Principal’s Report

Parent Information Sessions
Tonight we start our Parent Information Sessions, with Years 3-6. Classes 3B, 3CK, 3/4R will start at 6pm in their classrooms, 5G, 5R and 5T at 7pm also in their classrooms and Year 6 in the double Year 6 classroom at 7pm. We hope to see many parents and community there to hear about the wonderful happenings in 2016.

Please note 3F parent information session will be held next Tuesday 16 February and 4H will be Wednesday 24 February.

Great learning has started....

Today I had a visit from Ria and Louis in KC. They were excited to show me their writing about flowers and lizards. What wonderful sentences and drawings from these two fantastic students. Keep up the great work, it made my day.....

School Communication
This week our school is investigating a new method for parents to communicate with the school. Data tells us that our school app is under utilised and we have many parents not signing up with our email service and missing out on valuable information.

Very soon we will be announcing a new all in one system that parents can access everything they ever wanted to know about MJPS. Until then, please continue to use our school website and Facebook page to stay informed.

Enjoy your week.

Matthew Ackerman
Principal (rel)
News from the Office

Term One fee statements were sent home today. Prompt payment allows the school to start our key programs and initiatives for 2016. As always, parents that require financial assistance are urged to talk to the office or the Principal to make appropriate arrangements.

In 2016, term statements outlining the term activities and costs will continue to be used. Feedback from 2015 concluded that this was a valued practice. It is important to note that students need to have paid or have arrangements in place before an excursion or event takes place at school. Failure to do so will result in the student not participating in the activity and we do not want to see this happen. All our activities are vital components of a student’s education and we would like to see all students attending.

Student Banking

What a great first week back to banking we had with 45 student bankers, depositing nearly $950! What great savers MJPS students are! The Student Banking Team (currently just Nelly and Davina) are looking for more volunteers to help out. If you are free on Tuesday mornings, and are interested in volunteering your time for a few hours every second week or so, then meet us in the school office at around 9.05 am and have a chat with the team. The Student Banking Program is a great way to encourage our kids to establish good saving habits. It’s also a great fundraising activity for MJPS, with participating schools receiving 5% of every individual deposit made at school from the bank! We’d love to keep it going.

The Banking Team

Year 6 Farewell

committee meeting

Any year 6 parents interested in being involved in the Year 6 Farewell Committee are invited to attend a meeting on Monday 15 February at 7.30pm at 63 Metcalfe St Maroubra. For more information contact Davina on 0413137713 or email Davina.park@gmail.com or via Facebook page

Yr 6 2016 MJPS parents.

Chess

Learn how to be a chess champion! Coaching for students at Maroubra Junction Public School is held on Tuesdays from 8:00am – 8:50am in the Classroom 6H.

Chess is the world’s most loved board game. Learning and playing chess helps children develop their logical thinking and problem solving skills, improves their concentration and focus, while also being a great source of enjoyment! Activities include group lessons on a demonstration chess board or interactive whiteboard, puzzle solving and fun practice games, with personal feedback from the coach.

Students earn merit awards by making checkmates, solving puzzles, or by displaying skills and positive qualities, which all good chess players strive to develop.

If your child is interested in taking part, you can pick up an enrolment form from the school office, or email enrol@sydneyacademyofchess.com.au for a copy.

For all enquiries, please contact Sydney Academy of Chess on (02) 9745 1170.

KISS & GO

Parents may register to use the kiss & go zone for afternoon pick-ups at the following link: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/YXVH2GD

If you are already registered, there is no need to re-register. Please note that kindergarten children will not be allowed to use kiss & go until term two unless they have an older sibling who can collect them from the classroom and take them to kiss & go in the afternoon.

Please note that once you are registered to use kiss & go, parents must make arrangements with their children in the morning. It is not possible to pass messages on to children during the day about kiss & go except in an emergency situation.
First Meeting Wrap

Thank you to all those who attended our first P&C meeting for 2016. It was wonderful to see some new faces. Just a reminder P&C meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month at 7:00pm in the Library (unless otherwise notified).

At our next P&C meeting we will be voting on the school’s wishlist and funding model. Details of the school’s wishlist will be published in next week’s newsletter.

Welcome BBQ and Disco

The whole school is invited to our Welcome Barbecue & Disco to be held on Friday 26th February – please come along!

Important things to note:
- The barbecue will be firing from 5.15pm until 7.30pm.
- There will also be drinks, chips and cool disco items to purchase.
- Kindergarten FREE ENTRY disco will begin at 5.30pm.
- Years 1 -2 FREE ENTRY disco begins at 6.00 and finish at 7.00pm.
- Years 3 – 6 FREE ENTRY disco begins at 7.15 and finish at 8.30pm

We will commence set up from 4:00pm. If you are able to assist with set up, cooking, selling merchandise and food please email the P&C mjpspandc@gmail.com with your preferred time and activity.

I look forward to seeing you there.

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.

Principals 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.dec.nsw.gov.au

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NSW Department of Education and Communities
Randwick Girls’ High School

OPEN NIGHT

Tuesday 8th March

6.30pm

In the Multi Purpose Centre

- Group tours of whole school
- Meet with staff from all faculties
- Meet and chat with current students
- Individual faculty information kiosks
- Academic and co-curricular information

Randwick Girls’ High School

Facta non Verba – Actions not Words
Educating today’s girls to be tomorrow’s leaders.

Enrolment Enquiries

Phone: 02 8345 8200
Email: randwickg-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Community News Disclaimer  Maroubra Junction Public School as a service to parents will advertise community events which may be of interest. MJPS does not necessarily endorse or sponsor the events and accepts no responsibility to the management or organization of these events.