Principal's Message
This term I have spent a lot of time with our students. I address them at every Monday morning assembly as well as our Wednesday afternoon assemblies. I spend a lot of time in the playgrounds speaking with them. I go into all classrooms and speak to all students every week. I talk, at length, about the importance of safe, respectful behaviour and working hard at school. I speak about the importance of being kind and caring people. I speak about the importance of values such as respect, resilience, responsibility, integrity and care. I want all students to feel a sense of pride in our school and so I speak to them all about the importance of looking after our school and keeping it clean and beautiful. Please ask your children about my discussions and have a conversation with them about all of these things. It's important to have conversations like these with your children and also, as adults, we must lead by example at all times. I thank you all for your support.

School Swimming Carnival and Zone carnival
Special thanks to Mr Nash and Miss Patterson for organising and running a successful and enjoyable swimming carnival on 23rd February. Thanks also to the parents and students who attended. Twelve of our wonderful students qualified for zone, congratulations to everyone for their participation and for trying their very best.

Teacher/Parent Interviews
Parent/Teacher interviews will be held on Tuesday 22nd March from 2pm to 6pm. This year Parent/Teacher interviews must be booked online by parents. A letter to all parents has been sent home today with instructions on how to do this. It is a very quick and easy process. Online bookings must be finalised before Friday 18th March at 3:30pm, as bookings for this event will close then. Parents who do not have internet access, please contact your child’s teacher, they will be happy to assist you with this process.

Skoolbag
We have a communication tool at MSPS called Skoolbag. Many parents are now using this. This is free for parents. Instructions on how to load the app onto devices is posted on the school Facebook page. Our school newsletters and the fortnightly ‘What’s On’ publications will be communicated to parents through this app. If parents would like to receive paper copies of these, they will need to notify the school office in writing. We anticipate that the vast majority of parents will use the app to access these publications rather than requesting paper copies and this will save time and resources. All student notes will be on there as well as notifications about school events and activities. This app is excellent. I strongly encourage all parents to install and use it. Please note that there have been technical issues with the school website and this is why it has not been updated.

Improving Student learning Outcomes
We will be involved in the implementation of a pilot program this year called Curiosity and Powerful Learning. This program will support our school to implement the School Excellence Framework and
improve student learning outcomes. It focuses on best practice in classrooms - where the greatest impact is!
This program will support our school to use all available assets, manage the implications of change and establish structures and processes to implement our school plan and improve student results. It is a three year program (2016-2018) which involves training for staff, in school support of school improvement processes, ongoing analysis of data & feedback to inform decisions & changes and the opportunity to engage in quality assurance processes.
There are a number of schools across NSW that will be participating in this program and so networking with those schools will be a positive and beneficial feature as well.
It's really exciting and a fantastic opportunity to use data really effectively to drive our planning and programming and improve student learning outcomes.

The Importance of Gratitude

Teaching our children to say "thank you" is important, but truly instilling a sense of gratitude in them is another matter entirely. Gratitude goes beyond good manners - it's a mindset and a lifestyle.

Studies show that children who count their blessings reap concrete benefits, including greater life satisfaction and a better attitude about school.

Why is gratitude important?

First of all, gratitude is healthy for us, adults and children alike. Cultivating gratitude increases happiness levels. Gratitude can also help individuals live happier, more satisfied lives and enjoy increased levels of self-esteem, hope, empathy and optimism. Children who practise grateful thinking have more positive attitudes toward school and family.

Gratitude gives perspective. When you take into account the sheer number of opportunities, privileges and material possessions most children enjoy through no effort of their own, it's easy to see why many of them feel entitled. After all, they get used to getting stuff without knowing or caring where it comes from. Practising gratitude, on the other hand, underscores the fact that all those toys and creature comforts don't just pop out of thin air. When children recognise that the things they own and the opportunities they have come from someone other than themselves, it helps them develop a healthy understanding of how interdependent we all are. Then they may be more inclined to treat others with genuine respect.

Gratitude improves relationships. Would you rather show up at work every day to colleagues who freely acknowledge and appreciate your contributions, or colleagues who take your efforts for granted with a perfunctory grunt of thanks? It's a simple principle: gratitude fosters stronger, more positive and more genuine relationships.

Gratitude counteracts the 'gimmes'. Fundamentally, gratitude is about being aware of who or what makes positive aspects of our lives possible, and acknowledging that. When children learn to think in those terms, they can be less apt to make mindless, self-centred demands. Plus, they begin to appreciate what they have rather than focusing on what they wish they had.

Acknowledgement: Andrea Reiser

Warmest regards,
Mandy Hollis
Principal
ENROL NOW FOR KINDERGARTEN 2017
If you know of any friends or neighbours that have a child turning 5 before the 31st July 2017, 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 11 weeks and finish 17th November in Term 4. Applications will be offered to all enrolled students for 2017 and will be sent by mail during early Term 3.

- **Teddy Bear's Picnic:**
  Thursday 22nd September.

- **Kindergarten Orientation:**
  Wednesday 9th November.

- **Parent Information Night:**
  Monday 21st November.

STUDENT RECOGNITION:
Congratulations to the following students who have been elected as SRC members for 2016 (Student Representative Council):

- **SRC**
  - KM
  - Harper Carusi
  - Olivia O’Riley
  - KC
  - Talena Curac-Ilorangi
  - Sienna Vella
  - KD
  - Gatleen Boparai
  - Brendan Pham
  - K/1V
  - Paige Seckold
  - Bethany Garingarao
  - 1B
  - Benedict Kawala
  - Kate Coleman
  - 1/2K
  - Jai-David Amboang
  - Layla Despi
  - 1/2S
  - Jeszica Garingarao
  - Janaat Zahan
  - 2M
  - Talia Dring
  - Gerald De Guzman
  - 3/4M
  - Chaahat Sharma
  - Jenny Yu
  - 3/42
  - Skyla Tynan
  - Troy Straub
  - 3/4L
  - Adem Numan
  - Jenica Garcia (Zoe)
  - 5/6H
  - Meagan Thomas
  - Joshua Cinco
  - 5/6P
  - Shanuken Ramesh
  - Jorja Pasnin
  - 5/6N
  - Alyssa Arcilla
  - Breanah Piliae

Congratulations to the following students who have been elected as Library Monitors for 2016:

- **Library Monitors**
  - Wasim Rahman
  - Destiny Kennedy
  - Dani Duffy
  - Neivat Brad
  - Larissa Melrose-Marlow
  - Shanuken Ramesh
  - Phoenix Merci-Loveridge
  - Hayley Ryman
  - Riya Rahman
  - Zaina Shah

CANTEEN CLOSED ON MONDAYS

FYI.............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.

- Spelling Comp $11.00
  - Tuesday 16th June
- English Comp $8.00
  - Tuesday 26th July
- Maths Comp $8.00
  - Tuesday 11th 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, 18th March, as paperwork must be processed.
PLEASE NOTE
THE DRIVEWAY IS
CLOSED FROM 8AM –
4PM TO TRAFFIC
FOR THE SAFETY OF
YOUR CHILDREN
STAFF &
DELIVERIES ONLY
PARKING IN THE
SCHOOL GROUNDS IS
PROHIBITED
IN THE SCHOOL
GROUNDS

HARMONY DAY
TUESDAY
29TH MARCH

Harmony Day is celebrated around Australia on 21st March each year. Marayong South Public School will celebrate this event on Tuesday 29th March.

Harmony Day celebrates the cohesive and inclusive nature of our nation and promotes the benefits of cultural diversity. The key message of Harmony Day is 'Everyone belongs'.

At 12:45pm, we are inviting families to join us for lunch and share part of their culture by bringing a plate of food to the classroom. You are most welcome to stay over lunch and join your child in the playground.

On Tuesday 29th March we encourage students to participate in Mufti Day. Students may wear some form of orange accessory or clothing in exchange for a gold coin donation towards Stewart House. This may be socks, hat, headbands, wristbands, bandanas, hair ties, etc. Orange is the colour that has become associated with Harmony Day, so let’s make our school shine.

We also ask that your child bring their national cultural costume to help share in the spirit of Harmony Day and participate in the parade of national costumes. We invite you to come celebrate with us. Please complete the slip sent home last week if your child is participating in the parade.

At 2:00pm: Mrs Hollis will address the assembly. This will be followed by some Harmony Day presentations and the parade of national costumes. We look forward to your attendance.
C. Putica, C. Mitchell & J. Gaynor

INFORMATION AT
YOUR FINGERTIPS..
PLEASE USE OUR
SKOOLBAG APP

Parents please update your information if you have changed your address, phone numbers or emergency contacts OR to notify the school of your child's absence:

Parents may use our Skoolbag app, call in, phone or email the school with their updates @ Marayongs-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Assembly Roster weeks 7-11
9th March
1-2 Assembly host 1/2S
16th March
3-6 Assembly host 5/6H
23rd March
1-2 Assembly host 1/2K
30th March
3-6 Assembly host 5/6N
6th April
No assembly

Save the Date!
K-2 EASTER HAT PARADE
THURSDAY
24TH MARCH 2016

Happy Easter

SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY
K-6
TERM 2
FRIDAY 6TH MAY
11.30am

SCHOOL PHOTOS
THURSDAY 19TH MAY
Week 4 Term 2
Envelopes will be sent home early Term 2

BE SAFE
BE RESPECTFUL
BE A LEARNER
29th Annual Penrith Working TRUCK SHOW

Sunday 20th March 2016
8am - 4pm
Presentations 4pm - 5pm

Australia's Best Value Family Day

THE BEST IN COUNTRY MUSIC

ADAM BRAND AND THE OUTLAWS
THE GIRLS OF COUNTRY FEATURING AMBER LAWRENCE

FUN AND EXCITEMENT!
PLUS MUCH MORE!

• Direct access from Penrith Station
• Unlimited FREE amusement rides all day (20 rides)
• Concert sound & full stage
• Specialist trade stalls & displays
• Entertaining games & competitions
• Free Balloons & Fairy Floss
• Free face painting
• BBQ, drinks & beer tents
• Major prizes & trophies
• Price includes entry to Museum

6th Annual Sydney Classic & Antique Truckshow on 26th May, 2016 (See website for more details)

www.pwts.com.au
Kindiworld Childcare & Educational Centre has been established in Blacktown for over a decade and is a well-known Centre in the community. We pride ourselves on all staff being full qualified and constantly committed to further education and training.

Our program is filled with lots of hands on activities that are designed to capture the children's current interests and build on their knowledge. Each day we aim to provide your children with the opportunity to learn and discover new things whilst promoting their sense of well being through learning vital concepts such as self respect, self confidence, awareness of others and social competence. We also offer a School Readiness Program that focuses on the areas needed for a successful transition to Primary school.

Kindiworld Childcare & Educational Centre is envisioned as a nurturing learning environment providing high quality care and educational programs that are age appropriate. Kindiworld Childcare & Educational Centre staff base their learning experiences off the Early Years Learning Framework and National Quality Standards.

Enrolments Now Available

Please call 02 9671 2303

Email: info@kindiworld.com.au
Mary Street
Childcare Centre & Preschool

- 40 place centre for 2-6 years
- High quality care and education
- Qualified, experienced & dedicated educators
- Focusing on the Early Years Learning Framework
- School Readiness Program (Numeracy & Literacy)
- Access your child's online portfolio
- Animal farm & vegi garden enclosed
- $62-$67 per day/CCB & CCR available
- Free programs include:
  - Computer / Second Language / Science Experiment

SPECIAL BONUS COUPON
This coupon entitles the bearers children to 2 FREE WEEKS*
(New Enrolments only)
*Terms and conditions apply

OPEN
7am~6pm

Enrol Now!
Limited Vacancies

Phone: 9621-8778 • 15 Mary Street Blacktown NSW 2148 • www.maryschildcare.com.au
MARAYONG SOUTH WANDERERS
PUNPKIN FESTIVAL

SUNDAY 1ST MAY 2016
Join us for the 13th annual Collector Village Pumpkin Festival. Over 120 market stalls and attractions will line Bourke Street from the Collector Oval to Pumpkin Square alongside the Memorial Hall making for a colourful scene and offering a huge variety of food, beverage, art and craft, local produce and of course-pumpkin. The Giant Pumpkin growing competition. Growers are remaining tight lipped about their prized Vegetables but organisers are confident that last year’s winning weight of a 267kg pumpkin entered by Robinson grower- Rick Downes will be eclipsed this year. No shortage of pumpkin soup and pumpkin scones Entertainment Special activities for the children hay bale maze, Base Zero Rock climbing wall, animal farm lots more. Meanwhile, regular entertainers Pat Drummond and Karen Lynne will be joined on stage by six time Golden Guitar winner and the 2012 and 2014 Australian Independent Country Music Artist of the Year- LUKE O’SHEA.
COST $52.00 Names and Deposit, Balance by 1-4-2016
Coach leaves 7am
Pick Up – Lyton Street cnr Arthur Ave Blacktown
Blacktown Railway Station North Side near lift ( Bus Interchange Stands )
For any further enquiries please phone Melva on 9621 5507
Friends and neighbours most welcome.
MARAYONG SOUTH WANDERERS

CINDERELLA

Saturday 9th July 2016
Cinderella is on at the State Theatre 2pm show, is the ultimate winter feel good panto to charm Audiences of all ages. This magical rags to riches story will feature sumptuous glittering sets, gorgeous fairytale costumes, fantastic song and dance numbers, infectious and riotous comedy magic and bags of Audience participation. Fun and laughter is guaranteed for the whole family. Will Cinderella meet the man of her dreams? Will Prince Charming win our heroine’s heart? or will the ugly sisters stop Cinderella from going to the ball? All will be revealed next July
Coach leaves 10.30am
COST $100.00 Adults - 3-15yrs $75.00 Names and Deposit,
Balance by 10-4-2016
Pick Up - Lyton Street cnr Arthur Ave Blacktown
Blacktown Railway Station North Side near lift (Bus Interchange Stands)
For any further enquiries please phone Melva on 9621 5507
Friends and neighbours most welcome.
MARAYONG SOUTH WANDERERS

Tuesday 26\textsuperscript{th} July 2016

Exclusive Christmas in July – The Burning Log Theatre Restaurant is putting on “The Camel Race Carnival.” Morning tea on arrival, biscuits and bottomless tea or coffee all day. 2 course lunch, show and 4 Hilarious Camel races at Bankstown Paceway. Real great day not to be missed.

COST $84.00  Names and Deposit $25 00  Please Pay Balance by 28-4-2016
Coach leaves 9am
Pick Up – Lyton Street cnr Arthur Ave Blacktown
Blacktown Railway Station North Side near lift (Bus Interchange Stands)
For any further enquiries please phone Melva on 9621 5507  Friends and neighbours most welcome.