



# Moulamein Public School

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2021 Term 1 Week 10

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### Contact Us

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## Principal Messages

Time flies! This is the last week of Term1 and we are all looking forward to the Easter break. This is a time to rest and recuperate for a busy Term 2.

### Swimming

Each Friday, next term, we will have a different timetable to ensure we are on the bus in time for our swimming lessons at Swan Hill Leisure Centre each Friday afternoon. This will include an adjusted eating timetable as well. Swimming lessons for all students will be valuable and are a definite need for the majority of our students. Thank you to those parents who have started paying for lessons. Our school is covering 70% of the cost of this program and parents are contributing 30%.

### Great job Mr Mason!

I would like to thank Liam Mason, who stayed to run an intensive learning support program and music program for Term 1. We were given extra funds by the Department of Education NSW to run small group learning support. Mr Mason's program provided catch-up support for students. Unfortunately, our funds are depleted now and the program will cease. Teachers will always support students in classes, due to our smaller classes and learning support officers remain in some classes to help students if they have allocated funding. Mr Mason will still work casually at our school and at surrounding schools.

## Easter Day

This Thursday is our Easter Day and I would like to acknowledge the work Miss Schupfer has put into this event. Students will be making hats for a parade at school and parents do not need to provide any resources for this. Thursday will be a great day and staff have planned some exciting activities. Parents, families and carers can attend the parade at 2.30pm and we will also combine this with our second merit card assembly. All visitors must sign in via the NSW mobile phone app if possible. Please allow time to enter the school and sign-on. No-one is able to enter the school without signing-in for any reason, other than to drop off K-2 students in the morning due to Department of health guidelines.



## Woodwork Room Renovation

The old woodwork room has been a work in progress for a few years now. We have been held up with the air-conditioning installation at the end of last year as this room was used as a storage room for the workers. Unfortunately, the floor was damaged in the process and Brett had to re-varnish the beautiful old floorboards. Now it is time for painting and the old walls to be repaired. Brett has just got up to putting the undercoat on and it is already looking great. New blinds will follow the painting as well. We will use a combination of old and new furniture. The school is looking amazing and we keep increasing our learning spaces and therefore opportunities for the students. I thought I would share our progress with you and will be excited to invite families in to see the finished product. Projects like these are above our 'normal' load and take time, effort and money. In the end we will have a 'Design and Make Room' for our students for STEM and Creative Arts lessons. Exciting!



## Help! I need your support!

After arriving at the school almost 5 years ago, I was informed of the house in Tallow Street somehow belonged to the school and was in such a bad state. After tracking down the actual owner, it was discovered that it was no longer in the care of 'Teacher Housing' and was under the banner of Department of Housing NSW instead, but had not been officially handed-over yet. This house was in 'limbo' and needed urgent attention. Teacher Housing isn't the responsibility of the principal and remains with the Department of Housing NSW. However, I was aware that our community felt this house was an eyesore and it reflected badly on the school and it was one of the first dwellings people viewed as they arrived in town. With that in mind, I started campaigning for the house to be either sold or renovated or be given back to teacher housing so it could be repaired for occupancy. This started as soon as I arrived at the school. After the investigation of increasing enrolments at the school and the lack of 'family' housing for teachers, our application and continuous letter writing paid off and the house has finally been renovated. This has been a huge project and managed from Sydney. The Department of Education NSW have been very supportive. After meeting with the organisers of this project, they would love to receive some feedback from the community about the project to use as evidence of why they approved this renovation in Moulamein.



I am asking anyone in the community who has appreciated this renovation to please write me a letter or email me on [jennie.wilson@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:jennie.wilson@det.nsw.edu.au). I would appreciate your support and I hope our community are happy to see this unpleasant house now looking amazing. It is not completely finished, but when it is, it will be for teachers only to rent. Having great housing also helps retain teachers!



## Parent Survey

A survey has gone home this week for parents to complete. At our school, we value your feedback. Your feedback is completely anonymous. We take our role very seriously and work hard to make sure your child receives the best education possible. While we are bound by curriculum, we want our students to enjoy school and be happy and enthusiastic about projects and extra activities we provide.

This is also an opportunity to hear positive things about our school. Principals are generally only ever contacted about negative issues or problems, so feel free to also tell us about things you think we do well. It is nice for staff to hear that their hard work is also appreciated.

Last year was a challenging year for everyone and we hope to have a more settled year in 2021. Despite this, our students performed very well on the check-in assessments, which replaced NAPLAN. We had significantly above state average results in most areas of literacy and all areas numeracy.

We are also writing a new **school improvement plan** along with every other public school in NSW. School improvement is at the heart of the work we do as teachers and school leaders, and needs to 'touch every classroom', be the work of every teacher and impact every student. School improvement is a continuous process, centred on maximising outcomes for all students and sustaining this improvement over time. We have chosen two strategic directions which we will ask your feedback on as well, after analyzing data and procedures. Again, we have students at the centre of our decision making.

We also have to plan around having a high staff turn-over as Moulamein Public School is considered a hard to staff school and teachers are entitled to an incentive transfer after three years. Despite this, we have a very dedicated and committed staff at present, who go above and beyond in their work for the students of Moulamein Public School.

I appreciate your support by responding to the survey.

## Attendance Issues

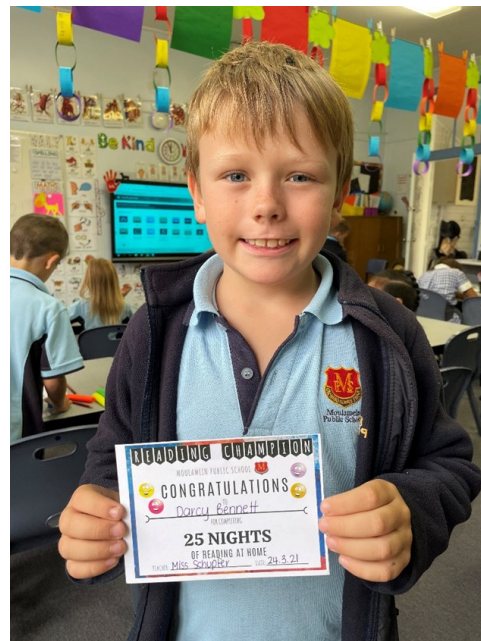
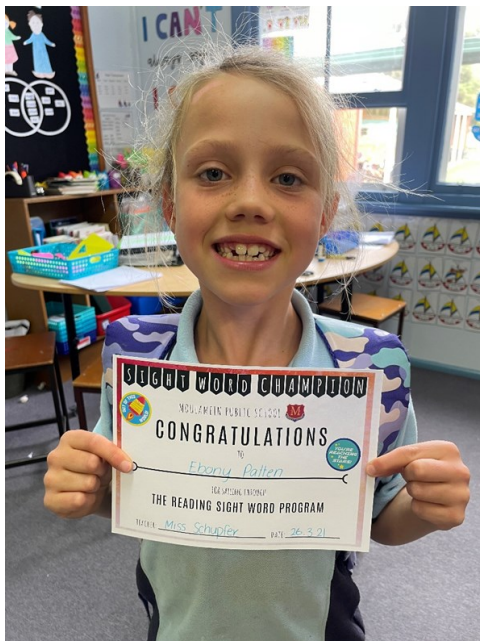
Attendance remains a concern at our school and this has been highlighted by the Department of Education NSW. It is continually monitored and there are many students who have poor attendance and further action will need to be taken if this does not improve. Families can be given an 'improvement plan' from district office due to a student's attendance rate and average. This is currently why, I now need to collect medical certificates for students who are away sick for more than three days in a row. My attendance reminders in the WONGI are not a personal reminder to one person or family. Due to our poor attendance, I am legally obliged to place continual reminders in the newsletter until we have reached our attendance target.

I am aware that we have many families now wanting to take extended leave for a trip in the school term and there are processes we need to follow for this, which is why I put them in the newsletter last week. If the period of leave is for a term, students will be unenrolled at our school and parents must now enrol them into a Distance Education Program. Times have changed and it is no longer acceptable by the courts that students do not attend school for extended periods of time. Parents can be given compulsory schooling orders.

Please be aware that these are not my own personal guidelines, rules or policies. I legally have to make parents aware of procedures and responsibilities, because I have them as well. I must regularly inform parents of the school attendance policies and procedures, especially when our attendance rate is being closely monitored due to 22% of our students having an unacceptable attendance rate.

## News from Miss Schupfer and Year 1/2

Congratulations to Darcy on 25 nights of home reading.



Children in Years 1 and 2 have been sailing through their sight words each week. Ebony is the latest student to reach level 60. This is our final level. She will now work on writing her sight words correctly in her writing. As you can see, she is very proud of her efforts and so are we! Well done, Ebony!

In literacy this term, students have been reading books about friendship. They enjoyed discovering that best friends can be different. After reading *Thelma the Unicorn* by Aaron Blabey, students discussed what makes them unique. This was very entertaining and cute!

**I am unique because I have long hair.**

**Eilon**

**I am unique because I can do backflips and front flips under the water.**

**Dakota**

**I am unique because I can go crossed-eyed and my mum can too.**

**Remi**

**I am unique because I am small and cute.**

**Willow**

**I am unique because I have a grandpa that makes me metal toys.**

**Brody**

**I am unique because I have a baby step-sister.**

**Porscha**

**I am unique because I can do a backflip in the pool.**

**Xavier**

**I am unique because I have an enormous imagination.**

**Darcy**

**I am unique because I can curl my tongue.**

**Will**

**I am unique because I can do backflips and front flips.**

**Chayse**

**I am unique because I can speak Japanese.**

**Jaime**

**I am unique because I can ride motorbikes.**

**Peter**

**I am unique because I can go cross-eyed.**

**Almay**

**I am unique because I can do front flips.**

**Lewis**

**I am unique because I can curl my tongue to the side.**

**Spencer**

**I am unique because I can see my nose.**

**Colton**

**I am unique because I can do a front flip on the grass.**

**Harry**

**I am unique because I can do a front flip.**

**Ebony**





Students have been studying 2D space in Maths. As part of their learning, they created animals using a range of 2D shapes.

