Dear Parents

**Parent Information Meeting Wednesday 10\(^{th}\) @ 3:30pm in the Hall**

Once again on Friday our school was disrupted by a threat to students and staff, this is the third time in six days. We have been working closely with NSW Police to ensure that Mona Vale is safe for students, staff and the community and that you are kept informed about the incidents and what we are doing to ensure the continued safety of everyone onsite. Our School App has been wonderful and over the past six days we have used it fifteen times to keep the community informed as well as two Principal newsletters. As I have indicated in previous communication, investigations are taking place at all levels and the school is receiving additional advice and support to manage this situation.

In relation to this advice we have changed some school practices. Firstly, all but the Emma Street and Waratah Street gates will be locked from 9am to 2:30pm. If you haven't already done so please clearly label your child's backpack for easy identification if required.

A staff/parent meeting has been organised for this **Wednesday 10\(^{th}\) at 3:30pm in the school hall** and I have asked the Local Area Commander, Mr Dave Darcy, to attend and to answer the many questions many of you would have regarding these threats. I would again like to stress, that the school, or the Police, are the only creditable source of information in relation to these threats.

Together, as a community, we will ensure the safety of our school and again I thank parents for the calm manner in which you are managing this with your children. They look to you for reassurance.

Finally, I have included the Facebook post by Commander Darcy on the Northern Beaches LAC site last Friday, it was very reassuring.

Regards

Greg Jones  BA Macq,  MA Ed Macq  
Principal, Mona Vale Public School  
Excellence, Innovation, Community  
Member, Macquarie University Council  
Board Member, Macquarie University Hospital
Message posted on the LAC facebook page from Commander, Dave Darcy on Friday 5th February

MONA VALE PUBLIC SCHOOL UPDATE

Pick up kids as normal at 2:50pm. Police will be present. With the exception of staying in during lunch, the kids have had a normal school day with classes continuing in the afternoon.

A little reminder to concerned parents, the kids are well practiced with lock down procedures and are familiar with them. It is not a stressful process. What’s critical for parents who are worried or concerned is to refrain from openly displaying that angst in front of their child. The child will pick up on that anxiety and absorb it.

I can reassure parents I have personally seen how staff at the school respond and they are superb, reassuring and very professional and most importantly so caring and understanding. We are working very closely with them.

It’s fair to say there may be incidents in the future, we simply don’t know. But you can be reassured that we are working closely with the school to make sure the disruption to the kids is kept to a minimum.

If there was a good side to all this, the kids are seeing, meeting and talking to lots of cops and that’s a good thing. Teachers and cops working together to keep them safe. That’s what community is about!

Dave Darcy
Commander, Northern Beaches