Dear Parents

Our Commitment; Excellence, Innovation, Community

Education Week is an opportunity for all of us to reflect on the wonderful work of our Public Schools in creating a better Australia. Public Education’s greatest strength is our acceptance of every student irrespective of social, economic, religious or personal circumstance in fact we represent all that is good and great about our nation. Mona Vale is an outstanding example of Public Education’s commitment to Equity and Excellence, our staff are professional and are working hard to ensure all students experience success, our parent body is supportive and engaged through the P&C and Class Parent network and our students are happy, inquisitive and respectful. I hope you enjoyed visiting classrooms yesterday to see first-hand what wonderful opportunities there are for your child at Mona Vale.

Cyber Safety @ Mona Vale – Innovation

Keeping students safe in an ever expanding cyber world will be the focus of a Parent evening to be held early next term. In conjunction with Local Police the school will host an evening with a guest speaker to cover the basics, resources and strategies available to parents and students to keep them safe and aware of cyber dangers. More information on the date and time will come home later in the term and I highly recommend your attendance.

Kids Matter Mona Vale Medallion

Lauren Bottero in 6K is the inaugural recipient of the Mona Vale Medallion for “Excellence in Student Achievement” . The Medallion is our highest Award and recognises outstanding academic, cultural and school service by a student over an extended period of time. Lauren will be presented with her Medallion at the Honour Assembly at the end of this term. To gain a Medallion students must receive two Mona Vale Gold Certificates. Congratulations Lauren, you are a worthy first recipient.

Deputy Principal Appointment

I would like to congratulate Mrs Leesa Martin on her appointment to Mona Vale as Deputy Principal. Mrs. Martin was successful at interview last week and will start sustentative duties immediately. Mrs. Martin is an outstanding educator and has made a significant contribution to Mona Vale over the past 17 months as a Transfer of Duty from Cromer Public School. This
appointment will bring certainty to her role at Mona Vale and will allow her to continue to work with the community on enhancing educational provision for all students.

**Student Council Mufti Day – Community**

Our Student Council has requested a mufti day this term to raise funds to support Charity including Stewart House. I congratulate our Student Council on their commitment to supporting those in our community who are in need of some help and have agreed to support this initiative, a date is being negotiated and will be published shortly. It is great that our children see the value in helping others and are committed to supporting those in need within our community.

**Emma Street Playground**

I signed the contract to start work on the Emma Street Senior playground upgrade this week. The new playground has been designed as an “active play area” with a number of new and challenging pieces of equipment. The playground is being jointly funded by the P&C and School with P&C funds coming from the Centenary Celebrations last year. I am currently working on the design brief for the year 1 play equipment that is within the K-2 play area. This area as you are aware is being remediated by the Department and it makes sense to look at a redevelopment at the same time if we have sufficient funds.

**PCS Music Festival**

I had the pleasure of attending the PCS Musical at Pittwater High School on Monday evening. Our Stage one dance troupe wowed the audience with their Circus dance what a great job of choreography by Ms. Green and Ms. Crowley and support from parents. Our Junior Choir under the direction of Mrs. Palmer sang beautifully in the Combined Choir. I would like to thanks all students, parents and staff who have supported the Musical. It was a wonderful start to Education Week.

**Sporting Achievement**

Congratulations to Ella Worland Year 6 who has been selected to represent NSW at the Australian Netball Championships. Ella is an outstanding student who always strives to achieve her personal best, is respectful and responsible, all the qualities we value as a school. Well done Ella and good luck at the championships.

**You Asked We Replied**

A parent asked “what is the process for replacing a teacher absence from school?” Teachers are absent from school for a range of reasons including Sick, Professional Development, Long Service Leave, Family and Community Service or in some instances Work related injury leave. The school endeavors to cover all leave with casual staff and in most instances we use a preferred list of casual teachers known to the school. Where leave is for an extended time we try to match a casual teacher that knows the class, in some instances this is not possible as the casual teacher has committed to work in another school. Parents at times raise the issue of different teachers on the class during an absence, if this occurs it is unavoidable and we do our best to avoid this. Class teachers are required to have a Learning and Teaching program that is monitored by the Executive Staff at the school and when they are absent this document is used by the casual teacher and provides the basis for continuity of learning for the class.

Greg Jones BA Macq  MA Ed Macq
Principal
Term 3 is certainly off to a great start and things have been busy at Mona Vale lately with lots of school events happening or coming up very soon.

**Education Week**

It was lovely to see so many parents and friends attending our Open Classrooms yesterday as part of our Education Week celebrations. Many parents and friends joined the students for lunch on the oval.

On Tuesday we held our first Mona Vale Spelling Bee as part of the Premier’s Spelling Challenge, with grade winners being selected in each category. Congratulations to all the winners!

The Premier’s Debating Challenge also continued this week, with Mona Vale Convincers Dawei Yuan, Zoe Bakker, Sophie Martin & Henry Cross debating Wakehurst Challengers on Monday 29th July. Mona Vale Convincers were the winners. The Topic was That We Should Ban Gambling in Australian Sport. Well done to all!

The Arts have also been recognised this week, with students’ artwork on display at Centro Warriewood, and the PCS Music Festival being held at Pittwater High School on Monday evening. Congratulations to the many students who represented their school this week, either as artists, dancers or singers in these recognitions of excellence in public education.
Differentiation Training for staff

Teacher professional learning is paramount to the quality of educational service we provide at Mona Vale PS and to that end staff will be involved in two excellent initiatives over the coming days. Our K-2 staff will be attending regionally based training in identifying and catering for gifted and talented students and our 1-6 staff will participate in training focusing on differentiating the curriculum using Bloom's Taxonomy.

Both of these initiatives broaden the depth of opportunities provided to all students and allow staff to effectively extend all students, regardless of ability level. I would like to thank Mrs Simone Rizzuto, Mrs Sarah Bryce, Mrs Robyn Best, Mrs Mel Stevenson and Mrs Cherie O’Bryan for providing these learning opportunities for our staff.

Cyber Safety

We will be holding a parent forum on Cyber Safety early next term which will be run by the police from our local police station.

Do you want to be kept informed of what is going on in the community?

Would you like to have the opportunity to help solve crime?

If you do, just Like our page!

You can become part of our expanding facebook page and be kept up to date on the latest information.
## Term 3, Week 3

**Friday 2nd August 2013**

### Mona Vale Planner

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 4</th>
<th>Monday 5th August</th>
<th>Tuesday 6th August</th>
<th>Wednesday 7th August</th>
<th>Thursday 8th August</th>
<th>Friday 9th August</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Year 6 Farewell Meeting 6:30-7:30pm</td>
<td>P &amp; C meeting 7:30-9:30pm</td>
<td>Year 5 Dance Sports</td>
<td>Oz Opera Years 1 &amp; 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Year 6 and leadership photos</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 5</th>
<th>Monday 12th August</th>
<th>Tuesday 13th August</th>
<th>Wednesday 14th August</th>
<th>Thursday 15th August</th>
<th>Friday 16th August</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jnr Choir at Primary Prom rehearsal</td>
<td>ICAS Maths Test</td>
<td>Year 5 Dance Sports</td>
<td>Mona Vale MADD Festival (Musicale) Matinee Performance at Pittwater High School</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>MADD Evening Performance at Pittwater High 6pm-8pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2013 School Term Dates

**Term 3:**
- Last day for students – Friday September 20, 2013

**Term 4:**
- Students and Staff return Tuesday October 8, 2013
- Last day for students – Wednesday December 18, 2013
- **Staff Development Days – Thursday Dec 19 & Friday Dec 20, 2013**
Year 6 Farewell Meeting

There will be an initial meeting of all parents interested in taking a role in organising and helping with the Year 6 Farewell. This meeting will be held in the library at 6:30pm Tuesday 6th August. There are a variety of roles available including catering, decorations, year book and DVD. Please come along…..your child will think it is great that their mum or dad is helping to organise this very special night. All welcome

From the Office

Administration hours are Monday to Friday 8.30am – 3.15pm

Term 3 Accounts & Permission notes
Term 3 accounts are now due. If you have not received a copy of your account, please contact the office.

Have you returned your lilac permission note to your teacher? If not please do so as soon as possible, students are not able to attend activities without it.

Student Medical Information
Student Medical Information forms were due in last Friday. 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. If you have not returned your forms to your teacher please do so on Monday.

Are you a brick layer?
We are looking at building a permanent BBQ outside the canteen. If you are a brick layer who would like to quote to build a BBQ, please contact myself or Greg Jones.

Thanking you
Leonie Gallard
School Administration Manager
There have been so many wonderful things happening in the music, dance and instrumental world that I thought I would give you a little snapshot of some of the things our hard working Mona Vale students have been doing.

**NSW State Music Camp**

I was lucky enough to attend this year’s State wide music junior camp as a trombone tutor and conductor. Only the best of the best from Public Schools attend this camp and Mona Vale had 5 students chosen that attended the camp: There were a few ex-Mona students there too which was great seeing them continue on their musical journeys. Here is what Maia our band captain has to say about her experience:

*On the last weekend of the holidays, Zoe, Claudia, Emily, Alex and I travelled to Stanwell Tops to attend State Music Camp. Students from all over NSW came together to play music and have fun. Over the course of the week, we had the opportunity to play in two very different musical ensembles as well as taking part in The Camp Item where 252 of us played and sang together! But it was not just music, music, music; we also did recreational activities such as high ropes, giant swing and survivor course. On the last night, we had an awesome concert where all the ensembles played for families and friends. I can’t wait till next year!*

*Maia Hopf*

**Recorder Group**

Our recorder group is getting ready to participate in a concert at the Opera House in late August. Recently they travelled by bus into the city to practice with over 15 other schools. The girls show fantastic commitment practicing two lunch times a week, learning some very tricky music. We wish them all the best in performing at Sydney’s magnificent Opera House.

**PCS Music Festival**
I wanted to congratulate our students in their recent performance at Pittwater High in the PCS Music festival. We had about 30 Year 2 students singing magnificently in a combined schools choir: singing songs about all sorts of animals. We also had our stage 1 dancers show that you are never too young to have fun on a stage and their routine was based on a fun circus. Thanks to our dedicated staff who work with all these students.

I look forward to working with and seeing more of our school’s ensembles perform as this term progresses. I hope you will all join me in watching our fabulous students at the school’s big creative arts showcase on Thursday August 15th at 6:30.

Mrs. Jacqui Shaw  
CAPA Coordinator  
B. Mus. Ed  
Conservatorium of Music

Band News

Term 2 achievements

Term 2 was a very busy term of festivals and eisteddfods for all of our bands. In May our Training and Concert Bands performed commendably at the Northern Beaches Eisteddfod and received valuable feedback from the adjudicators. This was followed by the Yamaha Festival in June and July. All MVPS bands were outstanding and wonderful ambassadors for our school. The Performance Band achieved Gold and our Stage, Concert and Training bands all achieved Silver. Also in June our three main bands performed at the local Northern Beaches Instrumental Festival, held at Pittwater High School. This festival is a showcase of local bands at all levels and it was fantastic for our students to listen to some brilliant high school bands as well as other local school bands. Congratulations to all of our band students for a very successful festival season.

Winter Warmers Workshop

Our training band and concert band worked so hard in term 2 with eisteddfods and music festivals that we wanted to give them a treat: their treat was an afternoon tea on Wednesday filled with cupcakes, fruit, hot chocolates and home-made sausage rolls. Following the afternoon tea we invited a special guest conductor, Mr Gavin Staines (Head of Music at Chatswood High School) and 4 talented year 10 students from Chatswood High to run an hour long band workshop with our combined Training and Concert band. It was a fabulous afternoon of fun and learning for our hard working band students. Special thanks must go to Mrs Shaw and Deb Thomas for coordinating the event and Nicole Graham, Emily Wearne and Jo Marshall for cooking, preparing food and coordinating a team of happy parent helpers for the afternoon.
Term 3 events and dates

School Musicale: Thursday 15th August. Time tbc
   All bands performing

Chatswood Music Festival
   - Training Band: Sunday 8th September, 1-2.30pm
   - Concert Band: Friday 6th September 6th, 5-7pm

Band information evening: Wednesday September 11th
   For students (particularly Year 2) and their families interested in joining the band program in 2014

Term 3 Primary Disco: Friday 13th September

Chess News

Friday afternoon tournament

The Friday Chess tournament, which began in term 2, finished last Friday with the results now uploaded to http://www.nswjcl.org.au/Schools/2013/Primary/DrawAndResults/ManlyWarringah.htm

This tournament was for teams in the Manly-Warringah zone, which covered primary schools from Avalon to Seaforth and Davidson.

All MVPS players did really well and were great ambassadors for our school. Several of the parent drivers commented on how well behaved our students were, and how supportive they were of each other.

Many thanks to all the parent drivers and particularly to Alison Brown who prepared delicious and healthy snacks for the home games.

The A team placed 6th in the championship division, which is excellent considering that they were playing the top school teams from the zone. The overall winner was John Colet School.

The B and C teams played in the intermediate division, with the B team placing 1st and the C team doing extremely well, especially when three of the team members only started playing chess last year.

The D team placed 1st in the junior division, for kids up to grade 3.

The NSW Junior Chess League will provide certificates for all team members later this year after the state finals have been played.

A team: Zoe Tulk, Henry Cross, Dawei Yuan, Andrew Lin
B team: Hayden Scullion, Ryan Tauhid, Riley Dean, Nicholas Birrell
C team: Lily Chen, Jiaye Zou, Claudia Choi, Miku Nakamura
D team: David Tulk, Seb Brown, Jonathan Yakich, Seb Wellings

Valerie Tulk
Friday tournament coordinator

Survey results

Thanks to the 26 survey respondents. Some terrific ideas came out of the survey and these will be communicated to families soon.

Fees due this week

Term 3 fees are due today. If you haven’t yet completed an enrolment form for your child please contact monavalechess@gmail.com to request one.

Lisa Ratcliff m. 0418 428 511
Volunteer Chess Club Chair/Convenor

Selective High School Club

Are you in 5C, 5E and 5BC and thinking of trying out for Selective High School or the Extension Class at your local high school? Then come along to the 5BC classroom on Mondays! We will be learning about the four different components of the test: reading comprehension, maths, general ability and writing. We will also learn great test techniques and you can ask any questions you like about the test and about selective high schools. Look forward to seeing you!

Mrs Bryce

Sport

Congratulations to all who participated especially to our winners:
Junior: Riley Lyon and Isabella Meridith
Senior: Ryley Dean and Olivia Bennet

These students will represent Mona Vale at the regional final at Frenchs Forest PS on 11th September. Good Luck!

/
Congratulation to Tom Newbold who successfully trialled for the Boys Softball Regional team on Tuesday. He will now playing at the State titles in Canberra from the 17th-19th September. Go Tom!!!!!!! We are so proud of you.

Congratulations to Filip Mijakovac and Tom Newbold who made the Manly Warringah Baseball State Cup team and Jordan Turley, Max Steer and Riley Kiddle who made the Association Cup team.
Kids Matter at Mona Vale

Valuing others means seeing difference as something positive. Often it can be difficult to see another person’s point of view. Please see the great suggestions to help parents/caregivers to teach children the skills for empathy, learning to value others, as well as accepting and including others.

Learning to value others

Some girls in Grace's year four class were taking turns at skipping. Grace watched them closely and decided she would like to have a turn too. She asked to join in but Sally said, "It's too hard for you."

Grace had an intellectual disability. This meant she sometimes took longer to learn things. She was also not as well coordinated in sports as the other girls. "Come on. Let me have a turn," said Grace. "Anyone can have a turn," said Deepa. "I have your turn after me."

So Grace tried to skip over the rope, but it got caught at her feet. "Try again," a few of the girls said. "You have to jump just as it hits the ground." Grace tried again. They gave her extra tries because she was learning. On the last try she managed two skips in a row. "You did it," said Deepa. Grace was really proud. "I did it!" she said, "and you helped me."

Learning to see another person's point of view

It's not always easy for children to see the point of view of someone who is different from them. Being different could mean having a disability, coming from a different country, being a different age or gender, or having different values and interests. Children who are seen as different may be left out of activities. They may face discrimination because others think they are not as good, as talented, or as important as they are. Discrimination can have very negative effects on children's self-esteem and mental health.

Skills for empathy

Taking others' needs into account involves values of caring, compassion and acceptance of others. It also involves emotional skills for empathy. Learning to empathise with another person means learning to 'walk in their shoes.' It means being able to recognise and value their feelings and needs, even though they may be different from your own.

Skills for empathy develop over time and include:

- recognising your own feelings
- recognising others' feelings
- listening to others' opinions
- thinking what it would feel like if you saw the situation their way
- thinking how you can respond in a caring way
- doing something to help

Some children find it easy to tune into feelings. Others need more guidance to learn empathic skills. Adults have an important role in supporting children to learn kindness and empathy.
M.V.P.S. FATHER’S DAY BBQ BREAKFAST

The annual Father’s Day BBQ Breakfast for Mona Vale Primary School will be held on:

Friday 30th August 2013 from 7:15am
in the Primary Cola
(near the Hall).

We invite you to come along and enjoy a fresh breakfast of a bacon and egg roll, fruit and juice. Tea & coffee will be available to purchase from coffee vans onsite.

Don’t forget to return your catering form!

We look forward to seeing you at the BBQ!!

If you can help out at this event please contact Séverine on severine.delerue@hotmail.com
Mona Vale Musicale

Where: Pittwater High School Hall

When: Thursday 15th August

- 10am Morning Performance for MVPS students only.
- 6:30pm Evening performance for family, friends and community.

We are very excited about our forthcoming music and dance extravaganza on

Thursday 15th August 2013.

This year all Mona Vale students will have an opportunity to see the performances at Pittwater High School hall. Students will be walking to and from the venue with their class and teacher.

Students will need to bring with them their ‘crunch and sip’ and recess in a disposable bag as they will be eating upon arrival at the venue.

The 10am morning performance is for students only. We welcome all parents to attend the evening show at 6:30pm.

Here is a list of the performance items:

- Senior Dance
- Junior Dance
- PCS Dance
- Year 2 Choir
- Junior Choir
- Senior Choir
- Performance Band
- Training Band
- Stage Band
- Concert Band
- Recorder Group
- Year 2 Recorders
- Year 1 Violins
- String Ensemble

All performers will be receiving a note detailing costuming requirements, equipment needs, holding room information/location and specific times for arrival.

We respectfully ask that all students are not collected until the end of the evening performance.

This year there will be an opportunity to donate a gold coin for the Mona Vale Creative and performing Arts Program. We would appreciate any support towards this goal.
Work, rest and play are all part of a balanced lifestyle. For your child, this may include homework.

What is the department’s policy on homework?
All NSW public schools are required to develop a homework policy in consultation with staff, students, parents and caregivers in each school’s local community.

Is the department’s homework policy the same as the school’s homework policy?
The short answer is no.
The NSW Department of Education and Communities’ homework policy requires each NSW public school to develop a local homework policy.
The department policy states that a school’s policy should be:
- relevant to the needs of students
- developed in consultation with the school community, and
- shared with staff, students, parents and caregivers – particularly at the time of enrolment.

Is homework compulsory?
No – each school must have a homework policy but the setting of homework and any indicative time allocations across year groups is a decision for each school to make in consultation with its local community.

What does the research say about homework?
It’s unclear – the idea that ‘the more homework, the better’ is not supported by research. There’s also no clear research finding as to whether homework raises student achievement. For more information about homework and the latest homework research findings, check out Homework Policy: Research scan document at http://tinyurl.com/det-homework-policy

If homework is set
- Ask for a copy of your school’s homework policy.
- Participate in developing and implementing the policy.
- Encourage and support your child with their homework - but don’t do the work for them.
- Discuss any concerns you have about homework with the school.
- Let the school know if you don’t agree with its homework policy and discuss alternative strategies.

What can be classified as homework?
Any task set by a teacher for students to carry out during non-school hours is homework. The task should have a specific, explicit learning purpose and the teacher should provide feedback to your child about their homework.

What can you do if you are concerned about homework?
Communication between home and school plays an important part in providing quality educational experiences. Please contact your school if you have any concerns about homework – schools are required to involve parents and caregivers in homework policy decision-making.

What support is available for research assignments?
Your child’s teacher and teacher librarian will help your child develop research skills in the classroom, library and online.

Links4Learning, available in NSW public school libraries, has links to sites for all learning needs and includes tips and help on how to evaluate information, identify credible online sources and credit expert opinions and sources. The local library is also another place where students can get support and assistance with their research.

For parents and caregivers, the School A to Z online school community includes homework and study tips along with a range of assignment starters on common classroom topics set for study. Go to www.schoolatoz.com.au

The school library
NSW public school students have 24-hour access to their school library through the NSW Department of Education and Communities student portal. Students can access their school library’s full range of books, freely available ebooks, videos and websites that have been carefully selected by teacher librarians, teachers and curriculum experts across NSW.

For more help
Contact your local school or go to: the department’s homework policy
https://tinyurl.com/det-homework-policy
School A to Z
www.schoolatoz.com.au
As part of Australian Engineering Week, Macquarie University is hosting an afternoon of robotics fun and learning including presentations, displays, and an opportunity to drive and program robots built by students competing at an international level. Robot enthusiasts of all ages are welcome to join in the fun. If you are a school student, bring along a LEGO robot you have built and show it off at our robot display table.

When: Sunday 11 August, 2013
Time: 2pm - 4pm
Where: Building E7B Courtyard, Macquarie University, North Ryde
Parking: Free in C1, C2 and C3. Fees apply in other campus carparks
Map: See overleaf for carpark locations. Go to T16 for C1, S18 for C2, and S19 for C3
Rides  Books  Plants
Trash 'n' Treasure  Disco
Face Painting  Arts 'n' Crafts
Showbags  Cake Stall
Silent Auction

Spring Fair

Harrismith Lakes Public School

Saturday 10 August • 9am - 3pm
AFL family fun day

Come and join us and learn AFL skills by playing fun games with other families. Meet AFL accredited coaches and have an exciting and enjoyable family fun day! Bring along drinks, hats and sun protection. Chairs or picnic blankets. Suitable sports footwear. Children under 16 year olds must be supervised by an adult. Activities include:

- basic AFL skills and games
- show bags with a football and information of local services
- afternoon tea and picnic

In the event of rain this event will be cancelled and rescheduled to 13 October at the same time.

Details

When: Sunday 22 September from 1.30pm to 3.30pm
Where: James Park, Low and Palmerston Roads, Hornsby
Cost: Free
Bookings: Essential. Please call:
- Isabella on 0435 494 696 or email Tae.Kim@det.nsw.edu.au
- Fiona on 9476 9715 or email zhouyan@police.nsw.gov.au
- Jian on 9947 6994 or email jzhao@hornsby.nsw.gov.au

For more information visit hornsby.nsw.gov.au