KINDERGARTEN 2014

Do you have a child starting Kindergarten in 2014?
If you have not enrolled as yet please do so immediately.
Kindergarten Orientation starts this Wednesday – Don't miss out!

Dear Parents

Our Commitment; Excellence, Innovation, Community

Term 4 is always busy with many school programs and activities concluding and organisation and planning starting for the following year. As a school we will continue to focus on quality teaching in a well-resourced school with state of the art facilities. I encourage parents to attend our P&C Meeting where the school’s 2014 planning will be discussed. Parent consultation is an important part in ensuring schools are effective and meeting the needs of our students, I encourage you to attend P&C meetings and stay informed.

Parents and PSSA

As we start another PSSA competition it is timely to remind parents of the school’s expectations of parents attending the games. Parents are spectators and I request that they do not become involved in the management of the team, team roster, coaching or providing advice to the team coach or umpire. Staff at Mona Vale give up their time to coach teams and, if inexperienced, are mentored by senior staff who have experience in the selected sport. Staff may ask parents to help manage the team while they umpire, this means keeping the team seated and ready to play. This request does not mean changing the batting or fielding order. Mona Vale values parents attending and watching their children at events and we hope to see as many as possible supporting our teams.

School Planning & Organisation 2014

A number of organisational matters are listed below that relate to school organisation for the 2014 year, please take the time to read and respond where appropriate.
Leaving Mona Vale in 2014?

If your child will not be with us in 2014, other than our current Year 6, would you please inform the Office in writing as soon as possible. Schools are staffed on the number of students who attend each year and it is helpful for our 2014 organisation to know ahead of time if you won’t be with us next year. All information is confidential.

Class Organisation

As a component of our 2014 class organisation we offer the opportunity for parents to provide us with any significant information you believe the school should consider when we allocate your child to a class for 2014. Please note, any requests from previous years are not referred to. I have included our Class Organisation Policy which sets out the factors that guide our decision making for your information. Parental information needs to be in writing, preferably email and addressed to the Principal at greg.jones@det.nsw.edu.au by Friday 15th November. As a general rule, requesting a specific teacher is not considered significant information and will not be considered.

Annual School Survey

Each year we seek the opinion of parents, staff and students (Years 5 & 6) about a range of school programs, initiatives and procedures. This year our specific focus will be on Homework, Physical Education and Sport options. The Annual School Survey will be emailed home as a Zoomerang Survey to be completed online. The survey will cover Management, Curriculum and School Culture and will go live on Monday 28th October and close on Friday 8th November. I encourage all families to participate in the survey.

P & C Meeting

The P & C Meeting will be held next Tuesday 29th October commencing at 7:00 p.m. with a tour of the new playground facilities in K-2 and 3-6, followed by the meeting at 7:30p.m. in the Library. I look forward to seeing many parents there.

Cinema Evening 8th November

The P&C have organized an inaugural Moonlight Cinema evening to be held on Friday 8th November on our Waratah Street oval. The evening will start at 5:30p.m. and cost $5 per person to cover costs. This should be a fun night for our community. I would like to thank Mrs Severine Delerue and her committee for their organisation of this event.

Cyber Safety

It was great to see so many parents attend the Cyber Safety evening on Wednesday evening to hear about protecting your child in cyber space. Ms Leonie Smith, a leader in the field, and Senior Constables Jennings and Ormsby from the Northern Beaches Local Area Command also presented. A question and answer session concluded the evening. This initiative followed on from all students in Years 3-6 having a session with the Police. Thanks to Rotary International who sponsored the evening, DP Martin for organisation and staff for attending. The key message from the evening: Parents need to vigilant. Know what your child is doing and what programs they are using.
Selective High School Applications 2015

I distributed information to all Year 5 students this week regarding the Selective High School application process. Please remember that all applications **must be completed by Monday 18 November**. No late applications can be accepted and are to be completed online. The on-line application can be accessed at [www.schools.nsw.edu.au/shsplacement](http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/shsplacement).

Art @ Mona

Recently five talented Mona Vale artists, Lily Douglas, Jessica England, Siena Maudson, Sam Watt and Petra Williamson had their work displayed at the Armory Gallery at Sydney Olympic Park. The public exhibition displayed 900 works from 300 schools and our students’ work was recognised as exceptional. We have worked hard to strengthen Art at Mona Vale this year through Art Club and employing a specialist art teacher Ms Justine Curtis. It is great to see such positive outcomes from these initiatives.

Capital Works Program – Cricket Nets

The cricket and batting nets on Waratah Street have reached the end of their economical life. I have in discussion with staff decided to have the nests removed and replaced as a component of the 2014 Capital Works and Facilities Improvement Program. I have asked for quote to be provided by the end of October so work can commence this year and be ready for the beginning of 2014. I expect the capital cost to be approximately $25K and will be paid for by the school as a component of our DEC allocation of funds.

Playground Update

Our K-2 Playground upgrade is almost finished and I am hopeful of it being reopened by the start of Week 4. The standard of the work is exceptional, the area looks fantastic and has eliminated the concerns around contaminated material under the top soil layer. I hope to have a quick walk through for parents prior to the P&C meeting next Tuesday.

Our Emma Street Senior Play Equipment should be ready for students by the beginning of Week 5. The new equipment looks fantastic and is already receiving rave comments from our senior students even before they get to test it. A reminder to parents that this area is a construction area and students *and parents* are asked not to play on the equipment after school until it is completed. Yes, we have had reports of both being on the equipment it in the afternoon!

Kids Matter at Mona Vale

Learning the skills to plan ahead and make good decisions is often difficult for children to learn and can become quite frustrating for parents. Children need to understand the importance of being responsible for their own decision making.

Parents play an important role in assisting children to think through decisions and choose wisely. Please refer to the information sheet included, for suggestions on how parents/caregivers can help children make effective decisions.

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**Greg Jones BA Macq  MA Ed Macq**
Principal
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Week 3</th>
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| Monday 21 October | TOUCH FOOTBALL POSTPONED DUE TO SMOKE/WEATHER CONDITIONS  
                 | NAPLAN RESULTS HAVE BEEN SENT HOME TO STUDENTS IN YEARS 3 & 5 |
| Tuesday 22 October |           |
| Wednesday 24 October | KINDERGARTEN 2014 ORIENTATION SESSION 1  
                       | SEE YOUR LETTER FOR DETAILS |
| Thursday 25 October | PARENT’S HELPERS MORNING TEA – 10.30AM SCHOOL HALL |
| Friday 26 October  |           |

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<th>Week 4</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 28 October</td>
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<td>Tuesday 29 October</td>
<td>P&amp;C MEETING 7:30PM (PLAYGROUND TOUR STARTS AT 7PM)</td>
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<td>Wednesday 30 October</td>
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| Thursday 31 October | KINDERGARTEN 2014 ORIENTATION SESSION 2  
                       | SEE YOUR LETTER FOR DETAILS |
| Friday 1 November  | YEAR 6 MINI FETE |
| **UPCOMING EVENT** | **MOONLIGHT CINEMA 5:30P.M. – ENJOY A PICNIC FOLLOWED BY A FAMILY MOVIE ON THE WARATAH OVAL.**  
                       | **TICKETS ON SALE NOW OUTSIDE THE LIBRARY $5 PER PERSON** |

**To all Year 6 Parents - Reminder**

We are urging all parents to send in photos of their child for the yearbook. So far there has been a very poor response rate. We need 2 photos: your child as a baby and doing a favourite sport/hobby. Please send to mvpsyearbook@hotmail.com

The Yearbook will go for printing in next few weeks and your child's photos cannot be put in if we do not receive them.

Also contact school to go on Year 6 mailing list if you have not already done so. That way you will not miss important information concerning Yearbook and end of year formal.
Ancient Rome: A Brief History

Introduction

Ancient Rome, also known as the Roman Empire, is one of the most influential civilizations in human history. It was founded in 753 BCE and eventually spanned much of Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East. The Roman Empire was characterized by its military might, legal system, and cultural influence.

Early Rome

The city of Rome was established on the seven hills of the city, and it quickly became a powerful political and military force in Italy. The Roman Republic was established in 509 BCE, and it lasted until 27 BCE when it was replaced by the Roman Empire.

Roman Republic

The Roman Republic was a period of governance that lasted from 509 BCE to 27 BCE. It was characterized by a system of checks and balances, with the Senate holding most of the power. The Republic went through several periods of unrest and civil war, including the Punic Wars with Carthage.

Roman Empire

The Roman Empire was established by Julius Caesar and Augustus in 27 BCE. It quickly expanded to include most of Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East. The Empire was governed through a series of emperors, and it reached its peak in the 2nd century CE.

Decline of Rome

The Roman Empire began to decline in the 3rd century CE due to a variety of factors, including economic problems, military STRUGGLE, and invasion by barbarian tribes. The Western Roman Empire fell in 476 CE, and the Eastern Roman Empire, also known as the Byzantine Empire, continued until 1453 CE.

Influence of Rome

The Roman Empire had a profound influence on Western civilization. Its legacy can be seen in the development of law, government, language, and culture. The Roman Empire also played a crucial role in the spread of Christianity and the development of the Catholic Church.

The fall of Rome was the end of an era, but it also marked the beginning of a new chapter in human history. The collapse of the Roman Empire paved the way for the rise of new civilizations and the development of new technologies and ideas.

Conclusions

Ancient Rome was a remarkable civilization that left a lasting legacy on the world. Its influence can be seen in the development of law, government, language, and culture. The fall of Rome was the end of an era, but it also marked the beginning of a new chapter in human history. The collapse of the Roman Empire paved the way for the rise of new civilizations and the development of new technologies and ideas.
Reach for the Stars!

On October the 10th and 17th many of our Year 5 and 6 students and their parents visited the Planetarium and Observatory at Macquarie University!

*Here’s what Amelia Jee and Liam Backer had to say:*

Our visit to the Planetarium and Observatory at Macquarie University was a once in a lifetime experience! In the planetarium we loved how they could zoom into planets to get a closer look and how you could go forwards and backwards in time to see what the sky looked like. This meant that you could see shooting stars and supernovas and work out how long it would take to get to them! You could see what the sky would look like if you went to the country where there is no light pollution.

Then we walked to the telescopes and zoomed into things that you wouldn’t normally see like all the craters on the moon and whole galaxies and clusters of stars! Most exciting of all was the closest star to earth, Alpha Centauri! Through the telescope you could see that it was two stars and it looked like twinkling diamonds with streamers flying off them!
Mona Vale Public School

Class Organisation Policy

In the formulation of classes at Mona Vale Public School the following factors will guide the decision-making:

- Department of Education and Communities staffing formula,
- A balanced distribution of students abilities and genders,
- Professional skills and preferences of teacher,
- Parental Information, and
- Student relationships – see Note 1

In the allocation of students to particular classes the following factors will guide the decision making process:
- Needs of individual students.
  These may be social, intellectual, emotional, physical.

The identification of these needs will be achieved through:
- Professional deliberations of staff who are familiar with the student
- Academic and welfare data
- Student’s educational history (previous classes, special circumstances etc.)
- Parental presentation of significant information about their child (health, history, social or emotional factors) See Note 2

Note 1

It is important for student’s social and emotional development that they make and retain healthy friendships at school. Teachers recognise that students are more comfortable starting a new class each year if they have at least one friend with whom they can relax and relate. This is an important aspect of class planning.

There are situations, however, when teachers believe that certain children’s learning can be enhanced if they are placed in a separate class from a friend or group. This can present some students with a period of difficulty as they adjust. Teachers will monitor the situation to ensure a successful start to the year.

Note 2

Parents, naturally are interested in their child’s happiness and are keen that she/he adjusts well to school and to the new class each year. The school welcomes any information, which will assist your child in this process. Parents are asked to present information, in writing preferably email to the Principal at Greg.Jones@det.nsw.edu.au These requests, while being considered cannot always be accommodated.
Helping kids to choose wisely

Nine year-old Zak was in a bit of a panic. “Grandma, Grandma, you have to write a note!” “Why, Zak?” his Grandma wanted to know. “Because I didn’t do my homework and I don’t want my teacher to get mad at me.”

Zak’s Grandma remembered asking him that afternoon if he had any homework. At the time he was watching his favourite TV show. He told her, “Not much. I’ll do it in a minute.”

After that Amos had called and invited Zak over. Amos had a new Nintendo game and Zak couldn’t wait to play it. He had forgotten all about his homework.

Now it was bedtime and Zak suddenly remembered that his homework wasn’t done. If only Zak would learn to think through his decisions more carefully!

Effective decision making is a skill that children can learn

To be able to make good decisions children must learn to:

• recognise when there is a choice for them to make
• understand that they are responsible for making the decision
• take others’ needs into account
• think of different possible choices or solutions and decide which is best.

Children learn skills for effective decision making when they are taught the steps and given opportunities to practise using them to solve problems. Teaching Zak these steps and reminding him to use them could have helped him make a better decision.

It’s frustrating for parents and carers when children don’t think ahead and are left to sort out problems at the last minute. Adults might be able to come up with a solution for the immediate crisis, but what about getting children to think things through in the first place?

Being able to plan ahead and choose wisely are very important skills that help children succeed at home, at school and in life. Parents and carers can help by teaching children how to think through decisions and giving them opportunities to practise their skills.
### Learning the steps

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Steps for decision making</th>
<th>Example</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. What do you have to decide about?</td>
<td>• Deciding what to do after school.</td>
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</table>
| 2. What choices do you have? | • Go and play with friends.  
• Stay and do homework.  
• Watch my favourite TV show. |
| 3. Weigh up the pros and cons of each option and choose the best one | • Going to friend’s house is more fun than homework.  
• Watching TV is fun and relaxing.  
• I’ll get into trouble if homework doesn’t get done. |
| 4. Put your choice into action and then check how it works out | • Do homework as soon as I get home from school so that I can watch TV, or if a friend calls, I am free to go and play. |

### Helping children take responsibility

Children often focus on immediate wants and don’t consider long term consequences. They need adult guidance to develop their decision making skills. Parents and carers can prompt good decision making by identifying appropriate choices for children to make and using questions to help them think through the steps.

To learn to use decision making skills children need to be shown how to use the steps and be given opportunities to practise them. Practice and experience are necessary for building skills.

It is important to remember that children’s thinking skills develop gradually and so does their capacity for making decisions. Children do not learn to make good decisions overnight. They need to start with simple things.

### How parents and carers can help

- Give children a choice between two options. This helps to make decisions manageable.
- Limit the number of choices to ones that are realistic for children to make (depending on their age and ability).
- Encourage children to give reasons for their choices. This teaches them to think through their decisions.
- Ask, “Is that a good idea?” or “Do you think that will work?” Instead of saying, “This is what you should do,” ask “What about this?” Asking encourages children to develop their own judgment.
- Listen with interest to children’s explanations. Learning to explain their thinking helps children think better.
- Give children a role in family decisions, for example when planning activities or deciding on household jobs. This helps children learn how to make decisions that take others into account.

### Further information

Further information on helping children learn decision making skills is available in the KidsMatter resource pack at your school on Helping children make decisions and solve problems.

The following web pages may also be of interest:

- [www.familyrelationships.org/sydney/content/File/probsolv.pdf](http://www.familyrelationships.org/sydney/content/File/probsolv.pdf)

This resource is part of the KidsMatter Primary initiative. The team at KidsMatter welcomes your feedback at [www.kidsmatter.edu.au](http://www.kidsmatter.edu.au)
The Bladen Cup
Tennis Tournament 2013

Mr Bladen was the principal of Mona Vale PS from 2003-2006 and loved the game of tennis. The Bladen Cup Tennis tournament will be held for Junior (Yr 3 and 4) and Senior (yr 5 and 6) Boys and Girls during lunchtimes of Week 4 and 5. This will be a knockout style competition with the first player in each match to 10 points being declared the winner. Each winner will progress to the next round until there are 4 players left in each division. Semi-finals and finals will be the first to win a set and will be held on Sunday afternoon 17th November 2013 from 1pm.

If you are interested in competing in this tournament please fill in the slip below and return to Mrs Stevenson or the Bladen Cup tennis box in the office. Forms must be returned by Friday 26th October 2013.

A draw will be posted on the Sports noticeboard at the side of the Primary Cola. Please check to see when and who you will be playing. Pete and Dan will be assisting with the draws and the umpiring.

Looking forward to seeing some amazing tennis! Good luck everyone!

Mrs Stevenson 😊

Bladen Cup 2013 Entry Form

Name:........................................................................................................ Class:.................................................................

Tennis Grading: (if any)....................................................................................
Grandparents Day recognises the vital role of grandparents and grandfriends in our community, as mentors, volunteers, carers, story tellers and friends.

With the help of the Mona Vale Grandfriends Group, Mona Vale House Nursing Home, Mona Vale Public School, the Young Parents Support Group and God’s House @ St Johns, the Weaving Generations Together project has completed over 200 woven CD’s which will be on display during November in the Pelican Room in Mona Vale Library.

Grandparents, grandfriends and their families are all welcome to celebrate Grandparents Day and to weave your own artwork or create your own picture frame from recycled CD’s to give to your grandparent, grandfriend or family.

This event is free, held between 2-4pm on Sunday 27th October 2013
Contact Sue Johansson on 0435 835 963 or suej@ransw.org.au for more info
Find us on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/communitybuilderspw

Community Builders Pittwater

www.grandparentsday.org.au
Join us for a Halloween party with craft, games and trick or treating

Venue: Mona Vale Library
1 Park Street
Mona Vale

Dates: Thursday 31 October

Time: 5.00pm - 6.15pm

Cost: $10 per child - ages 6 and up

Bookings: Essential, call 9970 1600

Wear your Halloween costume, there will be prizes.

Lots of lollies will be involved.

PLUS Children and family welcome to stay for the free screening of E.T after.
## Halloween Movie at Mona Vale Library

**Join us for a Stephen Spielberg film**

**E.T.**

### Venue:
Mona Vale Library  
1 Park Street  
Mona Vale

### Dates:
Thursday 31 October

### Time:
6.30pm

### Cost:
Free

### Bookings:
Essential, call 9970 1600

**Wear your Halloween costume, there will be prizes.**

Refreshments will be available for a nominal charge.

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**For more information:** Call the library 9970 1600  
or email library@pittwater.nsw.gov.au

Mona Vale Market Day 2013

Sunday, 3 November
10am to 5pm
Village Park, Mona Vale

Mona Vale Chamber of Commerce invites you to enjoy local music, food and arts and craft stalls.

Over 100 stalls, including local products

Come along and enjoy over 100 stalls offering delicious hot food, gourmet foods, arts and crafts

Sponsored by

Supported by

Phone 9970 1355 for bookings or more information