



Medowie Public School

Term 3 Week 4

Thursday 13th August 2020

Positive and Behaviour Award Recipients

It is always lovely to see our students striving to do their very best. Our PBL awards are one way we are able to, at a whole school level, publicly recognise our students' excellent attitude toward school. Students who receive Positive Awards have received 10 mini PBL awards. Students who receive a Behaviour Award have received 20. Congratulations to our week 2 and 3 recipients.



Murrook Aboriginal Dance Group

This term has seen the recommencement of Murrook coming into our school and sharing their cultural knowledge with both our primary and infants dance and art groups. Murrook have invited girls to bring a black T-Shirt and tights into school on Monday which they could paint with their hand prints. These would be painted during either the dance or art classes. Please note this is not mandatory but something the group felt would be nice to do.

NSW School Updates App

The NSW School Updates app allows parents and carers to receive operational status updates for NSW public schools. The app will complement the other means of communication available to parents and carers from our school, which is most commonly achieved through Facebook and email. The app ensures families receive timely, accurate information in a crisis.

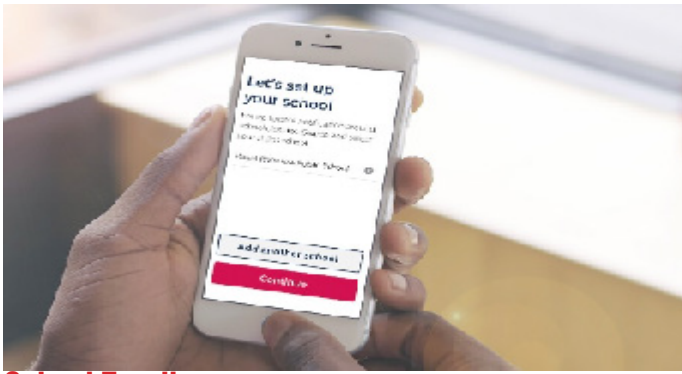
What's on at Medowie...

19th Aug	Snake Tails: Australian Reptile Display - Incursion (Stage 1)
2nd Nov	Stage 3 Camp - Great Aussie Bush Camp Tea Gardens

Notes in Circulation

Stage 1 - Snake Tails - Closing date for permission note Monday 17th August 2020

Stage 3 Camp - Great Aussie Bush Camp



School Excellence

Schools are dynamic communities and everyone working in them is best placed to determine how to meet the needs of their students. School improvement is at the heart of what we do. It's a continuous process centred on supporting the growth and achievement of every student in every classroom. With the current school planning and external validation cycle concluding in 2020, we have a great opportunity to align the components of the School Excellent cycle to better support our school on its improvement journey. The strategic improvement planning process helps our school identify and talk about what's going well and what we can do even better. The process also helps our school work closely with our community to set and prioritise goals aimed at improving our students learning, growth and well-being. Our school will develop a plan for what our teachers and executive will do, then we will implement and monitor our progress towards achieving these goals. Each school's strategic improvement plan is a great way for everyone to come together and develop a coherent and reflective school plan. With this plan we can ensure that every student, every teacher, every leader and every school improves every year.

Check-In Assessment

Year 3 and 5 students will participate in a new reading and numeracy check-in assessment in Term 3, 2020. The Check-in assessment is a NSW Department of Education online reading and numeracy assessment available to support our school to assess and monitor Year 3 and 5 student learning following the period of learning from home. The Check-in assessments will supplement our existing school practices to identify how students are performing in litera-

cy and numeracy and to help teachers tailor their teaching more specifically to student needs.

- The assessment will be scheduled for our Year 5 students from 17 August to 4 September 2020.
- The assessment will be scheduled for our Year 3 students from 21 September to 23 October 2020 Students with a disability may receive the same level of support during the assessment that they would normally receive in the classroom.

Kiss and Drop Zone

There have been a number of concerns brought to the school's attention from parents regarding the kiss and drop zones. The most recently observed incident involved a car incorrectly parked in the area (back of car sticking out which prevented other cars from entering safely) and an Infants child hopping out onto the road. Whilst car seats may make it tricky for children to always get out on the footpath side, it is the only safe practice that ensures children can be kept safe. Everyone in our community wants our children to be healthy and free from injury.

Drop-off and Pick-up zones Safety tips

Safety tips for drivers using a Drop-off and Pick-up zones

- Always drop off or pick up your child from the designated zone and follow the school's procedures.
- Drivers should remain in their vehicles at all times in the Drop-off and Pick-up zone.
- Make sure children use the Safety Door (the rear footpath side door) to get in and out of the car.
- Make sure the handbrake is applied when the vehicle is stationary.
- Always park legally
- Avoid dangerous manoeuvres such as U-turns and three-point turns.



Kids and Traffic Safety Door sticker
HM00121111

Safety tips for students

- Always get in and out of the vehicle through the Safety Door, the rear footpath-side door.
- Stay buckled up until the vehicle has stopped in the Drop off and pick up area.
- Make sure your school bag and other items are in a safe position, such as on the floor.
- Be ready to get out of the vehicle with your belongings when the car has stopped and you have unbuckled your seatbelt.

Why attendance matters

When your child misses school they miss important opportunities to...



Learn



Make friends



Build skills through fun

Bell Times

From time to time, children need to be collected early from school. To assist our families and reduce waiting times I would like to remind parents and carers of our lunch and recess breaks. I am sure you understand it is difficult to locate children quickly during these times as we have an inclusive school approach and children are allowed to play in any of the designated lunch and recess areas. Lunch is held from 11:00am to 11:40am. Recess is held from 1:15pm to 2:50pm. With COVID restrictions preventing parents to go directly to classrooms, I trust the bell times will assist families in timing the collection of their child/children to avoid frustration.

Thank You P&C

I'd like to thank our P&C for their recent fundraising efforts with the Billy G Cookie Fundraiser. The money raised has already been presented to the school. The school has purchased 3 Osmo Genius Kit and Osmo Creative Kits. Our K-2 students will really enjoy using this technology to enhance their learning. Thank you, P&C.



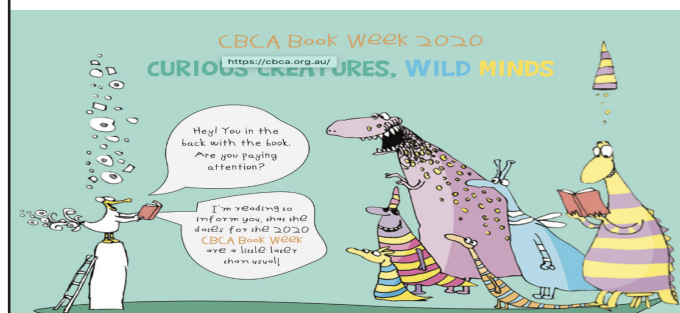
Allison Thompson
Principal

Library Matters



More and more students from Years 3-6 are finishing the Premier's Reading challenge every day. Well done. For everyone else there is only two and a half weeks to go! Students can continue to enter their books until Friday 28th August. Certificates will go to students late term 4.

Book Parade 2020



Book week is a celebration of books and Australian children's authors and illustrators. Due to the pandemic, book week has been delayed this year to week 3 in term 4, the last week of October. We hope to be able to have parents on school grounds for the book parade during that week. In the lead up to book week teachers and students are encouraged to read stories and do activities that relate to a theme to highlight the importance of reading. The theme for this year is Curious Creatures, Wild Minds. The creatures can be real or imagined, alive or extinct, wild minds can also be real or in fiction, alive or dead. Some of my favourite creatures are dragons, chameleons, Oompa Loompas, the Gruffalo and bilbies. Wild minds that spring to mind are Roald Dahl and Willy Wonka, Professor Dumbledore and Bindi Irwin.

What curious creatures excite you? Which wild minds inspire you?

Stories can conquer fear you know. They can make the heart bigger. Quote by Ben Okri

Mrs Helen Styan ☺

Messages from the Office

Mobile Phones

A new process for check in and check out of mobile phones & other electronic devices via the office has been implemented to ensure the safety of the equipment. All devices are to be signed in and signed out by the owner before and after school.

Lost Property

Please remember to write your child's name on all items of clothing. If you are missing clothing or lunchboxes please check lost property which is located in the office foyer.

Have you changed your personal details??

If you have had a change in personal details such as address or contact numbers; work, mobile or home, please ensure that you notify our office ASAP.

Kindergarten Enrolment

Our 2021 Kindergarten transition program is underway. If you, or a neighbour/friend, have a child ready for Kinder in 2021 please contact the office so that we can provide you with an Enrolment Package.

Congratulations to MPS Students

Congratulations to all MPS students who have used beautiful manners when coming into the office. Many well deserved PBL tokens have been handed out to students . Well Done!

Hope in a Suitcase

A big thank you to all the wonderful donations received so far for the Hope in a Suitcase Fundraiser. Further donations can be dropped off to the office or library before Friday 21st August.



Defence News

One of our Defence kids, Baeleigh, has decided she is going to donate her hair to charity to be made into a wig for someone who has lost their hair due to a medical condition.

If you would like to donate please visit <https://hair-withheart.variety.org.au/s/1340/1340/e>

I will put some pictures up on the school's website when she gets it done!

Well done Baeleigh!!

Days missed = years lost

A day here and there doesn't seem like much, but...

When your child misses just...

they miss weeks per year

and years over their school life

1 day per fortnight



=

4 weeks



=

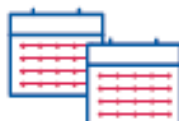
Over 1 year missed

1 day per week



=

8 weeks



=


Over 2.5 years missed

Lively Learners

Our students at Medowie Public School have been enjoying Lively Learners. Fun is being had by all!



TOOGEE MARTIAL ARTS



TMA
투지무술

MEDOWIE

Classes - Tuesday and Thursday 5.30 - 7.00pm

Medowie Community Centre

BEGINNERS WELCOME - 2 FREE LESSONS

Enquiries: @TMAMedowie or 0418686241

CONNECTIONS MATTER FOR ADF KIDS

CAITLIN ARMSTRONG



When a **MILITARY PARENT** is **DEPLOYED** or away for training it can be **HARD** for their **KIDS**, so Medowie Public School in the Hunter region is **CREATING** connections **ONLINE** to **SUPPORT** them.

Defence School Mentor, Katie Thornton, has developed a new initiative for the kids from Australian Defence Force families called 'Making Connections Matter'. The popular Defence School Mentor Program provides funding for the engagement of Mentors in primary and secondary schools across Australia. The role of Mentors like Katie is to support Defence student wellbeing and raise awareness of the Defence lifestyle within the school community. 'Making Connections Matter' utilises smartboards

already in the classroom. Defence kids and their peers videoconference with Defence members who are deployed overseas or who are on exercise and away from home for an extended time. "Can you imagine the delight, or not only the child's face but the member's face, to be able to see their child at school with their friends in the classroom?" she said. While it is certainly fun, the program is also educational. The videoconference is integrated into the class lessons on geography and history. The member tells the class about the culture, food and flag of

where they are currently located. Where possible, they also talk at a basic level about what their role is and what they do. The program can also be used for three-way videoconferencing to keep deployed parents involved with their child's schooling and academic development. The school has even used the 'Making Connections Matter' initiative to keep in touch with students who have been posted away from Medowie, to connect with them and their new school. The program has created awareness of the role and value of Defence School Mentors in the community

and helped others to understand the unique issues students from Defence families often face, including moving every few years and adapting when a parent is on deployment. The response has been amazing with the kids and the ADF members both loving it, Katie said. "The benefits for the kid's mental health and wellbeing are fantastic. It also gives the other kids in the class some insight into what life is like for a Defence child, and it's shored a positive light on them. "I've even had one parent tell me that their child loves being a Defence kid now!"

Drum Kit Donation

A big thank you to Deegan 4/5S and Phoenix KM and their parents for their generous donation of a drum kit! Our school band and students really appreciate it.



Good for Kids good for life

MANAGING SCREEN TIME

While your family is at home, many activities for learning, fun and keeping in touch will be done using screens.

To keep active make sure you spend time away from screens every day. Try some of the ideas below:

TURN OFF SCREENS + get active!

Screens can be great for learning, play and communication. Too much screen time can be unhealthy. Try to sit less and move more.

TIPS TO MANAGE SCREEN TIME		
Don't expect an all-in change. Try to do small steps, like turning the phone and TV off.	Balance screen time with other activities, especially family time.	No screens in bedrooms, especially at night.
Take steps to reduce the amount of screen time when going out.	Monitor kids' screen time. Set limits if needed.	Go 'tech-free' when you're outdoors.
Help kids develop healthy screen habits. Encourage 1 hour before bed.	Parents - be a good role model. Reduce your screen time too.	Don't be mean or stop them from using screens. They'll just go to your phone!



Source: Western Sydney Local Health District, November 2018



HNEHD-GoodForKids@health.nsw.gov.au
http://www.goodforkids.nsw.gov.au/



Kindiebark Oval

family fun & fitness



Register Online
1st August



www.medowielittleathletics.org.au
medowielac@gmail.com
medowielittleathletics
PO Box 106, MEDOWIE NSW 2318

NSW Department of Education

Why attendance matters

When your child misses school they miss important opportunities to...



Learn



Make friends



Build skills through fun

education.nsw.gov.au

