NEWSLETTER

Term 2, WK 8, 10th June 2015

11th June 2015
KD performing at K-2 assembly

13th June 2015
Botany Bay Multicultural Fair

15th June 2015
Yarn Up

16th June 2015
Souths Cares presentation
Multicultural Public Speaking Final

17th June 2015
K-2 Parent/Teacher Interviews (starting at 2:00pm)

18th June 2015
3-6 Parent/Teacher Interviews (starting at 2:00pm)
No assembly on this day

24th June 2015
Rehearsal for Festival of Instrumental Music

25th June 2015
NAIDOC celebrations at JJ Cahill Memorial High School for Stage 3
Band and 12 performing at K-6 assembly

26th June 2015
South Sydney Rugby League Knockout
Last day of Term 2

14th July 2015
First day of Term 3 - students return

ACCEPTING ENROLLMENTS NOW FOR 2016
KINDERGARTEN & PRESCHOOL

We are now accepting enrolments for students for Kindergarten and Preschool for 2016. Please come into the school office to pick up an enrolment form or download one from the DEC website.

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Improving the attendance rate of our students is a key feature of our 2015-2017 school plan as we have a rate that is below state average. But we are unable to do this without your support. Lately, I have received a number of requests to grant students leave for overseas travel before and after the upcoming school holidays. In the past, parents and caregivers could apply for an exemption to school attendance for their children which meant that those absences were not counted towards the student’s attendance record but this has changed as of the beginning of 2015. Exemption no longer applies in this situation. Instead, absences of this nature are now considered ‘leave’ which can only be granted by the principal after a written request has been received. The catch is that I can only grant up to 15 days leave in a school year which includes any other days which are not covered by sickness or school business. Any dates outside of these 15 days can be deemed ‘unjustified’. In any case, all absences count towards a student’s attendance record which, in turn, counts towards the school’s attendance record. This includes all partial absences where students are late for school and/or leave early from school. It is our joint responsibility to ensure that students attend school on time, every day that the school is open so that students can maximise their academic, social, emotional and physical potential. If you have any concerns about this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me so that we can work together for the benefit of your child(ren).

It continuously comes to my attention that we have a number of students and adults on school grounds outside of school hours. Unless these people are attending an event in our school where permission has been sought and granted in 2015 and an official agreement is in place, it is considered trespassing by our Department of Education and Communities’ Safety and Security Unit and NSW Police, both of whom are aware of the situation and will do regular spot checks. For the safety of all people on school grounds and the security of our school, please support the message about not entering school property outside of school hours.

Lastly, you may have noticed a change in the playground where some squares have been painted in bright colours in an area very close to the canteen. This area has been designated a ‘passive play zone’ for students who wish to participate in quieter activities during recess and lunch. I would like to thank Miss Mason and her partner for the enormous work that they did over the long weekend preparing this space. It is part of a bigger plan to improve playground conditions for students and to maximise their social opportunities during their break times. Any support that you can offer us in this area would be hugely appreciated.

Have a great week.

HELEN EMPACHER
PRINCIPAL
Over Terms 1 and 2, the Starfish B group have been enjoying the delights of investigation and discovery in our expansive natural outdoor environment. I thought it was time to introduce some indoor science and discovery that will hopefully serve to inspire curiosity and provoke an interest in science that stays with the children throughout their schooling.

We began with a chemical reaction experiment. We added bicarbonate of soda, which we called bi-carb of soda, to vinegar to create a reaction to inflate a balloon, or as Andrew said later “that’s how you can blow up a balloon”. Zarrar, who is a leading scientific investigator of the outdoor environment said while contemplating his inflated balloon, “it’s growing bigger like my sister”. As Emier watched the rising bubbles he discovered a connection with an action song we sing, and sang, “bubble, bubble, bubble, bubble .......... pop”. Sanjana was very surprised to discovered what happens when you squeeze the balloon too hard, POP, FIZZ and SPURT, and laughter all round.

It was a pleasure to bear witness to the expressions of wonder and delight as each child took their turn to prepare and enact their own experiment and experience the magic of science.

We’re going to continue to discuss the ‘hows, whats and whys’ as the children engage in free and guided exploration of bi-carb and vinegar.

Also some reminders for families:

- It’s great to have a nice warm hat for winter but it must provide shade as well.

- Please provide fruit only for morning tea and help us to encourage healthy attitudes toward food by providing nutrient rich, chocolate free lunches, free of added sugar.

- We ask you to respect that children need to be picked up by 3pm and allow us to spend the time from 3 - 3.15pm for our reflection time where we reflect upon the principles and practices that help us to provide a quality program at preschool.
### Student Of The Week

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Note</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KD</td>
<td>Kiarn</td>
<td>for having a positive attitude towards learning.</td>
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<tr>
<td>KK</td>
<td>Eddie</td>
<td>for trying hard in all learning areas and gaining confidence in talking and listening.</td>
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<tr>
<td>KR</td>
<td>Hashim</td>
<td>for trying hard to participate in class discussions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1L</td>
<td>Daania</td>
<td>for trying her best in writing and literacy groups.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1S</td>
<td>Haroula</td>
<td>for always trying her best to complete her school work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1Z</td>
<td>Melanie</td>
<td>for improving her attitude towards her learning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2K</td>
<td>Hawaikii</td>
<td>for an excellent presentation on what he’d like to be when he grows up.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2PG</td>
<td>Jaelynn</td>
<td>for overall improvement in all subjects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3M</td>
<td>Meagan</td>
<td>for always trying her best and for being responsible.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/4D</td>
<td>Mikayla</td>
<td>for being a respectful, responsible learner.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4W</td>
<td>Tamim</td>
<td>for being a responsible student who works hard in all key learning areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5C</td>
<td>Alfis</td>
<td>for concise, informative information in his work for our unit on space.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5M</td>
<td>Mikael</td>
<td>for being a cooperative and hardworking student 100% of the time.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6D</td>
<td>Daniella</td>
<td>for beautiful reading.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6G</td>
<td>Nabeeana</td>
<td>for being a respectful and responsible learner.</td>
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**Mascot Public School**

Mascot Public School would like to give a HUGE thank you to Merv and Fran from Dulux Trade Centre for their very generous donation of paint for the new playground area.

For all of your painting needs please see Dulux Trade Centre, Botany Rd Alexandria as they have supported our staff in order to create the new Passive Play Zone for your children.

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**Mascot Public School**

**Open Day**

We will be holding an open day on Wednesday, 22nd July 2015 from 9:00am - 11:00am. Prospective parents will have the opportunity to tour the school and view our programs and facilities.

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**EFTPOS Now Available**

Our school office will have EFTPOS available from Tuesday, 9th June 2015. We are unfortunately unable to offer cash out facilities.
The Pauline McLeod Primary School Art Competition aims to raise awareness of reconciliation and to enable students to consider and express what reconciliation means to them. Here are Mascot Public School’s winners and their entries.

Jaelynn (2PG) - Third prize in K-2 category
Alexia (4W) - highly commended in 3-4 category
Arwaa (4W) - second prize in 3-4 category