Principal’s Message
Welcome to our first newsletter for 2014. The school is extremely settled with all classes focused on working and learning. I have observed excellent teaching and learning in all classrooms as well as respectful and safe behaviour in our playgrounds. The year has certainly started in a positive, happy and highly productive way. Well done, everyone!

New Staff
At the end of 2013 we sadly said farewell to Mr Butterfield as he was appointed to Ermington Public School this year. We warmly welcome Mrs Jennings, Mr Sharp and Miss Holden to Marayong South Public School. We are extremely blessed to have such hard-working, dedicated and caring teachers at our school. Every member of staff has the education and wellbeing of our students as their highest priority. Every decision made by teachers, myself and our executive staff is the very best decision for our students. Please do not hesitate to make an appointment to speak with your child’s teacher or with me if you have any concerns or questions about any aspect of your child’s education.

Classes 2014
We have put a great deal of thought into our class structures this year. We have carefully considered the following for each and every student:

- Application and effort in class
- Academic levels of operation across all Key Learning Areas
- Combinations of students – students who will work well together, and those who will not
- Student needs and the extent of these, be they extra support or extension
- Friendship groups
- Behavioural issues
- Specific social, emotional, behavioural and academic needs

We have formed classes of students that will work, learn, play and socialise together extremely well. We have made sure that all staff have been provided with detailed information relevant and specific to each student in their new class to support a smooth transition. We have made the very best decisions possible for all students.

A change of teacher or classroom can cause anxiety for some children. Reassure them that they can cope with the changes by reminding them about things they have mastered in the past. Please allow your child time to settle in to their new class, feel comfortable and make new friends. **This is most important.** They may be anxious and unhappy for the few days or even a little longer. It is very important to give them time to adjust. All children need opportunities to learn how to cope with change and that uncomfortable feeling we get when things are different and not exactly as we would like them to be.
I understand that some parents are concerned about composite classes. **Every class is a composite class**, regardless of whether it is a straight year 1, a 1/2 class or a year 2 class (for example).

The Primary School Curriculum is organised into stages as follows:

- **Early Stage 1** – Kindergarten
- **Stage One** – Years 1&2
- **Stage Two** – Years 3&4
- **Stage Three** – Years 5&6

If you would like to look at the Primary Curriculum and the stage based educational outcomes and content in more detail, please go to the Board of Studies website: [http://syllabus.bos.nsw.edu.au/](http://syllabus.bos.nsw.edu.au/)

Within these stages, all students are operating at various points along the continuum of learning for all the different aspects of Literacy and Numeracy as well as all other subject areas. Educational programs are planned and implemented using stage-based outcomes for all Key Learning Areas. Whether classes are structured in stages, year groups or cross stage groups, there will always be a vast range of abilities and levels of operation within every class. It is impossible to form classes of students who are all operating at the same level for every aspect of every subject area. Every class, regardless of its title, is a composite class. No matter what the class, teachers will differentiate the curriculum in order to cater for the varying needs of all students in all subject areas, from those requiring various levels of support to those requiring various levels of extension and all those at various points in between.

All students will complete stage-based HSIE and Science units. Within each stage there are 8 HSIE and 8 Science units of study that are completed over a two year period. The units are sequenced across odd and even years. Four units are covered during an odd year (eg: 2013) and the remaining four units are taught during the following even year (eg: 2014). The cycle then continues. This ensures that all students cover all eight units of study over the 2 year period of their stage. It also ensures that no students repeat any unit of study at any time. The units of study are different for each of the four stages: Early Stage One (Kindergarten), Stage One (Years 1&2), Stage Two (Years 3&4) and Stage Three (Years 5&6). Excursions and camps are also organised in this way.

**Your child’s teacher and the quality of the teaching and learning in the classroom will have the greatest impact on your child’s learning at school.**

*I would like to thank all parents for your ongoing support of our wonderful school and excellent teachers. The welfare and education of your children is always our highest priority.*

**Parent/Teacher Interviews**

We are having teacher/parent interviews later this term on Wednesday 26th March. This is a great opportunity to talk with your child's teacher about your child's academic progress, social and emotional needs and any aspect of their education and wellbeing. If you have current questions or concerns however, please don't wait for these formal interviews. Make an appointment straight away. Teacher/parent interviews can be arranged at any time throughout the school year.

Warmest regards,

Mandy Hollis Principal
PLEASE NOTE
THE DRIVEWAY IS CLOSED FROM 8AM – 4PM TO TRAFFIC FOR THE SAFETY OF YOUR CHILDREN STAFF & DELIVERIES ONLY

ENROL NOW FOR KINDERGARTEN 2015

If you know of any friends or neighbours that have a child turning 5 before the 31 July 2014, please ask at the administration office for an enrolment form.

SCRIPTURE
Dear Parents & Caregivers, Marayong South Public School are seeking volunteer scripture teachers to teach students of Buddhist and Hindu faiths. Teachers will be required to teach two small groups, once a week (on Tuesdays). Teachers must be able to speak fluently in English and must complete a working with children background check. If you know of somebody or would like to volunteer for this role yourself, please contact Mrs Kaikati via the school on 9622 4216.

Mrs Kaikati
Scripture Coordinator

P&C NEWS
The next P&C meeting will be Wednesday 19th February. The meeting starts at 6pm but we are having dinner (pizza) at 5:30pm in the staff room before the meeting starts.

FYI..............
International Competitions: The Australian Schools English, Mathematics, Computer and Spelling Studies competitions are here again this year and will be available to Years 3-6 students. Parents of students in Years 3-6 may elect to have their children sit any or all of the competitions. There is a cost of $8 each for English, Mathematics and Computer and $11 for Spelling. All students will receive certificates and a full analysis of their results.

Computer Skills
Tuesday 20 May
Spelling Comp
Tuesday 17 June
English Comp
Tues 29 July
Maths Comp
Tuesday 12 August

These competitions are not compulsory. If you wish your child to participate, please send the note below to the office with the money no later than the closing date of Friday 21 March, as paperwork must be processed. Order forms will be given out tomorrow, Tuesday 18 February.

What’s Coming Up…

February
• Mon 17 Newsletter home
  Kindergarten finish at 3pm from today
  Canteen closed Mondays
• Wed 19 1-6 Assembly 11.30am
  6pm P&C AGM meeting
• Mon 24 Canteen closed Mondays
• Tues 25 Scripture starts
• Wed 26 1-2 Assembly 11.30am host 1/2N, Yrs3-6 Assembly at 12.15pm host 5/6N
• Thurs 27 Graffiti Education for Years 5&6 9am
• Fri 28 What’s On Home

March
• Mon 3 Canteen closed Mondays
• Wed 5 1-2 Assembly 11.30am host 1/2P, Yrs3-6 Assembly at 12.15pm host 5/6P
• Mon 10 Canteen closed Mondays
• Tues 11 CARES 3/4
• Wed 12 1-2 Assembly 11.30am host 1/2D, Yrs3-6 Assembly at 12.15pm host 5/6H
  CARES 3/4
• Thurs 13 CARES 3/4
  Selective HS Test
• Fri 14 What’s On home
  What’s On home
• Mon 17 Canteen closed Mondays
• Wed 19 K-6 Assembly 11.30am
• Mon 24 Canteen closed Mondays
  Newsletter home

CANTEEN CLOSED ON MONDAYS