



Moulamein Public School

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2021 Term 1 Week 9

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Principal Messages

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 celebrated Harmony Day last Thursday and complete activities throughout the day.



Easter Hat Parade

Our Easter hat parade will be on Thursday next week. Some students will also be receiving a merit certificate. All parents will be invited to attend. 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! More information is on the note that has been sent home.





ABC Radio Interview

On Monday, Rhys and Jazmyn, recorded an interview with ABC Riverina Radio (Swan Hill/ Mildura) about their artworks. Artworks by Rhys (now in high school) and Jazmyn, were chosen to be part of the Operation Art Touring Exhibition. The exhibition was launched at the Art Gallery of NSW and will tour NSW. Operation Art is an initiative of The Children's Hospital at Westmead in association with the NSW Department of Education and in collaboration with Sydney Olympic Park Authority.

Operation Art was founded 26 years ago and involves students from Kindergarten to Year 10 creating artworks for children in hospital. It draws on research that has shown an optimistic outlook reflected in art can help improve a child's wellbeing and play a vital part in the recovery and healing process.



Swimming Program

Payments or part-payments can be made at the office at any stage for the following Term 2 Swimming program which starts week 1, Term 2. Thank you to everyone who is supporting this program. It is lovely to have some positive feedback about this program and we hope to our students improve their swimming skills next term with consistent lessons.

Canteen

The P& C will be running the canteen on a different day next term, due to swimming. Thank you to those parents and carers who have responded to the text message sent out last week. I also want to thank Katarni for her flexibility and foresight.



Congratulations for Reading at Home!

Students learn from being read to, reading with others and reading to themselves. Reading at home and talking about stories, the language used and words within the story has a positive impact on reading ability. Congratulations to Eilon and Remi, who are just two students who have read for 25 nights this year!



Tell Them From Me Survey

The Tell Them From Me student survey provides school leaders with insights into student engagement, wellbeing and effective teaching practices at their school, from the perspective of students. Students in Years 3-6 will complete the survey on the 30th of March. The student survey is conducted entirely online during specific survey windows, commencing in Term 1 for the first survey and Term 3 for the optional second survey. The survey will take 15 to 20 minutes on average and no more than 30 minutes for most students. If you would like to withdraw your child from the survey please call the office.

Attendance

Explained vs justified absences

Parents are required to explain absences within a seven day period.

The NSW Education Act requires all absences that have not been explained within seven calendar days are to be permanently recorded as 'unjustified'.

There are a limited number of reasons which justify an absence from school. In some circumstances, even though a reason has been provided, the absence will still be recorded as 'unjustified' because the reason does not count as a valid reason as per the Department of Education policy.

What are valid reasons?

The two most common reasons for student absence are 'sick' and 'leave'.

S- Sick: The student's absence is due to sickness or as the result of a medical appointment. The school requires a medical certificate for absences related to sickness for three days or more. A medical certificate is required after 3 days according to the Department of Education Attendance Policy.

L- Approved leave: The student's absence is due to an incident such as a serious illness of an immediate family member or attendance at a funeral and the explanation has been accepted by the principal.

A- Unexplained absence: The student's absence is unexplained or unacceptable which could include going shopping, weather conditions, tired, needed a day off etc.

Late/early (Partial absences)

Students are expected to be at school, in lines/class by 9:00am each morning. Parents are expected to provide a reason for their child's lateness. If a valid reason is not provided, the absence will be recorded as 'unjustified'.

If a student needs to leave early a parent/carer will need to go to the office, where they will be provided with an 'early note' to give to the teacher on pick up.

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.

Extended Leave/family holidays

Application for Extended Leave and Certificate of Extended Leave forms are required when a student will be absent from school for more than five (5) days.

Families are encouraged to travel during the NSW school holidays. If travel outside of NSW school holidays periods is necessary, the family must apply to the principal for approval beforehand. If the family does not apply for leave, or it is not approved, the absences from school will be unjustified.

Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child's total absences for the year.

Parents must complete an Application for Extended Leave form available at the office and Certificate of Extended Leave forms if students are away for more than 5 days. Return the completed forms to the school along with relevant travel documentation such as an e-ticket or itinerary if available (e.g. flight tickets).

Teachers are not required to provide work for students to complete on holidays, however we recommend daily reading, keeping a diary of the holidays. Technology is an easy and effective way. Try having your child create a digital diary of their trip - voice recordings, pictures, videos & writing. 'School work' is the responsibility of the carers and parent and not the teachers. Work will not be marked.

Emergency Drill

Our school will be conducting an Emergency Drill sometime this week. Please do not panic if you hear the bells ringing. This is a legal requirement.

NAPLAN

NAPLAN is an annual assessment for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. It tests the types of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life. The tests cover skills in reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy. The assessments are undertaken every year in the second full week in May. This year NAPLAN will begin on May 11th and conclude on the 21st. Please ensure your children attend those days. Teachers will prepare the students for these tests to ensure they know how to conduct it successfully. We have taken the option to complete NAPLAN on paper, rather than on-line.

Jennie Wilson

Principal

News from Mr Svensen

This term Year 3/4 have been working hard to create imaginative texts that are interesting to read and hook in the reader. The students have been looking at spooky stories centred around a haunted house. I enjoyed seeing how each student interpreted the task differently, adding their own creative flair into their stories. Below are some examples of their beginning/introduction paragraphs.

As I walked through the old house, I heard a loud bang coming from inside the kitchen. I walked carefully into the room and saw a gnome throwing plates at the wall. When it saw me it immediately stopped and looked at me. The gnome had red eyes, fat little arms and a long nose. I walked backwards trying not to disturb it and quickly ran up the stairs. I was trying to find somewhere to hide. In the distance I saw a glowing light coming from behind the door, intrigued I moved closer. I walked inside and saw a portal whirling around on the floor. I carefully step into it and it took me to another house. The difference was..... this one was made of candy.

- Althea

Outside of the haunted house four friends started to wonder what was inside the mysterious structure. They began to dare each other to walk inside and take a look. In one quick decision they all walked in together and began checking out the rooms for anything interesting. While everyone was investigating the rooms, Monica found an ancient looking chest with weird writing on it. She opened it and a gust of wind blew her off her feet. One of her friends ran in to check if she was okay. Monica stared at her whispering "I'm fine" in a deep strange voice. As she reopened her eyes everyone could see they were now glowing red -Lilly

Wham! I slammed the door behind me. In the corner I saw a red flower and begin to walk towards it. When I pick it up a blue hole forms underneath my feet and seconds later I am standing in a different house. I bang on the door, yelling as loud as I can. To my surprise the door fell over and I stood with a raised fist staring at where the door used to be. Out of nowhere someone steps in front of me, yelling as they hit me across the head with a hard metal pan. I wake up some time later above a secluded lake, all alone. - Georgie

As I walk into the haunted house I see a green portal begin to form in front of me. My friend follows me in and encourages me to touch it. I walk closer and reach out my hand. Immediately it begins to pull me in, my friend grabs my arm and tries to pull me out but it is no use. The portal has a hold of both of us now, sucking us both into the strange liquid below. We try to scream but no one hears us, we are alone and scared. In a matter of seconds, we are shot into the portal tunnel and land with a loud thud onto the hard ground. I look around trying to see where I am and wonder why there is a pickaxe in my hand all of a sudden. -Lawson

Boom, creak, scratch! Before the moon could rise, Tayla quickly ran inside the run down house looking for food. She immediately uses her torch to find a light switch, illuminating the room. As she looks around the room she finds that she is in the kitchen, and it is a pigsty. In the centre of the room is a stove, she tries to turn it on, using all her might to open to the door. Suddenly cockroaches crawl out of the oven and onto the floor. She sat quickly on a nearby table hearing scratches from upstairs, she hopes that she is just dreaming and will wake up soon. Looking around the room Tayla hears a creak from the door, quickly she stands up and goes to investigate. Standing in front of her is a unicorn, it has pink hooves, covered in glitter and has a white silky coat. Her name is Miss Sparkle. - Mila

In **Visual Arts** over the last few weeks we have been looking at how different natural disasters can impact Australia. We learnt that lighthouses have been used to detect storms and tsunamis. The students have also created barns to relate to the areas which are affected the most during drought and dry seasons.

Mr Svensen



