Reports

Our school reports your child’s progress with written reports twice a year and through interviews or meetings. Class reports were handed out to students on Tuesday 26th June.

The reports are written on an A to E scale. If your child is sitting at a “C”, that is where they should be at this point in time. It is a good achievement.

**A - Outstanding Achievement:**

The student has an extensive knowledge and understanding of the content and can readily apply this knowledge. In addition, the student has achieved a very high level of competence in the processes and skills and can apply these skills to new situations.

**B - High Achievement:**

The student has a thorough knowledge and understanding of the content and a high level of competence in the processes and skills. In addition, the student is able to apply this knowledge and these skills to most situations.

**C - Sound Achievement:**

The student has a sound knowledge and understanding of the main areas of content and has achieved an adequate level of competence in the processes and skills.

**D - Basic Achievement:**

The student has a basic knowledge and understanding of the content and has achieved a limited level of competence in the processes and skills.

**E - Limited Achievement:**

The student has an elementary knowledge and understanding in few areas of the content and has achieved very limited competence in some of the processes and skills.
Be fire safe this winter

Winter’s chill has arrived and with it our scramble for heaters, electric blankets and open fires. Entertaining is now year round thanks to portable outdoor gas heaters. But with all these conveniences come fire dangers. Statistics reveal that almost half of all home fires are started in the kitchen and 43 per cent of all fire fatalities occur in winter. NSW Fire and Rescue reminds us to do a fire safety audit of our homes this winter, check smoke detectors are working and ensure appliances such as clothes dryers and dishwashers are running efficiently and safely. For more household fact sheets and useful videos on how to protect your home and family from fire go to www.fire.nsw.gov.au/

School holidays sorted

The school holidays are fast approaching. For great activities to keep the kids gainfully occupied check out the informative Go Play website which is full of ideas for kids aged up to 18 years. You can search by age, activity, region, date, time and by government organisation. Go to: www.goplay.nsw.gov.au

Bandfest

On Friday 22nd June I had the pleasure of accompanying 33 talented Concert Band students to Kogarah where they participated in the annual schools’ Bandfest. Bandfest is a celebration of music which allows all schools the opportunity to showcase their talent on stage. I am happy to announce that our Concert Band received a silver trophy for their efforts. Special thanks to Mr Nicholls who gave his time to conduct the band on the day. Thank you also to the parents who were able to come along and support our students.

Miss Hales

Endeavour Sports Soccer Gala Day

On Tuesday 19th June and Wednesday 20th June, girls and boys from our PSSA Soccer teams were invited to attend a fabulous Gala day held by Endeavour Sports High School. The senior and junior teams were given the opportunity to play on their new 5-aside mini fields. All our teams played fantastically throughout the two days, with the Senior Boys A team going through undefeated. All the students displayed excellent behaviour and showed good sportsmanship. Thank you to Endeavour Sports High School for giving us the opportunity to utilise their great resources.

Miss A. Christo
Term 3

Mr Andreone will be taking leave term 3 and Mrs Alderdice (formally known as Miss Casey) will be taking his class. He is off to a warmer climate. Mrs Miles will be relieving as Assistant Principal in charge of Stage 2 and any related issues. She will be happy to meet with parents at a mutually agreed time if you wish to speak to her.

Welcome to Sue Anderson our new School Administration Manager.

Position Vacant—Pole Depot has a position vacant for after school care here in our hall. Interested people refer to the Pole Depot website or go down and speak to Rhiannon.

BEAR

Mortdale PS is participating in a parent tutor program next term. The BEAR program (Being Excited About Reading) involves parent volunteers working with year 1 students in half hour sessions three and possibly four sessions per week. The aim of this program is to increase a student’s reading accuracy and sight words within a 10 week time frame. Parent training will take around one and a half hours booked in with a Literacy Consultant at 9:00am on Friday 10th August.

If you are interested in helping in any capacity, please return the form sent home earlier this week. If further clarification is required please contact Mrs Pieri or Mrs Kenyon. This is a good opportunity for parents to learn how to assist their own children in kindergarten, year 1 and year 2 with reading.

Farewell and Thank you

It is sad to farewell four staff members, Mrs Bailey, Mrs Crossling, Mrs Thompson and Mrs Alderdice, as they are now part of the restructure due to Every Student Every School where Reading and Language classes no longer exist.

Mrs Bailey has gained a LaST position (learning and support teacher) between two schools, Newtown and North Newtown. For her it will mean less time travelling and great cafes to have lunch at. We will miss her professionalism and commitment to students as individuals. Mrs Bailey has been part of the staff at Mortdale for 20 years giving expertise on curriculum committees, the Learning Support Team and event committees. Mrs Crossling has been the Assistant Principal for 18 years who has had the responsibility of looking after the support classes but also been instrumental in promoting and facilitating ongoing professional learning for all teachers. Her commitment to achieving the school’s goals, her leadership and friendship will be sadly missed. Mrs Crossling has led the SRC, Presentation Days and had a major role in setting school targets. Mrs Thompson was the Student Support Learning Officer and has been at Mortdale since 1998. She will now be at Broderick Gillawarna School. Mrs Thompson has supported many of the school’s playground procedures along with the students. Mrs Alderdice has not been on the language class for long and will be with us for another term as she is a casual and will be taking Mr Andreone’s class next term.

I would like to thank all of them for their dedication to student learning outcomes at Mortdale Public School over the years.
Trivia Night

The P&C’s annual Trivia Night will be held on Saturday 25th August with this year’s theme being “Black and White”. Tickets will be $15 each and will be available for purchase after the school holidays. Why not get a group of friends together, book a table and come along for a fun night.

If anyone has anything they would like to donate as a prize for Trivia Night, please drop the item(s) off at the office or, alternatively, call Shannon on 0414 334 038 to arrange pickup.

Next Meeting

The next P&C meeting will be held on Tuesday 17th July (ie. first day back from school holidays) at 7 pm in the staff room. Meetings run for approximately one hour and new members are always encouraged to attend. If you have nowhere to leave older children, they are welcome to come and play quietly in the counsellor’s room.

A reminder to all parents that the last Canteen day for this term was Monday 25th June and the Canteen will not be open on Thursday 29th June.

The Canteen will reopen during Week 2 of Term 3 on Monday 23rd July and will be open each Monday and Thursday for fruit break and lunch order items.

VOLUNTEERS

If anyone would like to volunteer to work in the Canteen during Term 3 (even if only for a couple of hours), please feel free to call or text me on 0414 457 223 with your times and dates of availability. For current volunteers, please advise if your times of availability have/will change as I will be putting together the roster for Term 3 towards the end of the school holidays.

I would like to thank Jodie, Fatima, Brad, Nicole, Kanela, Anna, Natasha, Sam, Margaret and Vicki for their work in the Canteen in the last two weeks. Your time and effort is greatly appreciated.

Alexia O’Sullivan
MoMPS  Men Of Mortdale Public School

Thank you to the fathers that turned up to last week’s meeting. There was only a small gathering, but the discussion held seemed quite worthwhile. Due to the fact that I will be on leave next term, MoMPS meetings will need to be held over to Term 4. I will post the date for the next meeting in the Term 3, Week 10 Newsletter. Remember, parenting is a pro-active skill, not a re-active action. All the best and see you in Term 4.

Mr L. Andreone

WASTE WATCHERS

On Monday 18th June, Kogarah City Council hosted the Waste Watchers Program at Mortdale PS to promote the proper way to dispose of waste in the home, school and community. Children were able to role play ways of making sure rubbish and waste ended up in the proper places. They discussed recycling, landfill, compost and waste management. The program is a worthwhile one, where students were able to learn through a hands-on interactive way. Thank you Kogarah Council for this excellent program.
EMU

An emu is part of the ratite family. They have long legs and grow to two metres tall. They have feathers and wings.

They live in Australia.

They can run up to 70 kilometres per hour and they are good swimmers. They do not fly.

They eat fruit, vegetation and insects.

They breed in winter. The female lays up to 30 eggs that are dark green. The male sits on the eggs for 8 weeks.

Emus are a national bird of Australia.

By Jacob 1/2H
PLATYPUS

The platypus is a monotreme. They are part of the mammal family.

The platypus has webbed feet and sharp claws. They are covered in soft fur and they have a sensitive bill.

The platypus lives in hot and cold climates in eastern Australia. They dig a burrow which can be 6-16 metres long. The entrance to the burrow is above water.

This monotreme swims and their tail helps them to swim. They dig burrows with their sharp claws.

The platypus eats yabbies, worms, insects, fish eggs and water plants. They feed in the early hours of the morning and in the late afternoon into the night.

The platypus mates in July in the water. They lay eggs four weeks after mating. The female digs a special burrow leading to a nesting chamber. She usually lays two eggs.

Platypuses were killed for their fur so we needed to pass laws to protect them. People need to protect the natural habitat of the platypus or they could become extinct.
4/5A Investigates Maths

In class, 4/5A have been looking at measurement. They were assigned a task that required them to work in pairs to construct towers made from newspaper.

The children worked in pairs. They were limited with the amount of newspaper and tape they could use.

The children had to come up with a design that was free-standing and was as tall as they could make it.

They were limited with the newspaper and tape they could use. The activity generated a lot of talk, especially coming up with how they could build a secure and stable base.
The interesting talk around the room was about the shapes that were rigid and could support the tower.

Some pairs went straight to building a tallest structure they could make. They then faced the problem of getting the tower to stay upright. Other groups were more cautious. The tallest tower built by students measured 110 cm tall. Vlad and Mr. Andreone built a tower 168 cm tall, but that didn’t count.

The activity that followed this required the pairs to build a structure from newspaper that could support a load of 100 grams 30 cm above the ground. Blake S and James built one that supported 600 grams. The children were told that a minimum height would be 91 cm. They constantly checked the height of their tower using a metre ruler.
On Thursday 14th June we saw a Musica Viva concert in our school hall.

The band was called ‘Zeeko’ and the people’s names were Sandy, Jess and David.

Sandy played the acoustic guitar and was singing. Jess played the bass guitar, the waterphone, conch shell and also did some singing. David played the drums and was also doing singing.

We sang a song called ‘La Rana Dorada’ which in Spanish means ‘golden frog’ and they are endangered.

Another song we heard was ‘Butterfly Effect’. We also listened to a soundscape called ‘Deepest Blue’ which was about the sea.

I loved the concert!

BY STEPHANIE O’SULLIVAN 1/2H
Scatting and Soundscaping with Zeeko

On Thursday, 14th June 2012 three-piece band Zeeko performed two concerts in our school hall. Zeeko’s music is part of the Musica Viva Program, currently being taught during Music lessons to all Mortdale Public School students. Their songs use body percussion and rhythm, vocal improvisation (‘scatting’) and a variety of usual and unusual instruments (anyone heard of a Waterphone?), played in traditional and very unique ways.

As you can see from the photos, Zeeko targeted each concert for the age groups in attendance and interacted with the students to create a fun, energetic and enthusiastic concert.

It was pleasing to receive great feedback from Zeeko who said that they had a fantastic time with our students because they could see that the students were all participating, had great audience manners and were obviously having a lot of fun. Well done MPS students!

Many thanks also to the teachers who were also slapping their laps and helping create soundscapes along with the children.

Rachael Cosentino
Stage 3 headed off to very cold Canberra. As you can see 5/6D had a few favourite places.

C.S.I.R.O discovery

The year five and six classes went to Canberra. We went to a lot of places but my favourite place was the C.S.I.R.O discoveries because we got to do a lot of fun things like extract DNA from a plant and hold stick and leaf insects. When we got there we when straight to a little room that had a little display of the outback and our group’s instructor showed us some seeds that have been made so that moths that like to eat the plant don’t like the taste so they don’t eat the plant. Then we went in to a 3D theatre and watched a little clip about these frogs that give of a sticky substance that is so sticky some scientists are using it to fix broken bones and other things. Then we went to the experimental area and touched a huge plasma ball and then we went and sat down and we held stick and leaf insects. Then we got on the bus and went to our next stop Questacon.

By Freya
Canberra
Questacon

On the 25th of May 5/6 went to Questacon in Canberra I know that when we were going to get on the bus to Questacon everyone was excited. When we got to Questacon a man came out tell us what the rules were at Questacon. In Questacon there were 8 levels, in each level there was fun and exciting things to do. Everyone wanted to go to the earthquake room, the people that went to the earthquake room did not think it was all that good. In level 7 there was the free fall the free fall was 7 meters high I went on the free fall two times. I loved Canberra it was so fun
By Brendan

Questacon is a very cool science and technology place that you can go to. There are lots of fun thing to do there like trying new things and playing games.
For my year 6 camp we went to Canberra. We went to so many different places. One of my favourite things we did there was questacon. At questacon we did many things. There are so many levels from one to eight. There are many things to do.
The first room we did was a gravity room. Me and my best friend Danielle did lots of things there. Like pulling each other up on a chair. The second room was called the Vibration Room. There were lots more rooms but my favourite room was number 7, me and my friend did a 7 meter drop
I loved my year 6 camp it was the best camp ever and would love to do it again.

By Chantal
The best part of Questacon was level 4 because it had different puzzles. The staff there were really nice, one person taught me how to do a puzzle. There were 3 blue circles and 3 yellow circles, you could only move the yellow circles anti clock wise and the blue circles clock ways, you can’t put a big circle on a small circle and you have. The aim of the puzzle was to make the same pattern again. There was this cool water thing you put a little bit of water on the palm of your hands and there was this pan with metal handles and if it works it will sort of come up like sparks, it was really cool.

There was another puzzle it had a farmer who was in a boat, a duck, a wolf and corn, you had to try and get everything over to the other side of the lake, if you left the duck with the corn the duck will eat the corn, if you leave the duck and the wolf the wolf will eat the duck but the wolf will not eat the corn, it was very challenging the man told me how to do it, what you do is you put the duck on the other side of the lake, then you get the wolf and put him over the other side of the lake, but the wolf will eat the duck if you leave them so you take the duck back to the other side of the lake, then you get the corn and put it with the wolf and then take the duck over with the corn and the wolf, so that’s why I liked Questacon the best.

By Chloe

Questacon is an exciting place. It has many different levels each level has a room filled with different types science and electronic activities children will love.
The best room by far was level 7. level 7 had the free fall a bouncy thing that you move with your hands and a lot more exciting things.

On the 25th of May 2012 Mortdale public school YR 5 and YR 6 students went to Questacon and had a wonderful time. All the students had a wonderful time espically at the Free Fall, earthquake house and the lightning room.
It also has stuff like launching a rocket into the air, Making fake snow and a lot more. Also at Questacon we had the chance to buy something at the gift shop. As you can see Mortdale’s students had a great time at Questacon!

Danielle
My favourite part of Canberra was when we went to Questacon because it has a lot of hands on activity. At Questacon there were a lot of levels (floors). There was a lot of scientific items. My favourite part of Questacon was the floor with the earthquake house and the floor with the free fall. At Questacon I went in the earthquake house. Questacon has a lot of things that you can discover. A lot of children from our school went on the free fall. Mrs Hines went on the free fall as well. When I saw people going on the free fall I thought they were going to back down but they didn’t.

My favourite part of Canberra was Questacon because it had lots of games and puzzles. It was a great place to go and it was a fun place too. There were things where you had to lift people up with a lever and rope. The other great part was the water area. I am sure if you go there you will think the same as me.

By Harrison
My favourite thing about Canberra was when we went to the A.I.S. (Australian Institute of Sport). At the beginning of the tour we were all given these passports that let us enter all the rooms where the athletes train and practice. The first room we went to at the A.I.S. was the room of basketball. The boys were the only people training at that time. After, our tour guide told us about the people training and we went to the next room. In second room we went to was the gym where we talked about the apparatus in the room, but the equipment that really caught my eye was the foam pit at the back which was about 3 meters of foam. The last time I saw a foam pit like that was at the bike park near where I live. This was really fun to ride my bike into the foam pit. This foam pit was different because this was for safety reasons. Next we went to the work out area where the athletes train while our tour guide was talking about the area and some of my mates were looking at this guy who was doing weights and they looked really heavy. Next we went to the swimming pool where we talked about swimmers training. Next we went to the sport zone where we were doing these sports like bob sled and A.F.L. and it was really fun, and that was my favourite thing at Canberra.

By Mitchell

The war memorial

The war memorial was the best part for me. We got to go to the D-zone and wear outfits and go in a helicopter from Vietnam we got to sit in the front & back. I learnt some things there like they called the m-60 the pig because when they shot it sounded like a pig in the bush.

Then we went around the pool of remembrance after that we waited for the other class to finish

By zac

On the 24th of May we went to Canberra and had a blast it was the best excursion I’ve ever been on. When we went to questacon we went to so many different rooms. I went on a seven metre free fall (it was so scary). There were seven levels inside. My favourite room was level seven because in that room was THE SEVEN METRE DROP!

Laura A
My favourite part about Questacon was the Freefall because you hold on to the bar, you drop your feet down and away you go. They had a lot of galleries and a lot of touching things to do. Some of our students went in the Earthquake house and the instructor said scream from the top of your lungs so the people outside could hear you.

By Tristan

Canberra is a great place with so many things to do but what I liked the most was Old Parliament House. We came to it on the 2nd day it was so much fun, we had to wear white gloves to not get dirty fingerprints on the old objects. We played a fun game where we had to team up with 2 other people and complete tasks.

Juliet

We started off at the discovery zone and they had a real helicopter from the Vietnam war. It was interesting to be in the place of people in the war from different times, the rest was quite solemn, like around the remembrance pool there was plenty of interesting rooms one was the Plane Room and the air show that used the planes that were hung around the room.

By Daniel