NEWSLETTER  Term 2, WK 5, Wed 28th May 2014

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

On Monday, 26th of May, we acknowledged National Sorry Day. Such a day offers the community the opportunity to acknowledge the impact of the policies spanning more than 150 years of forcible removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families. The first National Sorry Day was held in 1998 following the 1997 HREOC report, Bringing Them Home, which recommended that a national day of observance be declared.

Today we held a Biggest Morning Tea for the Cancer Council. Students wore yellow, ate yellow food and donated ‘yellow’ money ($1 and $2 coins). The support that we have received from our school and local business community has been outstanding. On behalf of staff and students at Mascot PS, we thank you greatly in our endeavours. Giving back to our community shows our students that we are part of a wide world and makes them appreciate the power of helping others. Next week, we will let you know exactly how much we managed to raise.

Tomorrow, we have reporters from the Daily Telegraph visiting our school to interview some students about their dream holiday for an upcoming feature article. One student per class was selected to be a part of this and we are looking forward to hearing what they say! Some families may need to start saving to help their child’s dream come true!

With the support of staff, I will begin a full review of our homework policy and expectations. The review involves consultation with staff, students and parents. Our aim is to ensure that we are consistent across the school in our approach to homework, that we take into account age appropriate expectations and that we consider extra-curricular activities that our students are involved in. Please help us by participating in all consultation activities that come your way.

Have a great week!

Helen Empacher
PRINCIPAL

----Thank You----

We would like to say a big thank you to members of our community for their generous donations to our school

Mascot RSL, $100.00 for participation of our students in the ANZAC day march and ceremony

Mr Alam on behalf of our Bangladesh community, $200.00

Mr Bill Jory, $100.00.

Wilson Cakes, $50.00 donation to our Biggest Morning Tea fundraising event

Thank you for your support of our school

Getting into the spirit for our Biggest Morning Tea!
Short Stories
By KK
- I love my mum because she hugs and kisses me. Joyce
- I am playing under the rainbow. Mia
- I have a new baby sister. Her name is Jacinta. Kayla
- In the school holidays I went to see the Lego movie. Berk
- At school I like to run. Amina
- I am going in a rocket ship. Rakibul
- It is a lovely day today. Georgiana
- I went to the beach. Tulli
- I am looking at the flowers. Jayda
- My favourite ice cream is strawberry and bubblegum. Haroula
- I am Dan the flying man. I am flying over houses. Flynn
- I am going camping with my mum and dad. Melanie
- I like to pick flowers from my garden. Maya
- At school I like to learn how to read. Boishakhi
- The blue ringed octopus has 8 tentacles. Oliver
- I went to the Easter show with my family. Alex
- The dinosaur is drinking water and eating the leaves. Liam
- At school I like to sit and listen. Zak
- I used a square and triangle to make a house. Kevin
- My teddy bear Bell is soft and cuddly. Remy
- I like to play soccer with Zak. Nicholas

Mental Maths Strategies
We teach children a range of different strategies to add and subtract numbers. By showing them several methods for solving maths questions, we’re helping them to look for patterns. All this builds a good sense of “number” which means they understand the relationships between different numbers and why different ways to add and subtract work well. The goal is that your child will understand many ways to approach a maths problem and will be able to choose a way that makes the most sense to them. School A to Z has a lot of resources, including help sheets on mental maths strategies, here: www.bit.ly/JkiUsY

Bilingual Children
Does speaking another language at home confuse children?
Are your children fortunate enough to be growing up in a home where two or more languages are spoken? Many parents worry that bilingualism can cause confusion and even delays in learning for their children, but according to the Raising Children Network, that’s not the case at all. A good knowledge of your native language can actually help your child with learning English. Bilingual children who are read books and spoken to in their in their native language find it easier to learn to read and write in English when they get to school. More information is at www.bit.ly/1m0agnk

PSSA Zone Netball
Our girls attended the PSSA Zone Netball tournament on Tuesday of this week. 5 of the 10 girls who represented the zone were from Mascot Public School. The girls put in a tremendous effort.

School Band - Students Years 3 to 6
Expression of interest letters will be sent home shortly for students wishing to participate in our school band. As members of the school band students will be provided with many opportunities to showcase their talent and skills in front of their peers and parents through assemblies and special school events like Speech Day. Learning to play a musical instrument is fun, teaches children discipline, helps calm childrens’ minds and instills a sense of achievement once they have mastered a piece of music. If you wish your child to take part, please return the expression of interest form by 16th June 2014.

Winter Uniforms
Our full winter uniform can be obtained from the uniform shop which is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday between the hours of 8:00am and 9:00am.
Can you believe it's halfway through Term 2 already and it has been very busy!

**Garden and Outdoor Play Area**

At the end of Term 1 the children and teachers spent the lovely sunny weather tidying up and replanting the vegetable and fairy gardens. As well as Rosemary, Parsley, Mint, and Spinach; we have planted, Basil, Celery, Beetroot, and Rocket and passionfruit vines on the adjoining fence. Did you know Rosemary can grow in your garden from a cutting? (Thanks to Layla’s Grandfather for this tip). If you would like some Rosemary please let your child’s teacher know. Of course the rain during the holidays was welcomed by our new seedlings. The children have really enjoyed tending the gardens and watching the seedlings grow. We are looking forward to harvesting some of our produce at the end of term.

In the Fairy Garden we set up an archway with flowering climbers. They have taken well and it really adds to the plantings already there.

The School Principal, Helen Empacher, organised for Brenda, a semi retired Landscape Designer, to visit us and, after discussion with the teachers, drew up a fabulous set of plans for the outdoor environment which includes some lovely play spaces for the children, a revamped sandpit area, as well as borders and areas of hardy plants that will thrive well in our environment. This is truly exciting. Please have a look at the plans which are at the school office.

**Health**

Audrey Mason, from the DEC Hearing Unit, visited us to teach us about the importance of hearing and how to look after our ears and nasal track. Audrey used puppets, storybooks, posters, games, musical instruments, and a big model of our ear to show us how important hearing is. It was informative and educational, presented in a fun way, engaging the children through interaction.

During Weeks 4 and 5, the preschool has been part of the Vision Screening process with specialists from the Children’s Hospital visiting to make assessments.

Last week the preschool and assessment by the Speech Pathology Research Department from Charles Sturt University commenced.

We are also organising a Dental Health talk in the near future. This will be held at the DEC Dental Clinic, which is in the school grounds. As soon as dates are known it will be listed in the School Calendar.

**Aunty Wendy Show**

Aunty Wendy visited during Week 4. Wendy’s dynamic presentation of music, song, dance, stories and games with an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspective was infectious and something we all joined in and could relate to. What a great way to celebrate these cultures. The children loved the performance and participated enthusiastically. I think the highlight for the children was the “ride” in the “Holden car”, the “Red, Black and Yellow” action song and the “Corroboree” (see photos below). Remember to have a look at the slide show on the computer in the preschool foyer for more photos taken on the day.

**Payment of Preschool Fees**

A reminder for all parents to ensure that they pay their preschool fees by the due date. Please place the correct money in a sealed envelope marked with your child’s full name, preschool class and the amount being paid and take the envelope to the school office.
KD  Thaneesh Pidathapoluru - for working hard at all times.
KK  Maya Taber - excellent work in all areas of school work.
KR  Heemi Fong-Yip - Improvement in reading.
1M  Candy Zhou - for being a conscientious worker.
1S  Akhil Pamidimalla - always trying his best and listening well.
1/2W Raya Ghosh - for being positive and doing her best.
2G  Naba Ahmed - always putting in the best effort.
2Z  Matthew Huttly - for being a caring and supportive to his peers.

Please note, there was no Primary school assembly.

PARENTS AND CITIZENS

On Monday, 2nd June 2014 at 7:00pm we will be holding a P & C meeting in the staff room. All parents and carers of students are welcome to attend. Free professional Child minding services will be available. The meeting will not take more than an hour.

Please come along if you can, and enjoy yet another aspect of our school community.

Stan Kondilios
P&C President

REMINDER
Payment For PSSA Sports
Payments for Years 3 - 6 PSSA sports should be made Monday to Thursday. Please place the correct money in an envelope with your child’s name, class, sport and amount written on and place it in the letter box located at the office counter.