Park 2 (near netball courts)
MJPS (Green) BYE will play a friendly

Sports Stars

Congratulations to Rose G who represented Sydney East Hockey Association at the recent championships held at Tamworth. Rose’s team won the Kim Small Shield and should be very proud of her efforts. Well done, Rose.

School Banking

This week we processed just over 60 deposits totalling close to $400. Next week we have flyers to place into your banking wallets about a new competition for term 3. Be sure to make a deposit next week to get details of the comp, prizes include iPads, Beats headphones and book packs for school.


Attendance

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for them to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options.

NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people at school.

Please take the time to read the brochure attached at the end of this newsletter for important information regarding attendance at Maroubra Junction Public School.
Maroubra Junction Public School’s Fantasy Forest

Everyone in Fantasy Forest is happy. That is, until an evil witch and her bats sneak into the forest. They steal the magic wand and kidnap the good fairy. The Forest dwellers must work together to free the fairy and get rid of the evil. Can this evil be defeated?

This term **69 students will perform at NIDA on the 5th August**. Students have been hard at work every Tuesday during lunch rehearsing and are now in the final stages of perfecting their performance. To enable us to do this we have organised **extra rehearsals** for some of our students. The students required for these rehearsals are those taking on the role of: **bat, the dark, witch, fairy or storyteller**.

These extra rehearsals start next week and are for the following dates: **21st July, 28th July and 4th August**. Rehearsals will be at the school hall and start at 8.15 a.m. Students are asked to arrive promptly.

We expect tickets to arrive over the next couple of weeks. Tickets will be given to students who have purchased them. There will also be a **public sale date for anyone wishing to purchase extra tickets on the 29th July through Ticketek**. They can be contacted on 132 849. Any child aged 3 and over will require a ticket.

On the night the doors open at 6.00 pm, the red carpet event starts at 6.15 pm and the show starts at 7.15 pm. The show will be filmed and photographed. There will be no intermission. It is anticipated the show will end at approximately 9.00 pm. Parents will be informed about the location for collecting students during the show by the host.

We are all extremely excited and looking forward to special night.

Ms Ana Andreu, Miss Allira Carlon, Miss Caitlin French
Upcoming Events

SATURDAY 1ST AUGUST 2015

We are hosting a “Hollywood” inspired Trivia Night on Saturday 1st August. This is a social event for the community so gather up your friends and family to form tables of 10. Numbers are limited to 20 tables.

To purchase tickets please complete the form [Trivia Night] and look out for the parents selling tickets on Friday morning outside the School Office. Remember tables are limited so don’t miss out.

How you can help

We are seeking donations of alcohol for a fabulous game. Please leave donations at the office. Additionally if you are able to “Bring a B” (such as box of chocolates or bottle of something) to add to table prizes on the night please also leave these at the office.

Hollywood Decorations

This is a shout out to any parents that may be able to assist in lending the P&C some props/ decorations that would go towards decorating the school hall for the “Hollywood” Trivia night. Maybe you have hosted a similar party and have "decorations" that would fit our theme.

Items such as:
- Red Carpet/rope
- Oscar Statue
- Red or black Curtains
- Spotlights
- Old Cameras
- Fairy Lights
- Disco Ball
- Does anyone also have a polaroid camera that they would be willing to lend us for use on the night?

If anyone has any of the above or ideas to decorate the space, please contact Jennie via the mjpspandc@gmail.com email.

Entertainment Books

In previous years, the P&C have sold Entertainment Books with proceeds going back to the school. Books can be purchased online. [Entertainment Book Order MJPS]

Thanks in advance to all members of the P&C Executive and all those who have volunteered during Term 2.

Karen Birrell, President
mjpspandc@gmail.com
Compulsory School Attendance
Information for parents

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

What are my legal responsibilities?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age. The Education Act 1990 requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or are registered with the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards for homeschooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

The importance of arriving on time

Arriving at school and class on time:

- Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Give students time to greet their friends before class
- Reduces classroom disruption

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

What if my child has to be away from school?

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child’s school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principal may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child’s absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.

Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when frequent or long term absences are explained as being due to illness. Principals may also seek parental permission to speak with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child. If the request is denied, the principal can record the absences as unjustified.

Travel

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child’s school principal. An Application for Extended Leave may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child’s total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child’s school principal.
My child won’t go to school. What should I do?

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school’s learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department of Education and Communities may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

- Compulsory Schooling Conferences

You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child’s attendance at school.

- Application to the Children’s Court – Compulsory Schooling Order

If your child’s attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department may apply to the Children’s Court for a Compulsory Schooling Order. The Children’s Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

- Prosecution in the Local Court

School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child’s full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

What age can my child leave school?

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to complete their schooling.

Working in Partnership

The Department of Education and Communities recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.

Further information regarding school attendance can be obtained from the following websites:

Policy, information and brochures:

The school leaving age:

Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are available on request, including for the hearing impaired. The Telephone Interpreter Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 131 450. You will not be charged for this service.

For further advice and questions contact your educational services team

T 131 536

Learning and Engagement

Student Engagement & Interagency Partnerships

T 9244 5129
www.decs.nsw.gov.au

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