



# Moulamein Public School

Email: [Moulamein-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:Moulamein-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au)

[www.moulamein-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](http://www.moulamein-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au)

2021 Term 1 Week 7

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### Contact Us

T: 03 5887 5208

Fax: 03 5887 5102

## Principal Messages

### New Swimming Program

Next term, all students K-6 will participate in a Learn to Swim and Water Safety Program. Students will participate in a lesson with a qualified swimming instructor at Swan Hill Leisure Centre every Friday in Term 2. Students will be divided into ability groups and teachers will accompany students and support students where necessary.

To counteract this cost, we are not asking parents to pay school fees this year. The school fees are set at \$30 per student, which are very low and we do not ask parents to ever supply stationery equipment like other schools. My goal, as the principal has been to support families financially the best I can and never burden you with extra costs. This is a program that I will need parents to support to be financially viable. All students are expected to participate, as this activity will be considered our Friday sport.

As Australians, we spend a lot of our time in and around the water; it's a big part of our culture. For this reason, it's important that our students learn water safety and survival skills, so that they can continue to enjoy aquatic activities. We have many students across K-6 who have very limited experience with swimming and students in higher grades that cannot swim or display water safety skills.



## Harmony Day

Harmony Day is an Australian Government program that centers on the message that "Everyone belongs", reinforcing the importance of inclusiveness to all Australians.

Since 1999, thousands of Harmony Day events have been staged in childcare centers, schools, community groups, churches, businesses and federal, state and local government agencies across Australia. Our school will celebrate Harmony Day on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March.

Orange is the colour chosen to represent Harmony Week. Traditionally, orange signifies social communication and meaningful conversations. It also relates to the freedom of ideas and encouragement of mutual respect. Australians can choose to wear something orange during Harmony Week to show their support for cultural diversity and an inclusive Australia.

We are going to ask students to wear 'orange' for the day.

There are some fascinating statistics about Australia's diversity that can be good conversation-starters:

- ◆ nearly half (49 per cent) of Australians were born overseas or have at least one parent who was
- ◆ we identify with over 300 ancestries
- ◆ since 1945, more than 7.5 million people have migrated to Australia
- ◆ more than 70 Indigenous languages are spoken in Australia



### Easter Hat Parade

Save the date! On the 1<sup>st</sup> of April the school will be holding an Easter hat parade and all parents will be invited to attend. More information will go home soon about this, but we wanted to let you know now so you could pop this in your diary. This will be a great day and we are looking forward to seeing our parents in our school grounds. There will be some restrictions due to COVID-19 health orders, but we can still go ahead and work within the guidelines. Hats will be made at school, which is an added bonus to parents!

### Attendance

I cannot express how important it is for our community to work together to improve the attendance rate of students attending school. Our attendance rate is extremely poor and well-below the state average. It is a legal responsibility of parents to ensure their children of compulsory school age to be attending school and not taking leave for extra holidays. On occasion your child may be absent from school and justified reasons include:

- Being sick or infectious
- Having a medical appointment
- Being require to attend a recognised religious holiday
- Exceptional or urgent family circumstance (eg. funeral)

Principals are able to request medical certificates and other documentation for repeated sick absences.

Attendance is having a noticeable impact on students learning at Moulamein Public School and their continuous growth is being interrupted. Families will need to be referred to a Home Liaison Officer from district office if this continues and attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. Parents may be issued with an attendance plan.

I would also like to encourage families to ensure that students arrive on time and do not miss out on important learning instructions usually given in the first 10-15 minutes of the day. Staying until the end of the day is equally important, learning does not stop at lunch time.

**If a student misses as little as 8 days in a school term, by the end of primary school they'll have missed over a year of school.**

## **News from Year 1/2 and Miss Schupfer**

### **Number Hunters**

Students in Years 1 and 2 have been learning to identify odd and even numbers. Last week, they became number ninjas finding numbers all over the classroom and placing them on the odd or even desk. There was some great teamwork displayed and some seriously cool ninja moves.





## Literacy

There has been some great artworks completed this term as part of our Literacy unit, Rhythm and Rhyme.



