Dear Parents

Our Commitment; Excellence, Innovation, Community

It is with great sadness that I inform the community that one of our parents, Adrian Bibby, passed away on Tuesday evening. Adrian was a much respected member of the local community, a wonderful father and husband and a friend to many within our school. I extend our deepest sympathy to Helen, Andrew, Michael, Emily, Sam and their extended family. He will be missed by many.

Academic Excellence

I would like to congratulate our students who have been offered a place at a Selective High School in 2014. This year 31 students were offered a place and 3 students are on the reserve list. Of the 31 offers, 10 students started their education at Mona Vale and an additional Mona Vale student is on the reserve list.

These results, particularly regarding Mona Vale’s “home grown’ students, reinforces our commitment to excellence in student achievement.

My thanks to our wonderful staff who have worked together to achieve this outstanding result.

Staffing Changes

I mentioned in a previous Mona Vale Mail that the school will be receiving five new teaching staff at the beginning of Term 3. I would like to warmly welcome Ms Peta Gorman our new Assistant Principal on 4G, Mrs Katherine McGuigan on 4K, Ms Stephanie Melchior on 1B and Ms Payal Goundar on 5C.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Ms Maisie Venn who was successful at interview and has been appointed to Mona Vale. Once new staff settle in we will hold an afternoon tea so parents can introduce themselves to our new colleagues.

Science at Mona Vale

As an initiative to raise the profile of Science and Science related disciplines we have asked Macquarie University to have one of their Scientist adopt us and be our resident scientist. I am pleased to announce that Mr Mark Wardle has agreed to work with the school and expand opportunities for our students to understand more about Science and encourage them to become involved and interested in Science and Science related topics.

Mark Wardle is an astrophysicist in the Department of Physics & Astronomy. He holds an honours degrees in mathematics and physics from the University of Auckland and a PhD in astrophysics from Princeton University. After completing his doctorate, Mark held positions at the University of Chicago, Northwestern University and the University of Rochester. He returned to the Southern Hemisphere, spending several years at the University of Sydney before moving to Macquarie. Mark has extensive experience teaching physics and astronomy courses at first year through to PhD level and conducts
research on the formation of stars and planetary systems, the massive black hole at the centre of the Galaxy, and physical and chemical processes occurring in interstellar space. What a wonderful opportunity awaits our first group of students who will travel to Macquarie University to visit the planetarium and observatory later this term to observe the constellations.

Athletics Carnival
I would like to congratulate everyone involved in the organisation of our Annual Athletics carnival on Tuesday. Our organiser's Mrs Mel Stevenson, Mrs Karen Chrysiliou and their dedicated team had every detail covered and students, staff and parents had a fantastic day.

K-2 Playground Update
I met with Public Works this week to finalise the Scope of Works that will see our K-2 Playground remediated. The work once started will take approximately 10 weeks to complete, I am hopeful of a start early this term.

Kids Matter
Making and keeping friends is often difficult, but having friends at school is very important. Positive friendships help children have fun and give them support in times of need. We have included some ideas called Kids and Friends in this newsletter to help children make friends and suggestions for how parents/caregivers can help children to deal with the ups and downs of friendships.

Greg Jones BA Macq MA Ed Macq
Principal

From the Deputy Principal

Welcome back to a busy but exciting new term!

Athletics Carnival
We started with a very successful and enjoyable Athletics Carnival where 13 school records were broken. Congratulations to those students and those who will be going to zone.

Junior and Senior Dance Group
Well done to our dance groups who performed at the Sydney North Public Schools Dance Festival at the end of last term. They were part of 3000 students who performed at the festival. They all looked amazing! We are very proud to have such talented students at Mona Vale.

Shirlee-Ann Curtis
Relieving Deputy Principal
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**Education Week**

| Week 3          | Monday 29th July | PCS Musical Festival half day show rehearsal at Pittwater High School  
|                 |                 | PCS Music Festival 7pm  
|                 |                 | Junior Boys State Rugby League 9am-3pm |
|                 | Tuesday 30th July | Spelling Bee Challenge 11:15am-12:30pm |
|                 | Wednesday 31st July | ICAS English Test |
|                 | Thursday 1st August | Education Week Open Day 11:15am-12:30pm followed by a picnic lunch |
|                 | Friday 2nd August |                                        |

**BOOK and LITERACY WEEK Celebration K-6**

HERMAN and ROSIE Performance
Herman plays jazz oboe by night and works in an office by day. Rosie is an aspiring jazz-singer by night and a dishwasher by day. Both are struggling to make ends meet and slowly giving up on their dreams, until one day their paths cross.

On Monday 22nd July 2013 there will be three performances of HERMAN AND ROSIE by the Children’s Theatre group Tony Bones Entertainment in the School Hall to celebrate Book Week and Literacy Week.

HERMAN AND ROSIE will come to life on stage in a 40 minute theatrical performance with original music, song and dance and thrilling drama. We are especially delighted about hosting Herman and Rosie because Gus Gordon, author and illustrator of this gorgeous picture book, a story about friendship, life in the big city, and following your dreams, is the father of two children at MVPS.

Charmayne Hodgman   Assistant Principal, Teacher-Librarian K-6

Young and old collaborate in a pilot project!

Last term, students in 5BC enjoyed asking residents at Mona Vale House a series of questions about education, sport and leisure, money and transport in their childhoods. It was a wonderful opportunity for the students, who were able to get feedback firsthand through Skype. Here is what some of our students said in an interview with The Manly Daily!

Lachlan Attrill: When you want to learn about Australian history, it’s like you’re actually having a connection with it, rather than just reading a book.

Amelia Jee: It was very exciting to get to learn about when these people were children.

The residents also thoroughly enjoyed the experience of interacting with our students. One of them said, “When you get old, it’s a nice change to have a conversation with the children.”

We hope to extend this initiative with further Skype sessions and visits.
Term 3 Accounts & Permission to attend excursions
Term 3 accounts have been sent home this week. Please make sure you have returned your lilac permission note to your teacher. We have already had a few accounts paid. Thank you! Early settlement of accounts is very much appreciated.

Head Lice
Please check your child’s hair regularly for head lice. If your child has had head lice, please inform the office so we can send a note home to the class.

Have you changed your address or phone details?
Please inform the school office by note or by email if you have changed address, phone numbers, emergency contacts etc. It is important that our records are kept up to date.

Student Medical Information
This week we have sent home some forms for you to complete regarding your child’s medical needs. Please complete these forms and return them to your class teacher by Friday 26th July. We are required to have a form for every student regardless of whether they have a medical condition or not. We will be updating this information on our system throughout the term.

Sibling Kindergarten Enrolments 2014
Do you have a child starting Kindergarten in 2014? We are currently planning our enrolments for next year. If you have not submitted your enrolment form, please do so now. Enrolment forms can be collected from the office. Please bring in the completed enrolment form to the office, along with your original documents. Documents required for enrolment are: Child’s Birth Certificate, Proof of address (eg Rates notice or Rental Agreement) and immunisation records. If you are out of the Mona Vale Public School catchment area you will also need a blue Out of Area form. Please note if you have a child already at Mona Vale Public School you are still required to complete the Out of Area form, however, places for siblings are automatically accepted.

Thanking you
Leonie Gallard
School Administration Manager
Welcome back to Term 3 everyone. I hope you have all had a restful and happy holiday.

Whilst the cold weather sticks around a little longer there will be delicious soup (gluten free) available at recess along with the regular favourites!

Also come and warm up with a hot chocolate before school - $1.50. Did you know we also have hot porridge with honey or brown sugar -$1.00 before school too.

Canteen is open between 8:30am – 8:45am each morning before school.

We are looking for a volunteer on the **27th August or the 5th November** - if you are free between 9am and 1pm on those dates - pop in to the Canteen or phone on 9997 2442.

**Rebecca O'Donnell**

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**Uniform shop**

**Mondays 2:30-3:00pm**

**Tuesdays & Thursdays 8:30-10:30am**

(When making purchases by cash please keep notes in small denominations)

**UNIFORM SHOP HOURS**

Due to many requests Uniform Shop will be staying open Monday afternoons in Term 3.

**FLEXI SCHOOLS**

Uniform shop purchases can now be processed through Flexi Schools, allow up to 5 days for delivery to classrooms. The uniform shop will gladly provide an exchange/refund on unworn/unnamed garments which have tags and packaging intact.

Profits made during the year in the uniform shop are given back to the P&C to support initiatives within the school.

Volunteers are always needed so if you can spare a couple of hours once or twice a month please call Tracey on 0427 224 893 (text only) or contact via email tracey.cranston@det.nsw.edu.au

Replies to enquiries will be returned in shop opening hours.

**Tracey Cranston - Uniform Shop Supervisor.**
We welcome all current chess players, and those joining our growing club, to another busy term.

Enrolment forms

Term 3 & 4 Chess Club enrolment forms are available from the office or via monavalechess@gmail.com and at lunchtime coaching (advanced and intermediate seniors are coached Mondays in three groups; juniors are coached Thursday in the Library's connected classroom).

If there are senior MVPS students wanting to join the club who don't know the basics of chess, please contact Lisa to discuss the options.

If your child has shown a genuine interest in learning chess, the club offers them the opportunity to sit in on two coaching sessions free of charge. If they wish to continue, the parent/carer will be required to complete an enrolment form and pay term fees.

Term fees for new players and those who have opted to pay term by term are due by the end of Week 3. Please deposit fees owed via EFT into the P&C Chess Club account and to help us track payments email the payment date, amount & receipt number along with the number of children you are paying for to the Chess Club.

Chess Club communication

Most communication to and from the Chess Club, including tournament invites, is now being handled via email. If you don't have access to email, please call Lisa on 0418 428 511 to discuss.

Upcoming tournaments

MVPS has qualified to send 10 players to the semi-finals of the Sydney Academy of Chess Interschool Chess Challenge later this term. Invitations and details on this tournament will be forwarded to selected students once organisers have supplied information to our school.

MVPS has been invited to send teams to the NSW Interschool Girl's Teams Chess Challenge on Thursday, 22nd August 2013 at the Sydney Latvian Society Club. Invitations will be coming via email shortly.

One of the committee's aims is to get as many girls involved in chess as possible, and keep them playing right through the senior grades. We are about to lose a talented group of year 6 girls to high school so it's important we foster upcoming players. If your daughter has shown an interest in chess and you would like more information on what the Chess Club can offer, please contact the committee chairman.

Chess monitor program

This term sees the return of the monitor program where senior players mentor juniors and assist the coach each Thursday lunchtime on a roster basis. Many thanks to all the volunteers and the families who have supported this initiative.

If you have any questions regarding Chess Club please don’t hesitate to ask myself or vice treasurer Jackie Rees.
Sport

Congratulations to Ella Worland who was selected to be the Captain of the Sydney North Regional Netball team. Ella will be playing in the State tournament in Broken Hill next week. Good Luck Ella! We are so proud of you.

Please see attachment for the Athletics Carnival results.
Everyone needs a friend

“Those kids at school are mean,” I told them about this great game but they wouldn’t play it. They said I couldn’t play with them.” Rebecca, who is seven, plays happily at home with her four-year-old sister Samantha. Samantha adores her big sister and will do anything she says. But with school friends it’s not so easy. Rebecca’s mother wonders whether the other children really are mean or whether Rebecca may be too pushy. When children come over to visit it seems to go well as long as they are doing what Rebecca wants. But if the other child wants to do something different, Rebecca often sulk or goes off in a huff.

Children’s friendships often have their ups and downs. When friendships are going well they support children’s emotional wellbeing and confidence, as well as providing someone to play with. Positive friendships help children have fun, and also help them cope during periods of stress and change. This is why having friends at school is so important for children.

Helping kids with the ups and downs of friendships

It is not always easy for children to know how to manage friendships. Problems with friends can affect how children feel about themselves and their enthusiasm for activities that involve others. Parents and carers can help children learn the kinds of friendship skills they will need as they grow and develop.

Learning how to make and keep friends involves a number of skills. Children learn more and more complex social skills from those around them as they develop.

Home life has an effect on the development of social skills. A child who has an adoring little sister is likely to have more skills of leadership. A child who is the little sister may be more used to fitting in with what others want to do. These children are likely to react differently when they go to school and meet other children with different life experiences and different social skills.

Friendship skills for children include:

Cooperation
- how to share, how to take turns, how to work together towards a common goal

Communication
- using words to explain what you want and listening to others respectfully
- paying attention to body language, e.g. making eye contact, smiling and being able to read others’ nonverbal reactions

Understanding and managing feelings
- being able to express feelings in ways that help others understand you
- recognising and responding to others’ feelings

Accepting and including others
- recognising others’ needs for respect and friendship
Solving friendship problems
Children develop friendship skills through playing with other children. Because they are learning, they are sure to have times when things do not go as they would like. Sometimes they blame themselves for what has happened. They may say, “Nobody likes me ‘coz I can’t run as fast as they can.” Sometimes they blame everyone else for the problem and, like Rebecca, say “The kids are all mean to me.” Even though they blame the other kids they may still think of it as a problem they cannot change.

How parents and Carers can help
First and foremost you can help children by listening to them talk about the everyday joys and troubles that arise out of their friendships. Asking what might have led to others’ reactions can help the child, with your assistance, to think of possible solutions.

Try a problem solving approach
When problems arise in friendships it is important not to blame children but to show them how to find a solution. A problem solving approach is often helpful.

1. Encourage the child to describe what has happened
2. Ask about how they felt
3. Ask them how they think the other person might see it and how they might be feeling
4. Get them to think of ways they could do things differently next time
5. Encourage them to try the new approach – get them to practise with you so they feel more confident
6. Check back with your child to see how things turned out.

Further information on helping children with friendships is available in the KidsMatter resource pack at your school on Children and friendship.

The following web pages may also be of interest:

This resource is part of the KidsMatter Primary initiative. The team at KidsMatter welcomes your feedback at www.kidsmatter.edu.au
MUMS for MUMS

Saturday 24th August, 2013
6.30pm
at the Royal Motor Yacht Club, Newport

Ticket price includes a cocktail on arrival (to be served from 6.30-7pm), canapes and the fabulous band L90.

$80 per person
Dress: cocktail

To purchase tickets
-CLICK HERE-
(or visit www.mumsformums.org.au)

Tickets are limited to 300, so please purchase them ASAP to avoid disappointment.

Thanks for helping to support Mums for Mums

Like
CHILDREN’S LYING

We are seeking 8-10 year-old children to participate in a 30-minute study about truth- and lie-telling at Macquarie University.

Children will complete a Healthy Eating Lesson during which a researcher may commit a minor transgression. Children will then be interviewed about the lesson.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY, SATURDAY & AFTER-SCHOOL APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE

Families will receive $20 for their time

Please contact Rhiannon Fogliati
rhiannon.fogliati@mq.edu.au
02 9850 8075
DO YOU HAVE A CHILD DIAGNOSED WITH ADHD?

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR POSITIVE STRATEGIES TO HELP MANAGE YOUR CHILD’S BEHAVIOUR?

Is your child between 6 and 12 years old?

You are invited FREE OF CHARGE to attend a well-known parenting program at Macquarie University.

The program is part of an evaluation study and participants will be asked to attend evening sessions and to fill in questionnaires (anonymously). Please call Julie Chesterfield (Department of Psychology, Macquarie University) on 0412 414 114 (if unanswered please speak slowly and leave your name and phone number on the voicemail) or email julie.chesterfield@students.mq.edu.au and leave your phone number.

Baseball season is about to start!

Pittwater Baseball Club invites all players to be part of this fun-filled game

Have some fun batting a baseball...

Ages 5 to 16 welcome

Come to our Try-Baseball Day on

Sunday 21 July
& Sunday 4 August

North Narrabeen Reserve (Rat Park)
from 11:30am - 2:30pm

Free sausage sizzle & drink

For further information and how to find us, see our website at www.pittwaterbaseballclub.com.au or phone Cheryl on 0425 254 293

If you can’t make it on the day, you can still register by downloading forms from our website