Welcome Back
Welcome back to Marsden Road for Term 3. I hope everyone had a restful holiday break. Once again we have a very busy term planned. This newsletter will highlight some of the events that are happening in the first few weeks.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to the new children and families starting at Marsden Road this term. We have enrolled several new students so far this term and I am sure they will quickly settle into their new school and for some of them, their new country as well.

Enrol Now for 2016
Parents if you have children at home that are ready for kindergarten next year we need to have enrolment details now. We need to be able to plan our classes and resources so we are ready for all the children that want to attend Marsden Road PS in 2016. We will also be having our kindergarten transition to school program beginning early next term so to ensure that your child doesn’t miss out, please get a form from the front office and complete it as soon as possible.
If you have any friends or neighbours that don’t already come to our school and they have children ready to start school, would you please pass this important information on to them?

Parent Teacher Meetings
I hope all families have made their appointments to meet with the teachers next week for a discussion on student learning. It is important for the students to know that their parents value what they are learning at school and one way parents can do this is by attending parent teacher meetings, even if you don’t have any concerns with your child’s learning.

NAIDOC Assembly
As we are having a special whole school assembly next Friday 31st to celebrate NAIDOC Week we won’t be having the usual K-2 & 3-6 assemblies. Read more information inside this newsletter.
Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians

There are many reforms in education at the moment. These are designed to improve our system’s ability to deliver a quality education for all. The Melbourne Declaration is an important document driving many of these reforms. The declaration clearly defines nationally consistent future directions for Australian schooling. There are two main goals:
1. Australian schooling promotes equity and excellence
2. All young Australians become successful learners, confident and creative individuals, and active and informed citizens.

The Melbourne Declaration is relatively short and well worth reading. If you would like a copy, please come to the office and ask for me. I can provide you with a copy and have a chat about what this means for your child. Alternatively, I have tweeted a link @Hay6Hay.

Gifted and Talented (GAT) Education

Next week many parents will be at school for parent/teacher interviews. If you have a child who has been identified as needing extra challenge, I will also be available to have a chat with you about GAT Education. If you would like to meet for a personal chat, please call me at school and we can make an appointment time.

Miss Hay

PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE 2015

To all students, parents and teachers, Premier’s Reading Challenge 2015 ends on 21st August. Please borrow PRC books from the library and read. You must complete your online Student Reading Record by 21 August 2015 (11:59 pm) to complete the Challenge. Log onto PRC website below using your portal password to register books you have read.
https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html

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<tr>
<th>Challenge</th>
<th>Number of books you must read</th>
<th>Minimum number of PRC books</th>
<th>Maximum number of Personal Choice books</th>
<th>PRC booklists you can read from</th>
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<td>K-2</td>
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Enjoy Reading!

Thanks

Mrs Kumar

SPARK in Term 3

All students who participated in SPARK last term are invited to join the program again for Term 3. SPARK starts next Monday 27 July at 3.00pm. See you there!

Learn English at MRPS for free!

Join parents on Mondays from 2.30pm – 4.00pm in the community room to learn English! The program starts next week – Monday 27 July 2015.

A qualified tutor will run each session. This tutor is employed by St Vinnies to provide this service.

No cost! All parents are invited to join in.

Parent Homework Club!

Sometimes homework can be a daily drama. One of our parents has suggested that parents might be interested in helping one another with this issue.

Parents are invited to come together in the community room next Wednesday 29 July from 3.00pm to talk about the possibility of an after-school homework club run by parents, for parents and their children.

Interested? Please join us next Wednesday at 3.00pm.

NAIDOC Celebration Assembly 2015

Next Friday 31 July our school will be gathering for a whole school assembly for NAIDOC Week at 10am. This will be an outdoor assembly as we will be watching the raising of the Aboriginal flag on a new flagpole.

We would like every family to contribute by writing a message on a symbolic hand, which will be placed in the garden. Each family will receive a cardboard hand on which to write a message based on the theme –

We all Stand on Sacred Ground: Learn, Respect and Celebrate

Would you please talk as a family about what the NAIDOC theme means to you and write a message on the hand? Please put your family’s hand in the box at the front office before the end of this week.

What do you think about how we report student progress at MRPS?

Starting next week I will be gathering information from parents, students and teachers about how we go about reporting student progress. We will seek to identify what is working well for all and what we could do better.

If you would be interested in filling out a simple online survey, please send an email to sarah.hay6@det.nsw.edu.au and I will send you a link so you can share your ideas anonymously.
Mathematics

What is it?
There are 3 broad areas that cover everything to do with mathematics at school. There is Number and Algebra, this is the area that deals with numbers. Measurement and Geometry covers anything that you can measure as well as shapes and objects. Statistics and Probability deals with data and chance. As Mathematics is part of our everyday life, parents can help to bridge the gap from practice at school to being practical at home.

Here are some simple tips that can be used to help your child understand the purpose of Mathematics.

Tip 1

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<td>• Ask your child to count out the fruit. For example, you ask for three oranges, five red apples, one green apple and two bananas. Say the fruit in your home language as well as in English.</td>
<td>• On public transport, look for times and destinations. Count the number of stops to your destination. • Encourage your child to practise counting in your home language as well as in English. • Ask your child to estimate the weight of fruit and vegetables first and then use the scales to weigh them and check how close he or she was.</td>
<td>• You could ask your child to estimate the amount of water used when washing the car and how much it would cost. Would car-washing facilities be cheaper? • Talk about jobs where it may be vital to be accurate with measurements or numbers, such as in plumbing and hair dressing.</td>
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Literacy! Literacy! Literacy!

What is it?
When schools talk about Literacy, they mean anything to do with reading, writing, talking and listening. This also includes comprehension, vocabulary building, concepts of print (how a book/text works), phonics (letters: what they look like) and phonemic awareness (how sounds are put together to create words). It takes effort and continual practice to maintain and progress with learning Literacy. Parents can be valuable partners in this learning process. Students who can transfer their knowledge, find that learning becomes part of everything they do.

Here are some tips parents can use to help their child at home and foster a stronger home/school relationship.

Tip 1

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<td>• On the way to the shops, play a memory game. Take turns adding to a list. Say: I'm going shopping. I want to buy something starting with a /b/ sound. I'm going to buy a brush. Your child says: I'm going to buy a brush and a book. You say: I'm going to buy a brush, a book and a banana... and so on.</td>
<td>• Make a shopping list with your child before going out. Discuss 'specials' you might want to buy in brochures. Read a street directory together before you drive to the shops and find the best way to avoid traffic lights.</td>
<td>• Families are strong role models. Let your child see you reading, researching and writing such things as recipes, newspapers, TV guides, junk mail, labels, instructions, signs and maps. When you've just bought something that needs assembling, instead of doing it by yourself, ask your child to read the instructions to you. Then discuss what the diagrams mean and how it all fits together.</td>
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