Principal’s Message
Welcome to Week 7 of Term 1, everyone! We are having a fantastic term with lots of great teaching and learning happening in all classrooms.

Swimming Carnival
Congratulations and well done to all our swimmers. Our school carnival on Wednesday 18th February was a great success and a most enjoyable day for everyone. Thank you to Mr Nash, Miss Hemphill, Mrs McKinder, Mrs Coolen and all the wonderful parents who came along and enjoyed the day with us. Seventeen of our students competed at the zone carnival on 5th March with two students, Tayla Atkins and Lachlan Taylor going on to represent our district at regional level.

Harmony Day
This year Harmony Day will be celebrated at Marayong South on Tuesday 24th March. Mrs Putica has planned an exciting day, we are looking forward to sharing this day with parents/carers and family members. Stay tuned for more information.

Parent/Teacher Interviews
Parent/Teacher Interviews will take place on Wednesday 25th March from 3:30pm to 7pm. Please take this opportunity to speak with your child’s teacher and find out how things are going at school for your child.

Emergency Drill
We will be having an emergency drill later this term. We have emergency drills so that everyone knows how to keep themselves and others safe. It is very important to have these drills so that in the event of an actual emergency, students and staff know exactly what to do. Emergency drills are mandatory and must be done regularly throughout the school year.

HOW TO RAISE CARING CHILDREN
What does it take to raise a compassionate, moral child? Researchers have found that, worldwide, this is parents’ number one priority – instilling caring is more important to them than their children’s achievement. But how much difference can parents make? Are some children born good-natured and others mean-spirited? Studies of twins suggest that up to half of people’s propensity to be kind is inherited – which means that parents and the environment account for the rest.
Praise is more effective than rewards. If we want to reinforce caring, rewards run the risk of leading children to be kind only when a carrot is offered, whereas praise communicates that sharing is intrinsically worthwhile for its own sake.

Praise character, not actions. Say “You’re a very nice and helpful person”, which helps children internalise being helpful as part of their identity.

Nouns work better than verbs. It’s better to encourage a child to “be a helper” than “to help”, and it’s better to say, “Please don’t be a fibber” than “Please don’t fib”. When our actions become a reflection of our character, we tend to choose the moral. In time it becomes part of us.

With bad behaviour, evoke guilt, not shame. Shame is the feeling that I am a bad person, whereas guilt is the feeling that I have done a bad thing. Shame makes children feel small and worthless, and they respond either by lashing out at the target or escaping the situation altogether. When parents get angry and seem to withdraw their love, children feel shame and believe they’re bad people.

In contrast, guilt is a negative judgment about an action, which can be repaired by good behaviour. When children feel guilt, they tend to experience remorse and regret, empathise with the person they have harmed, and try to make it right.

Say you’re disappointed. Expressing disappointment, explaining why the behaviour was wrong, how it affected others, and how they can rectify the situation, enables children to develop standards for judging their actions and feelings of empathy and responsibility for others, which are conducive to becoming a helpful person.

Expressing disappointment communicates disapproval of the bad behaviour, coupled with high expectations and the potential for improvement: “You’re a good person, even if you did a bad thing, and I know you can do better.”

Model caring and generous behaviour. Children pay more attention to what adults do than what they preach. Children learn generosity not by listening to what their role models say, but by observing what they do.


Warmest regards
Mrs Mandy Hollis
Principal
16th March 2015
ENROL NOW FOR KINDERGARTEN 2016
If you know of any friends or neighbours that have a child turning 5 before the 31 July 2016 please ask at the administration office for an enrolment form.

Important information:
• Smart Start: This program aims to help your child become familiar with the school environment and routines, and to develop their pre-skills in literacy and numeracy. Smart Start will run each Thursday from 9.15am to 10.45am, commencing in Term 3 - dates to be advised. The program will run for a total of 12 weeks and finish late in Term 4. There is a limited waiting list of 25-30 children. Applications will be offered to all enrolled students for 2016 and will be sent by mail during early Term 3.
• Teddy Bear's Picnic:
  In September dates to be advised.
• Kindergarten Interviews will be conducted during October in Term 4, dates to be advised. Special appointments will be made for those parents who cannot attend at the appointed time. Letters will be sent late in Term 3. Interviews are very informal and a great opportunity for us to meet both the parent and child.
• Kindergarten Orientation:
  During November dates to be advised.
• Parent Information Night:
  Date to be advised.

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

STUDENT RECOGNITION:
Congratulations to the following students who represented MSPS at the Zone Swimming Carnival on 5th March 2015:

Congratulations to Tayla Atkins and Lachlan Taylor who will represent Blacktown District at the Sydney West Swimming Carnival today, 16th March 2015.

LAST DAYS .............closing day this Friday 20th March for International Competitions
ICAS: 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 $11 for Spelling. All students will receive certificates and a full analysis of their results. These competitions are not compulsory.

Spelling Comp Tuesday 16th June
English Comp Tues 28th July
Maths Comp Tuesday 11th August

Order forms are available at the office. No late entries are accepted.

Harmony Day – Morayng
South International Food Festival activities:

When
Tuesday, 24th of March 2015
Bring a plate to share
We ask that all students bring a plate of food, from their cultural backgrounds, to share with their class. We kindly ask that nuts are excluded from these foods and that recipes be provided with the food.

1.00pm to 1.30pm
Parent and carers, you are welcomed to stay and eat with your children and have scrumptious discussions about the foods.

1.30pm to 2.00pm
Parents and carers, you are welcomed to stay during lunch. If your child(ren) are participating in the parade, we kindly ask that you can assist them in dressing in their national costumes.

FYI……2015 TERM DATES

Term 1 ends Thursday, 2nd April

Term 2
One Staff Development day to be held during vacation - Friday, 17th April
One Staff Development day to be held on Monday, 20th April
All Students return from vacation Tuesday, 21st April
Term ends Friday, 26th June

Term 3
One Staff Development day to be held during vacation - Friday, 10th July
One Staff Development day to be held on Monday, 13th July
All Students return from vacation Tuesday, 14th July
Term ends Friday, 16th September

Term 4
All Staff and Students return from vacation Tuesday, 6th October
Term ends Wed, 16th December.
Friendship skills: Suggestions for families

The following suggestions may be helpful

Make time to play too
Parents and carers can improve their children's social skills by playing with them regularly. Letting children choose and lead the play where they are to be playful with them and encouraging them to provide ideas for cooperation and negotiation. Making time for play helps strengthen your relationship with them as well as their skills. Avoid controlling and make it fun.

Allow your child to try off sorts of different activities
Children who have a wide range of interests are more likely to have something in common with others and so find it easier to make friends and gel along.

Talk with children about what is happening for them with their friends
Find a relaxed time, like the drive home from school or after dinner, to talk about what is happening in your children's friendships today. By doing this, you let others know that you are interested in their wellbeing, and this can also be an opportunity to share some of your experiences and to help them with any problems they might have.

Encourage positive, supportive strategies
Parents and carers can talk about, and encourage, friendly and supportive strategies that can help their child to develop friendships. For example, encouraging them to negotiate with, or compromise with, others in a way that is more positively focused than expressing or voicing feelings.

Take a problem-solving approach
Parents and carers should learn to have the answers to 41 of their children's problems. You can support your children in this through problem-solving with them and asking some useful questions. For example:

"What can you do to sort this out?"
"How will you feel if you do this?"
"What do you think you might do?"
"Do you need my help with this?"
"What will you do differently next time?"

This resource is part of a range of KidsMatter Primary Information resources for families and school staff.
View them all online at www.Careers啡.edu.au

SMOOOSH
South Moyney Out Of School Hours care.
C/ 64 McClenn Street Blacktown
0431 114 611
Email: southeastmoynas@gmail.com

Pupil Free Day
20th April 2015

Bookings are now being taken for
Wheels Day

Join for a fun day of games and activities
Hours 7am to 6pm
Pupil Free Day cost: $40.00
Child care Rebate Up to 95% of out of pocket expenses is reclaimable
Fee Assistance is available to those families registered with the Family Assistance Office prior to attendance.
Fee is non-refundable if SMOOSH is not notified prior to the day of attendance.

Children attending the Pupil Free Day will need to bring
- Lunch
- Reusable water bottle
- Sun Hat (no hat no play Sun Policy)

Note: All children must bring their scooter, skates or skateboard and need to also bring safety gear.

Breakfast and afternoon tea are provided.

Please note: Medication will only be administered if accompanied by a signed letter from the Doctor stating Child’s name, dosage, times to be given.
Parents will need to complete an Authority to Administer Medication Form.

Australian Government
Department of Health and Aging

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School Holiday
Gymnastics Clinics
For school aged boys and girls
Come and experience the fun and excitement of gymnastics

- Fun in a safe and structured environment
- Qualified and Professional Coaches
- Athletic Standard Equipment
- Foam Padded Landing Pits
- Trampolines
- Affiliated with Gymnastics Australia and NSW

Full Day Sessions (9.00am-3.00pm) $45.00 per day
Half Day Sessions (9.00am-12.30pm) $35.00 per session

7th – 10th April and 13th – 17th April

Term 2 2015
Enrolments Now Being Taken
Classes for Boys and Girls 2 years and above
Book now on 9620 8323 or sydlagym@hotmail.com
Unit 7/32 Artisan Rd Seven Hills
Unit 5/1a Gibbon Rd Winston Hills
www.sydneygymnastics.com.au