Launch of our new School App!

Our new school app has arrived. All students today were given instructions and tips for staying informed at Maroubra Junction Public School. This included an instruction sheet for accessing the school app. Please note this is a new app and will be used instead of the existing app. If you have the old app you can delete it from your device.

Current tabs include Alerts, Newsletters, Events, News and School Policies. We will be shortly adding P&C information, School Canteen and links to home learning sites. We are very excited about this app and hope that this starts an even more informed conversation between the school and our community.

Class Parent System

Parents have been asked last week to complete a paper form for the class parent system. Forms should be returned to the class teacher as soon as possible. This is a highly valued and important form of parent communication between parents and the class teacher, please take the time to complete this short note. As this is a whole school strategy, all classes in the school are asked to be involved.

Flexible Learning

Teaching and learning outside of the traditional rows in classrooms is a big focus for us at MJPS. This week we opened a new flexible learning space above the Admin block allowing small group of students to breathe the open air and be taught in a calm and relaxed atmosphere. Mrs Livermore enjoyed her morning with her English learners today. What a great use of this space.

P&C Meeting

The next P&C meeting will be held on Thursday 3 March in the Library. Sue Shelley, Director, will be in attendance to discuss the Principal position of Maroubra Junction Public School.

Last meeting we had many new faces, it would be fantastic to see more of our community at these meetings each month.

PS Don’t forget the last parent session is for 4H and will be held tonight, Wednesday 24 February, at 5.30pm.

Enjoy your week.

Matthew Ackerman
Principal (rel)
I hope everyone has had a fantastic start back to the 2016 school year at MJPS. Its great to see all our students so settled into their new classes and the teachers have been very busy creating a positive tone for learning as we begin a new school year.

The weather has been very warm over the past month and we thank the school community for their support in encouraging our students to wear their hats outside. This is one of the expectations listed under our school’s Safety Core Value.

These are our Core Value stars which are also displayed in classrooms so that MJPS students can regularly refer to the expectations of our whole school Positive Behaviour Plan. This Positive Behaviour Plan was developed in consultation with students, teachers and parents several years ago. It can be found on our school website and new School Bag App. We will continue to have a weekly Core Value focus across the whole school which will be communicated in this newsletter.

**Visible Learning**

On February 17, the MJPS leadership team were involved in a Visible Learning Evidence into Action Day. We continued to work on our school plan focus on making learning visible. In order to make informed decisions about student learning, the leadership team will be collecting data and evidence across the school community. The team will begin with a focus on How do students feel about learning at MJPS. The team will be withdrawing students from class for a short interview about learning. These students will be selected at random across K-6 and we will be communicating results with school community.

Catherine Pierce
Deputy Principal (rel)

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**Core Value Corner**

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 of the Week is a great one for the our warmer weather...and it is

**WEAR YOUR SCHOOL HAT OUTSIDE.** This expectation belongs to the Core Value of **SAFETY.**

All students need to have a school hat at school every-day. Hats need to be labelled clearly with each student’s full name. If we forget our hat we need to go to the No Hat area outside the Year 1 rooms. This area is for quiet games only.

Hats are to be worn to and from school and in the morning before school. Students should be responsible for their own hat every day.

**We’re championing sun safe hats**

Our school recognises the need to protect student’s skin and educate them about sun safety to reduce the risk of skin cancer. We provide ongoing education that promotes healthy lifestyles and individual and collective responsibility for sun safety. Sun safe hats are part of our schools approach to sun safety and are supported in the following ways:

The school hat is part of our school uniform and is a sun safe design

Students wear sun safe hats when they are outside

We consider sun safety and the wearing of sun safe hats when planning school excursions

We have a rewards system in place to recognise students consistently wearing their sun safe hat.

**Did you know that when it comes to sun protection, not all hats are equal?**

We all know that sun safe hats help protect against skin cancer and eye damage. But did you know that baseball caps do not provide adequate protection from the sun? There is very clear evidence that baseball caps leave the cheeks, ears, chin and back of the neck exposed to ultraviolet radiation, and this is the site of many skin cancers in later life.

**Contact the SunSmart team**

p: (02) 9334 1761

e: sunsmartschools@nswcc.org.au

w: www.sunsmartnsw.com.au


**Arabic Community Meeting**

As we have done in previous years, we warmly invite our Arabic community to a parent information session on Wednesday 16 March at 9.15am. The meeting will be attended by the school Principal and Deputy Principal, English teachers and an accredited interpreter. We hope that many of our mums and dads can come and hear what is happening in 2016. There will also be an opportunity for parents to ask questions in this meeting.

Community meetings for other cultures in our school community are also being investigated for 2016.

**Sports Money**

As indicated on the Years 3 to 6 sports note that has been sent home, payment for sports is required by Monday 29 February. Any student not able to pay by this day will need to attend the ball sports activity at school.

Thank you to all those families that have already paid their sports activity fees.

Payments are to be made in the sports letterboxes outside the office.

**Schools Clean Up 2016**

In support of Clean Up Australia Day 2016, MJPS is holding A Schools’ Clean Up Day on Friday 4 March 2016. Each class will be given a designated area to clean and spend no more than 30 minutes collecting rubbish around the area. Students are asked to bring their own protective disposable or gardening gloves on the day if possible. Spare disposable gloves will be provided for those children who need them. We trust that this event enables our school to take a small amount of time to make a huge difference in cleaning up our school ground.

**Parent volunteers needed for ethics classes in 2016**

We urgently need your help! We currently do not have enough ethics teachers to hold ethics classes on Monday mornings for all of the students enrolled in ethics in years 3-6 an on Thursday for K-2.

If you are free on Mondays or Thursdays and might be interested in becoming a volunteer ethics teacher, please contact Julie Noonan, our volunteer parent ethics coordinator at julie.noonan@optusnet.com.au. Or go to www.primaryethics.com.au and click on the link ‘Become an ethics teacher’ to find our more.

Volunteer Ethics Teachers are fully trained and supported by Primary Ethics to deliver an age-appropriate DET approved curriculum every week and are provided with accompanying learning and teaching materials. It is a fantastic way to work with our school and interact with students in a meaningful way.

**Toilet Paper**

We have gone through a lot of toilet paper of late, and the cleaners have reported that much of it is in sinks, ceiling and on the floor.

Please discuss with your child the importance of doing the right thing when in the toilets.

**Kiss & Go Traffic**

Each day we find one or two cars that park on the school side of Loch Maree St. This causes a large bank up of traffic trying to use the Kiss & Go system.

Please be considerate of other users and use other streets to park and collect your child. The school side of Loch Maree st is ONLY for Kiss & Go users.
On the 15th and 6th of January, the 2016 12yrs and under State Swimming Carnival was held at Homebush Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre, Sydney Australia. At this event junior swimmers from around NSW all come together to compete against each other. This swim meet is a very special meet, as the best of the best come to compete.

All the children that compete at this event are split into their age groups and then split again into swimming strokes to race. After each event a medal ceremony is held to congratulate the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place getters. All the swimmers at this event did really well and made their club coaches proud. Some of these clubs were, San Souci Sea Devils, Knox Pymble and Trinity Grammar. All these clubs placed in the top ten by the end of the meet. A few events were extremely close with only a 4 second difference from 1st place to 50th.

For some children this was their first big meet, which was really exciting for them and their family and friends. Everyone had fun two days being with friends, supporting each other and most importantly having a good time. By the end of the meet everyone was tired but all agreed it was a great experience. I was very lucky to come 38th in the state after a very tiring day!

By Tatiana A
Should we change the Australian flag?
What is your opinion?
5R’s Expositions

Should we change our Australian flag? 🏳️‍🌈
Do you think the Australian flag should be changed? I believe that the Australian flag should be changed as Australia needs a brand new flag. If other countries can change their flag then why can’t we??

My first piece of evidence to support why we should change our flag is that it totally ignores Aboriginal Australians when they are the true owners of this land. They were in Australia for thousands of years before the European settlement and there is not a single symbol representing the Indigenous inhabitants of Australia. How would you feel if your home was invaded by a group of people that looked and talked different to you? Their land was taken from them by Britain and it is disrespectful to have British symbols on the Australian flag and not Aboriginal symbols. **WE ALL KNOW WE MUST CHANGE OUR FLAG!!**

Another reason why we should change our flag is that it doesn’t represent our country. The Union Jack represents something from the past. Australia now has people from all over the globe living in Australia. Australia is now a very multicultural country, in fact, more than 45% of Australians were born overseas or had one parent who was born overseas. Many of Australians come from another country! **WE ALL KNOW WE MUST CHANGE OUR FLAG!!**

My final, crucial reason, to change our flag is that it is confusing to other countries. There are 23 countries with the Union Jack on their flag and Australia is one of them! Other countries do not immediately recognise our Australian flag because the union Jack is part of the British flag. We should change our flag and add something unique to instantly recognise that this is our flag. **WE ALL KNOW WE MUST CHANGE OUR FLAG!!**

For these reasons I believe that we must change our Aussie flag because it is disrespectful to our real owners of Australia. It is clear to see that **WE MUST CHANGE OUR FLAG!!**

Briana Tan

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Should we change the Australian flag?
Do you think that we should change the Australian flag? I think we shouldn’t change the Australian flag as it is totally unnecessary.

If we changed the flag it will cost an enormous amount of money for people all over Australia to buy a new flag. At least a million dollars will be needed for the process to design, replace and manufacture a new flag which will mean less money to spend on education, business, roads and more. We should never change the Australian flag.

Another case is that in WW1 and WW2 thousands of Australian soldiers fought and died for the Australian flag. If we change the flag veterans of war will be forgotten and we will forget their friends who died fighting for our country. We should never change the Australian flag.

Finally, our flag has a big part to play in our historical identity. It represents our colonisation. If we change the flag not only will it change our sense of historical identity but we will have to change all of the governments documents and literature to have the new flag included in them. We should never change the Australian flag.

To conclude, I think that changing the flag will cost a enormous amount of money, it won’t represent soldiers who died for this country and will ignore an important part of the history of Australia forever. We should never change the Australian flag.

Sacha Poulet
5R
Australian flag designs
Next P&C Meeting

At our next meeting on Thursday 3rd March discussion will take place on what resources and activities the P&C will be funding in 2016. Members will be given the opportunity to consider the schools request for funding which includes:

1. Installation of air conditioning in the Library Block $25,000;
2. Installation of air conditioning in the 2 brick rooms near the fig tree $6,000;
3. Installation of air conditioning of all upstairs rooms 8 rooms at $3,000 each totaling $24,000 ;
4. iPads for K - 2 (each class to receive 5 each) 50 iPads at $550 each totaling $27,500;
5. Updating K-2 Home Readers $5,000
6. Employing Mr Rosenthal for extension Mathematics Yrs 3-6 $5,000; and
7. Parent suggestions received by the P&C that include direct learning and educational resources/activities and funding to improve communications

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. It is always a fun evening above all it is a great way to meet new (and old) MJPS families.

Thanks to all those who have put their name forward to volunteer. A roster will be distributed next week (the week of the disco).

I look forward to seeing you there.
Karen Birrell, President
mjpspandc@gmail.com

Class Parent Communication System 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Name</th>
<th>Class</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent Name</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email Address</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Would you like to be class parent in 2016? [ ]

Please return to class teacher as soon as possible.
Communication Tips for Parents
Maroubra Junction Public School

1. Download the School App.
Simply search for Skoolbag Maroubra Junction in the app store.
The school app features notifications, calendar and newsletters to keep parents up to date with what’s happening.

2. Visit the School Website.
Log in to http://www.maroubrajunction-ps.schools.nsw.edu.au for all the latest information.
Find details about our policies, procedures, permission notes, newsletters and calendar. It’s a one stop shop for everything you need to know about Maroubra Junction Public School.

3. Subscribe to the parent communication system.
Class teachers have slips of paper for parents to enter their email address.
By entering your details, parents receive access to weekly newsletters, current P&C initiatives and updates, all conveniently sent to your nominated email address.

4. ‘Like’ us on Social Media
Search for Maroubra Junction Public School on Facebook to keep up to date with reminders and messages.
There are also many great images of students learning and attending the great excursions and camps.
This is the official page from the school and is monitored by the Department of Education.

5. Find out in the Office
The office has limited numbers of spare notes, newsletters and school policies that parents can access at any time.

Further Information
Maroubra Junction Public School
128 Storey St
Maroubra NSW 2035
T 9349 8333
http://www.maroubrajunction-ps.schools.nsw.edu.au
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NSW Department of Education and Communities
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.