A Message From The Principal

Welcome Back Stage 3 from Canberra. Thank you to Miss Hales, Mrs Hines, Mr Hardy and Paul Pieri for all that was done to organise and to attend what seems to have been a wonderful 2 very full days in Canberra. The students were keen to go, all ready by the 6:00am departure. As usual, Mortdale students were on their best behaviour showing people around them what great children they are. It seems that all the children who attended got a chance to see and experience quite a lot of what our national capital has to offer. It was reported to me that the thermometer didn’t move very far and both the days and nights were quite fresh (cold). It makes me proud to know the camp was a great success and that I have both wonderful students from wonderful families and wonderful staff in my school. There is a full report of Canberra in the full version of the newsletter. http://www.mortdale-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

NAPLAN - I would like to say that the NAPLAN assessments ran smoothly over the 3 days. Students who were absent on any of the 3 days were able to sit the tests on the Friday. The topic for the persuasive writing task for both Years 3 and 5 was “Everybody Should Learn To Cook”. The test papers have now been sent in for marking and once this has been completed, parents will be notified of the results. I am confident that student’s results will reflect the quality teaching and learning that goes on at Mortdale.

So proud of their school
A Message From The Weather Man

BRRRRRR.... Cold! Cold! Cold!. Winter is finally upon us and the flu season is starting to affect us all. Make sure you rug your children up well when you send them off to school. Long pants or white stockings, jackets as well. For some added warmth, children may wear WHITE long sleeve polo neck tops UNDER their school shirts or tunics. It wouldn’t hurt putting a singlet under these layers of clothes. Due to the frosty mornings, a PLAIN BLACK scarf and plain black woollen gloves are permitted to be worn before school. Our classrooms are heated and teachers encourage children to take jackets off while in the classroom. There is no need to wear a scarf or gloves once school has started. LABEL EVERYTHING! As you know, the weather can play games with us and the days can get quite sunny and hot at times. Children tend to shed clothing and that’s when lost school jackets and jumpers start popping up around the school. It’s so easy to get clothing back to their owners when there is a name on it. Stay Warm and keep on learning!

MoMPS—Men Of Mortdale Public School NETWORK

Thank you to those fathers for making the effort to come to the “Men’s Networking” meetings held on the 16th May. Your time and input made the evening a valuable event. The shared discussions held about kids, learning and school life, theirs and ours, keeps the perspective of what it takes to raise a child in today’s society.

This is an informal gathering to have a bit of a chat and a chance for dads to get to know other dads in the school. This meeting will NOT be held at school.

Next MoMPS Meeting: Wednesday 20th June, 6:00pm – 7:30pm,
Mortdale Hotel Bistro

Mr Andreone

District Cross Country

On Thursday 24th May students in Years 3-6 participated in District Cross Country. Although we had less students participating due to the stage 3 camp, Mortdale still performed very well, with Jaslyn from 3B making it through to Regional Cross Country. Congratulations to all the students who participated, not only for their effort but also for their behaviour and good sportsmanship. Well done everyone!

Miss A. Christo
Stage 3 - Canberra Trip

What an exciting 2 days our Stage 3 students had last week as they visited our nation’s capital, Canberra. The trip was designed to support our studies of democracy and government and it certainly achieved this objective with visits to Parliament House and the Museum of Democracy. Questacon, CSIRO, the War Memorial and the Australian Institute of Sport were also on the agenda.

The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit their National Capital as part of their civics and citizenship education. To assist families in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government contributed $20 per eligible student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate (PACER) programme toward the travel expenses incurred. This allowance was factored into the cost of the excursion. We would like to thank the Australian Government for their support of this program.

Our students were exceptionally well-behaved, with our drivers acknowledging they were some of the best school students they have ever escorted! I would like to thank Mr Hardy, Mrs Hines and Mr Pieri for giving up their time to ensure our students were able to partake in such an experience.

See more photos in the full version of the newsletter or in the Photo Gallery.
http://www.mortdale-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

Miss Hales (Assistant Principal)

SRC Meetings

This year, as in previous years, students have had the honour of being elected by their peers to be part of the Student Representative Council. Two students from each class have been carefully chosen. Each class communicates to their Student Representatives what they would like to see improved around the school. Alternatively, each class may decide that they think that it would be a great idea to buy something for the school that would benefit both students and teachers alike.

Each month the Student Representatives meet in the connected classroom, where they inform the leadership team about problems at our school or what they feel may need fixing. Then the leadership team meets with Mrs Pieri and discusses the issues that have been raised at the meeting. Then Mrs Pieri talks to us about what is going to be done. This is a great process as it allows us, the students, to have a say in what we would like to see improved in our school.

Thomas Fenech (School Captain)
P&C News

5¢ ROUNDUP AND PIZZA DAY

On Wednesday 18th July 2012, a Pizza Day will be held for the Winning Class of the 5¢ Roundup. Money won’t be counted until the last day of term, so there is still plenty of time to get those 5¢ coins in.

TRIVIA NIGHT

If anyone has any gifts they would like to donate as prizes for the Trivia Night, please contact Shannon on 0414 334 038, to arrange for pick up.

Alexia O’Sullivan
P&C President

CANTEEN NEWS

FORTNIGHTLY SPECIAL

The next Fortnightly Special will be Vegetarian Hokkien Noodles with the choice of either a juice or milk for $4.50. This special will be available this week on Thursday 31st May and in Week 7 on Thursday 7th June 2012.

VOLUNTEERS

I would like to thank Jodie, Fatima, Brad, Rachel, Mack, Margaret, Vicki, Gladys, Shanra, Sam, Natasha and Kristy 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 31/5 – Jodie, Fatima, Brad, Rachel and Leanne; Monday 4/6 – Jodie, Fatima, Margaret and Natasha; Thursday 7/6 – Anna, Jodie, Fatima, Brad and Mack.

Alexia O’Sullivan
Canteen Co-ordinator
Canberra - A Student’s Perspective

At the crack of dawn Years 5 and 6 headed off to Canberra on a trip that felt like a lifetime. Year 5 and 6 had a wonderful experience in Canberra. We went to interesting museums and learnt many new things. Everyone had a great time and had lots of fun.

5/6 enjoyed Canberra and liked venues like Questacon and the hands on activities it provided. Even Mrs Hines was brave enough to go on the ‘Free Fall’ which was a really exhilarating 7m slide.

We were very lucky to go to Old and New Parliament House, learning from our tour guides and doing really fun activities. In Old Parliament House we sat in the Senate and became the government and opposition. We debated on Australian born Governor Generals instead of English born Governor Generals. Some very lucky students got the chance to dress up as Quentin Bryce and Sir Isaac Isaacs and presented a speech about what they had said. In New Parliament House we walked around the clean marble building admiring the paintings of past Prime Ministers. In The House of Representatives we heard Peter Garrett, Warren Snowden and Malcolm Turnbull. Daryl Melham, our local member for Banks, popped in to visit us and told us about his career as a politician. 5/6 even experienced how to vote at the Australian Electoral Commission and learnt how voting works using fruit (we had to vote for our favourite fruit).

Dorothy Sandell
Laura Williamson
1P

1P are learning about Australia. We love art and craft each week. We painted an Aboriginal boomerang using special Aboriginal symbols. Last week we painted a cuddly koala.

In Maths, we are learning about data. We have been looking at different graphs. Last week we learnt how to make our own column graph. Miss Phillips surveyed us to see what our favourite colour was and we graphed it in our books.
Now that Gymnastics has finished, 1P have started a fitness program with 1/2H. Here are some pictures of us enjoying our fitness in the Autumn sun.
SLA Information Reports On

“Most kangaroos eat sweet grass. Some of them eat insects.” Zion

“Kangaroos have long, sharp claws and a pouch for their joey.” Liam
“Kangaroos live in Australia and Papua New Guinea.”

**Ethan**

“Kangaroos have strong back legs.”

**Jaiden**

“Kangaroos have thick fur, it can be brown, grey or red.”

**Indiana**

“Kangaroos are marsupials which are mammals with a pouch.”

**Sandy**

**These are some**
Top parenting tips to encourage children’s cooperation

Monday 18th June 2012
7.30pm – 9.00pm

Our Presenter is
Kate Dover – Parenting and Behaviour Support Worker and Educator

This seminar will outline practical take home parenting tips to encourage your children’s cooperation and give an understanding of children’s resistant and defiant behaviours. Ideal for parents and carers of all children aged two to twelve.

Venue: The Multi Purpose Centre for the Disabled
123 Flora Street, Sutherland
For further information contact
SSLD SG Inc. on 8544 8604
or email sldsg@learningdifficulties.org.au

A gold coin door donation will assist us with our ongoing support and advocacy.
Compulsory school attendance
Information for parents

Did you know that if a student misses as little as eight days in a school term, by the end of primary school they will have missed over a year of education?

The compulsory years of schooling

In New South Wales, all children from six years of age are legally required to attend school or be registered for home schooling. After they complete Year 10 and until they turn 17 years of age, students then have the following options. They may also be in:

– full-time further education and training (e.g. TAFE, traineeship, apprenticeship);
– full-time, paid employment of an average of 25 hours per week; or
– a combination of both of the above.

Children are expected to attend all school activities, on time. Regular attendance helps your child:

– develop the skills needed to access the world of work and other opportunities
– to learn the importance of punctuality and routine
– make and keep friendships.

What if my child has to be away from school?

If your child has to be absent from school, you must tell the school and provide a reason for your child’s absence. To explain an absence parents and carers may be required to:

– send a note to the school, or contact the school via electronic means such as SMS text message, fax or email, or
– telephone the school, or
– visit the school.

A small number of absences may be accepted by the principal. For example, if your child:

– has to go to a special religious ceremony
– is required to attend a serious or urgent family situation (e.g. a funeral)
– is too sick to go to school or has an infectious illness.