

MOULAMEIN PUBLIC SCHOOL



2018 Term 1 Week 2 Newsletter

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Upcoming Events

10 th February	▪ 1st Day of Canteen
13 th February	▪ P&C AGM 7pm School VC Room
23 rd February	▪ Small School Swimming Carnival at the Swan Hill Pool
2 nd March	▪ District Swimming Carnival, Swan Hill

Principal's Message

Welcome to the 2018 school year!

I am sure students have enjoyed their summer break and are now ready to engage in the exciting educational programs teachers have planned.

Our Year 1-6 students have settled into their new classes with their teachers on their first day of returning to school. Tomorrow we welcome our 3 new kindergarten students into our lovely school. We also welcome new families into our school community! Welcome to the Wilkinson family and Ryleigh who joins Year 3 and the Kemp/Ver Steeg family and Blayk who joins Year 2. Rhys and Archie are very excited to have another boy joining Year 3.

This year we have 48 students enrolled, with multi-stage classes. The structure of our classes has changed and we are looking forward to the new timetable. Our timetable and program for Term 1 includes, team teaching, music classes, technology classes, personal interests projects, creative arts workshops and sport workshops. We also have a fantastic new health and well-being program.

Beware! Renovations!

Our toilet block has just had a new roof installed over the holidays. Next job on the Department of Education's list is to re-roof our school hall. This means our school hall will be out of action for at least a month, maybe two months. Temporary fencing has been installed and we ask the community to stay clear of this area. School Assemblies will be held after builders finish the renovations.



School Captains

Our two new school captains, Cody Bennett and Indiana Gray are looking forward to the year ahead as our school leaders. This is a very important role in our school and the community and I know that they will enjoy this role immensely and represent our school well throughout the year.



Communication

We are working really hard to ensure our communication to parents is effective. It is most important to ensure you have the School Bag App and have the settings correct so you can receive alerts. Our WONGI is our school newsletter and if you do not receive your copy please pick one up at the school office, IGA, Post Office or petrol station. We also place the newsletter on our website. Students get hard copies of notes sometimes and some notes need signing. Please call into the office if you have any further questions, but we encourage parents and carers to keep notes in a visible place and read them.

Class Structures



This year our class structure has slightly changed to suit the needs of our students and the numbers we have in each grade. Careful consideration is made at the end of each year to ensure we have come up with the best solution that provides the **most** opportunities for your children and to ensure that they have the best possible learning environment.

It is not the class structure and size that affects learning, it is relevance, it is interest, a student's learning to date, and many other factors including the **student's active involvement in the learning and the quality of the teaching**. Therefore in all our classrooms, our educators are focused on ensuring **teacher clarity**: what is to be learned, ongoing feedback to and from students based on the success criteria, **students being assessment capable**: knowing what level they are at, setting goals, naming strategies to help them learn, using feedback and seeking feedback. Teachers work closely with students, support staff, the leadership team and families to ensure your child/ren have quality education which includes academic, social and emotional development.

This year we will work in teams from Monday to Thursday.

Infants Team: Cathy Mertz, Lucy Fay & Nicole Fitzpatrick.

Primary Team: Jennie Wilson, Eryn Midson, Fran Gorey

K/1/2 Class

Teaching K/1/2 will be Mrs Cathy Mertz and Miss Lucy Fay. During literacy and numeracy, two teachers will work together with 19 students and team teach during these key learning subjects Monday - Thursday. This averages out at 9-10 students per teacher, which is fantastic!! **Shhh!** Don't tell my city teacher friends, who would not believe that this is possible. Most classes in larger schools have one teacher with 20-22 students for K-2 classes. We are very fortunate to be able to set this up for our students so that they can be provided with a quality education.

Year 3/4/5/6

Miss Midson will be our Year 3 /4 leader and I will be leading Year 5/6. During literacy we will combine classes at times and students will be working together. We will break our class into two groups for numeracy, music and technology and combine for geography, history and health. When we are together, our class will have 29 students. Again, just to compare this to larger schools, most classes have between 30-33 students in the primary sector. Having taught Year 5/6 for many years, I generally had up to 33 students in one classroom, without another teacher or any form of support. So we are very lucky to have a class of 29 students (when they are together), which averages out to be 14 students per teacher. Again, I will resist the opportunity to brag to my city and coastal friends!

Sport

Friday will continue be our Sport day and students are encouraged to wear comfortable shoes and appropriate school uniform for easy movement.



Library

Mrs Fitzpatrick will be taking Library on a Tuesday each week. Please ensure they have their library bag each week and return their books.

Support Staff

Mrs Colleen Wilson, School Administration Manager (SAM) supports staff and students in her role in the office. She is very knowledgeable and we appreciate her commitment to our school. At times our school office is closed, because our school is not funded for a full-time office manager due to numbers. We just fall short of enrolments to have this luxury.

Moulamein Public school is also extremely fortunate to have the expertise of our support staff. They play an integral part in helping teachers deliver educational programs that cater to individuals. Learning support officers will work causally throughout the year.

Swimming Carnival



Splish! Splash! Our Small Schools Swimming Carnival will be held on the 23rd February at Moulamein. The District Carnival will be held in Swan Hill on Friday, 2nd March. Students who are turning 8 this year may attend and participate in events if they are able to swim 50 metres safely. We will need parent volunteers for the smooth running of the carnival. If you are able to assist on the day, please contact the school and let us know.

School Office Hours

The school office will be closed next week on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Where possible, on an unmanned office day, parents are asked to notify the school of any variation to end of day routines via a written note to the class teacher in the morning. Telephone messages may not be received in time to deliver a message to a child prior to 3.00pm.

Wongi Messages

Wongi messages can be emailed directly to moulameinwongi@hotmail.com or dropped into the school during office hours on days when the office is manned.

Visitors to the School

Anyone entering the school premises must **SIGN IN** and **SIGN OUT** so that we know who is on premises at all times. This is a *Child Protection* and *Work Health & Safety* requirement.

A 'visitor' is anyone entering our school grounds, including parents delivering items to children, parents picking or dropping off students, parent volunteers, community members, tradesmen and sales persons.

Sign In & Out at the school office or, on the day the office is unmanned, follow directions posted on the office door.

Please do not enter our school grounds without permission. Thank you for your cooperation.

Arrival Times

Any student arriving to school late (approximately 10min or more after bell) will need to **SIGN IN** at the office, and receive a **late notice** to hand to their class teacher. Teachers will direct students back to the office if a late slip has not been collected.

Students leaving school early will similarly need to **SIGN OUT**. Parents need to report to the office prior to collecting their child, and sign themselves **IN** and **OUT**, and collect a note to hand to the teacher when collecting their child. Please do not move directly to classrooms.

On the days the office is closed, Late Arrival / Early Departure will be managed by the classroom teacher.

School Zones

40km/h speed zones operate on all NSW gazetted school days, whether you can see children or not.

Signs and white *Dragon Teeth* road markings indicate that a vehicle is entering a 40km/h speed zone.



In addition, our school has a flagged School Crossing that signals students may be crossing. This Crossing is manned in the afternoon but not in the mornings.

The bright orange flags are highly visible. Road users are asked to be especially vigilant with the commencement of the school year. We urge all drivers, riders and pedestrians to be *alert* and move safely and carefully on and along the road.

School Gates

Parents and community members may have noticed that entry gates into the school have been fitted with a chain and clip lock. This arrangement is necessary as part of an individual Student Safety Plan. Gates must be secured with the clips at all times. Your support in this matter is vital and greatly appreciated.



School Times- New eating times

- **8.45 – 9am** **In class reading & play**
(parents are encouraged to come and listen to students in the infants block)
- **11 – 11.20am** **Recess**
- **1.10 – 1.55pm** **Lunch**
- **3pm** **End of day**

Jennie Wilson

Principal