Garden

Anyone who has walked past the school would have noticed the difference in the front garden. It is looking terrific and this is totally due to an amazing grandparent who has volunteered and comes up nearly every day to work in the garden. At Mortdale we are fortunate to have parents and community members who give up their time to support students and the school in many areas including, but not limited to, the canteen, reading, uniform shop and excursions. It is really appreciated.

Second Hand Uniforms

Now that the weather is starting to get cold and your child puts on their winter uniform you may find that they have grown out of them. We are in need of second hand uniforms for our shop as we have many parents asking for them. If you do have any uniforms you would like to donate, please leave them at the front office. Thank you in advance.

Your child’s belongings can easily get misplaced at school.

Please label all of your child’s belongings with their name. Don’t forget books, pencils cases, clothing and school bag.

If your child has misplaced an item please check the lost property chest which is located in the admin block.

All items not collected by the end of term are donated to charity.
PSSA OZTAG

Both our Junior and Senior OZTAG teams had great success this year. They finished the season in third place which qualified them to play in the semi-finals. Semi-final day was held on Friday 11th May and all the boys were excited to play. Although both teams played a fantastic game showing both skill and sportsmanship, they were unfortunately beaten in two very exciting games. We are very proud of the boys efforts, behaviour and commitment to OZTAG this year.

Miss Christo

Walk Safely to School Day

Our children’s safety and well being are the most important things for us in the community. It is for this reason we are again supporting WALK SAFELY TO SCHOOL DAY on Friday 18 May.

Pedestrian safety is again very much in the news, unfortunately for tragic reasons. There have been too many deaths and injuries to children and adults on our streets recently. If we, through our safety messages, can stop one child being hurt or killed, by teaching them how to cross the road safely, how to avoid driveways and understand that drivers can’t always see them, we may stop future grief and sadness.

Please support our efforts on Friday 18 May by walking to school with your child, holding their hand when crossing the road and teaching them to always STOP, LOOK and LISTEN and WALK when it is safe to do so.

The objectives of Walk Safely to School are:

- To encourage parents and carers to walk to school with primary school aged children and reinforce safe pedestrian behaviour.
- To promote the health benefits of walking and help create regular walking habits at an early age.
- To ensure that children up to 10 years old hold an adults hand when crossing the road.
- To help children develop the vital road crossing skills they will need as they become mature pedestrians.
- To reduce the car dependency habits that are being created at an early age and which will be difficult to change as children become adults.
- To promote the use of public transport.
- To reduce the level of air pollution created by motor vehicles.
- To reduce the level of traffic congestion.

If you need to drive to school, try leaving the car further down the road and walking the remainder of the way.
Notes for excursions have been sent home during this term. Please return permission notes and money owing as soon as possible.

<table>
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<th>Date sent home</th>
<th>Who for</th>
<th>What for</th>
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<th>Amount</th>
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<td>Years 3 and 4</td>
<td>Narrabeen Sport and Rec Camp</td>
<td>29/6/2012</td>
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<td>ANZ Stadium tour</td>
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<td>01/05/2012</td>
<td>K-6</td>
<td>Walkathon</td>
<td>01/06/2012</td>
<td>Sponsorship</td>
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“Walking for Fitness” was the focus of our **May Day Walk-a-thon** held recently.

We were fortunate to have a sunny, dry day and all students enthusiastically completed courses at Renown Park and at school. A group of high school students from G.R.C. also assisted at both venues and we were grateful for their help in the smooth running of the day.

Many thanks to the families who have already returned sponsorship money to school. Our target is $15,000 for much needed upgrades of our School Hall.

For the next two weeks there will be Class Competitions. Classes with the highest number of returned sponsor cards will be rewarded with an ice-block so keep those cards coming!

**The last day for collection will be May 29th.**

The Sausage Sizzle Lunch and Prize day will be held on the **Wednesday, May 30th.** Further information regarding lunch orders will be following soon.

Thank you,

Walk-a-thon Committee
MOTHER’S DAY STALL AND MORNING TEA

The P&C Events Committee would like to say a big thank you to the following for their help with last week’s Mother’s Day Stall:

In preparation for the stall, Belinda for organising notes to be sent home and pricing gifts and both Belinda and Sarah for helping to choose and pick up the gifts; On the days the stall was held, Sarah, Belinda, Simone, Anna, Tina, Kanela and Peita for helping to setup tables and sell gifts, with also some crowd control thrown in for Simone and, at the end of it all, Belinda and Peita for counting the money.

Our Mother’s and Father’s Day Stalls are not classed as fundraisers because we believe the important thing is for the children to feel responsible by buying a gift for mum or dad. Having said that, the P&C did manage to raise $600 which will go back into the school.

Also, a big thank you to all who made or bought cakes for the Mother’s Day Morning Tea last Friday morning and to all the mothers that turned up for a cuppa, a friendly chat and some cake on the day.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Slice Drive
The P&C will be holding a slice drive in June. Notes and information on how to order will follow soon.

Annual Trivia Night
The P&C’s annual Trivia Night will be held on Saturday 25th August. Add the date to your diaries, book the baby sitter and prepare yourselves for a fun night out.

Alexia O’Sullivan
P&C President

CANTEEN NEWS

FORTNIGHTLY SPECIAL
The next Fortnightly Special will be Homemade, Vegetarian and Gluten Free Fried Rice with the choice of either a juice or milk for $4.00. This special will be available this week on Thursday 17th May and in Week 5 on Thursday 24th May.

VOLUNTEERS
I would like to thank Jodie, Fatima, Brad, Mack, Gladys, Shanra, Nicole and Kanela for their work in the Canteen in the last two weeks. Your time and effort is greatly appreciated. Also, a reminder to each of the following for your upcoming shift(s):
Thursday 17/5 – Jodie, Fatima, Brad, Rachel and Mack; Monday 21/5 – Jodie, Fatima, Margaret, Vicki and Gladys; Thursday 24/5 – Jodie, Fatima, Brad, Sam and Mack; Monday 28/5 – Anna, Jodie, Fatima, Natasha and Kristy.

Alexia O’Sullivan
Canteen Co-ordinator
On Wednesday 23rd May 2012 at 10.45am Mortdale Public School will join organisations from Broome to Hobart, reading the picture book *The Very Cranky Bear* to more than 170,000 children across Australia.

Now in its twelfth successful year, National Simultaneous Storytime 2012 aims to celebrate and acknowledge the vital work being done in libraries, schools and communities around Australia to develop young people’s literacy and numeracy skills.

The event has been organised by the Australian Library and Information Association, to promote the value of reading and literacy, the importance of Australia’s book industry and the role of libraries.

*The Very Cranky Bear* by Nick Bland is a wonderful Australian picture book about friendship, sacrifice and learning that appearances aren’t important.

**TAKE HOME A BIG BROTHER OR BIG SISTER**

**BY HOSTING A SHORT TERM EXCHANGE STUDENT.**

Give your children the wonderful opportunity to have an international big brother or big sister by hosting one of our exceptional international students arriving in Australia in July 2012 for a short term of only 3 months. Our international students from France, Germany, Italy, Austria Denmark, Norway, Finland and Sweden will live as a local, attend a local secondary school, arrive with their own spending money and comprehensive insurance cover – all arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange. Visit us at [www.scce.com.au](http://www.scce.com.au), email [scceaust@scce.com.au](mailto:scceaust@scce.com.au) or call us toll free on 1800 500 501, request our little booklets of international student profiles, and capture the spirit of family and friendship!

**Getting involved reaps benefits**

Did you know that the latest research shows the more involved parents are in their child’s education, the happier their children are and the better they do at school. Being involved can include taking more of an interest in what your child is doing at school, helping out at school if you can and being supportive. Read more about this at School A to Z: [www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/development/children-thrive-on-parental-involvement](http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/development/children-thrive-on-parental-involvement).
This year we will be once again participating in the Woolworths Earn and Learn program. Simply start collecting stickers at the checkout of your local Woolworths supermarket (self-service too) until July 22nd.

There’ll be one sticker for every $10 spent, excluding purchases of liquor, smoking/tobacco products and gift cards.

Please drop the stickers into collection box which is located outside the library.

The more points we earn, the more we can redeem from a choice of over 7,000 educational resources including Mathematics and English resources, art & crafts materials and much, much more!

Rugby Team
Penshurst
CHIROPRACTIC CENTRE

Kids Day

For the Kids

14. Face painting
15. Stretching to music to STRAIGHTEN UP AUSTRALIA
16. Farm animals
17. Drawing competition
18. Learn how to carry your back pack at school

Bring a friend to WIN a $100 voucher at Rebel sport!

Saturday
19th MAY
10:30am - 12:30pm

Bookings essential
Call Chris
(02)95705999

For the Parents

10. Information on better school food
11. Information on the importance of movement
12. Meet the Chiropractors and have questions and concerns answered.
13. Learn the benefits of Chiropractic
Straighten Up Australia

Kindergartens

This year CAANSW joined South Australia and Western Australia branches in participation in Straighten Up Australia Kindergartens on Thursday 29th March. We had schools in Mortdale, Sutherland, Oxley Vale (Tamworth), Ferntree Gully, Hornsby, Yeronga Hills and Willalongby. Thank you to our Chiropractors who took time out of their busy clinics to attend the schools—Drs Stephanie Le Coz, Nicole Lawler, Sami Guo, Keith Ashton, Loretta Mallins, Azelia Glawocki, Koen Draeger and Vanessa Harkington. We also received great media exposure at Oxley Vale and Sutherland.

This will become an annual event that we hope more members will participate in next time.

We had the privilege and the absolute pleasure of being involved in the CAAS NSW initiative, Straighten Up Australia Kindergartens on Thursday 29th March.

We spent time with 60 children in kindergarten and their 3 teachers at Mortdale Public School teaching them about Chiropractic, their spines, and the importance of movement.

The children enjoyed learning their new exercises, and teacher Angela Baux was enthusiastic about implementing the new moves to her regular exercise routine with the children.

"The kids enjoyed their morning session and they were really good when they came back into class!"

We would encourage other Chiropractors to get involved in this fantastic initiative next year. It was fabulous to get kids enthusiastic about moving. With the help and organisation of the school staff, the whole experience was fun, uplifting, and really rewarding for all of us.

After such a successful day, our aim is to have Straighten Up Australia reach many more schools in our community.

Stephanie Le Coz And Alisa Williams
Penshurst Chiropractic Centre
Fun in the Kindergarten Classrooms!

Everyday the Kindergarten children have turns sharing their special news from home. The class then has the opportunity to ask questions about their news.

Today it was Alex from KB’s turn to share his news!

We all love to read in Kindergarten.
During Phonics time Kindergarten have the opportunity to make new words using their mini-whiteboards and magnets then moving off to their desks to write creative sentences using their new words!

Interactive Whiteboard.

We all love using the Interactive whiteboard, especially during the morning when we are all learning about the days of the week and months of the year!
Every Friday this term we will be going to the Computer room to learn some new skills. The computer room has recently been fitted out with brand new computers. The first thing we will learn is how to log on using the commands Control Alt Delete. We also love going to the Music Room to learn about percussion!

We only need 3 minutes during the day to keep our spines safe by doing our exercises that we were taught through the Chiropractors Association.
Visual Arts

During the week we also show off our creativity through Art and Craft. We get the opportunity to paint, cut and paste and use implements like the Aboriginal people use to create dot paintings.

Walk-a-thon

Our very first Walk-a-thon was so much fun. We got to walk around the school getting fit and of course we helped raise money for our school.

Don’t forget to bring in all the money you collected to have the chance to win the X Box!!
Assembly

Every Friday we go to the hall and have our Assembly. We sing the school song and the Australian Anthem. We also get to see who receives the weekly assembly awards from each classroom. We sit very quietly throughout the Assembly so that the "Nigel Watchers" will hopefully choose our class to look after Nigel for the week.

Lunch times!!

Lunch times are so much fun. We all walk down to the back playground and sit with our friends to eat our lunch. After we eat, we pack away our lunch boxes and play!
Developmental Play

Our favourite time of the week has to be after Assembly when we get to have Developmental Play. Here we have time to build, play make believe and just have some fun!