

Muswellbrook South Public School

Proud and Powerful to be a School in Partnership (SiP) school.

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Week Seven Term One

STOP PRESS: PSP surveys due in this Thursday by 12noon. Call out if you need help with it.
X Country this Friday!

Dear Parents and Carers of Muswellbrook South PS

In my report this week is the breakdown of the importance of the **PRIORITY SCHOOLS PROGRAM SURVEY 2012**. Priority Schools are those which serve communities with the highest concentrations of low socio-economic status families. Priority Schools receive additional resources for Literacy, Numeracy and participation programs for students. Please read the information below.

Monday of this week the survey was sent home to families of students in Kindergarten, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4. It is critical that this survey is returned by all families.

Priority Schools receive:

- **Priority School Funding Program (PSFP) grants** are allocated using a formula made up of a base grant and a component which reflects student enrolments.
- **PSFP staffing supplementation** to improve student achievement in literacy and numeracy. The staffing supplement is based on the actual enrolment of students in regular classes as supplied to the School Staffing Unit in February of the previous year.
- **Specialist PSP consultancy support** - consultancy positions are provided to Priority Schools to improve the literacy and numeracy achievements and engagement of students in learning. Priority Schools Programs consultants and partnership officers work within regional teaching and learning teams to support Priority Schools.

Features of the survey

A new list of Priority Schools is identified every four years by a voluntary survey of families. The next survey of families will occur in March 2012 for the next funding period.

Community

The school community must be involved in the school decision to take part in the survey. The survey forms are completed by parents/caregivers.

Confidential

The survey forms are returned in a sealed envelope. No-one at the school can read the response of any family. No-one who opens the envelope at the scanning company knows which family it came from.

Concise

The survey form is short. It only takes up one side of a single piece of paper. Only essential questions are asked. It is easy to complete.

High Response

Last time the survey was conducted, over 90% of families who were sent a survey form returned it. In many schools, 100% of families completed the form.

What does the survey ask about?

The survey measures:

- type of occupation of parents/caregivers
- educational qualifications of parents/caregivers
- proportion of sole parent families in the school community
- unemployment in families
- proportion of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander families in the school community.

For further information on the survey go to <https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/pspandequity/psp-survey-2012>

We will have a band of people available if you have difficulties filling it out. JUST CALL OUT, or let me know on our schools Facebook page, or email the school if you would like someone to help you.

Yours in Education

Rebecca Langdon

Raffle Time

This term I am holding a raffle! The prize is: **The Principal!!!**

I come into a class on a Monday afternoon and I teach the class a lesson that has been prepared by the class teacher. This gives me an opportunity to get to know my students and they get to know that I am not just a Principal. Last week I taught 3/4 S. This week the lucky winners were 3 E. Drama is the lesson plan.

This week's focus: Respectful behaviour is: Keep your hands and feet to yourself.

Please come and watch the talented students from **1K** present their class item at this Friday's assembly.

Congratulations to the following students who had 'Cup Cake' time with Mrs Langdon

ES1 – Luke W., Ella P.

Stage 1 – Daimon S., Ethan S.

Stage 2 – Cody W., Shi McT.

Stage 3 – Katelyn R., Annabelle P.

ABSENCES

Whilst we are encouraging children to come to school each day we understand that children do get sick from time to time. If your child is sick and is unable to come to school a note is required with the explanation for the absence. This note should be sent into school within 7 days or your child's absence will be marked as unexplained.

At the end of the Newsletter you will find absence slips that you can fill in if your child is away.

LICE ALERT

We are asking that all parents examine their child's hair and look for the following signs:

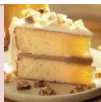
- * Persistent scratching, particularly behind the ears and the nape of the neck accompanied by a red rash.
- * Tiny silver white eggs at the base of the hair shaft.
- * Small pale brown lice. You may wish to use a magnifying glass and a fine tooth comb under strong light to help identify lice.

Head lice can be treated quickly and effectively by simply following these steps:

1. Purchase a specialist head lice treatment from the chemist and apply it according to the directions on the pack.
2. Examine all family members' hair, and treat everyone found to have head lice at the same time.
3. Wash out the treatment and use a fine tooth comb to remove the dead lice and eggs.
4. Repeat the treatment in 7-10 days if lice are still present or eggs are found within 1cm of the scalp.

As a precaution, any items which may harbour lice such as bed linen, towels and combs should be washed in hot soapy water. To prevent head lice in the future, the child should avoid sharing items such as clothing, brushes or hats. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

AFTERNOON TEA AT HUNTER PARK FAMILY CENTRE



Come and enjoy afternoon tea at Hunter Park Family Centre each Wednesday. Family Insight will be holding a storytime session for the littlies, and for the mums there will be fun activities like jewellery making, and craft. It's all free, so come along and bring a friend between 1:00pm – 3:00pm

REMINDER

Please do not give your children money to go to the Service station before or after school. This is an out of bounds area for all students. Thanks you for your assistance in this matter.

Garden Gurus

Has your child brought home veges/herbs/happy tales from time spent in our "Lettuce Out" garden? The garden is a very popular place!

PLEASE, WE NEED HELP WITH: harvesting, weeding, staking and crop rotation.

WHEN: 11:35 – 12, 1:45-2:05, any day. We would love you to come and join us in the garden, so if you can spare 15-20 minutes one day, please sign in at the office, pick up a 'volunteer' badge and we'll meet you there! Experience desirable but not essential.

Mrs Sue Cooper

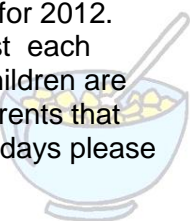
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2012

March 8 is International Women's Day (IWD), a global event that celebrates the economic, political and social achievements of women past and present. This year the theme is: Connecting Girls, Inspiring Futures. For events around Australia including talks, exhibitions, concerts and fundraisers, go to : www.internationalwomensday.com



BREAKFAST CLUB:

Breakfast club has commenced for 2012. Come along and enjoy breakfast each morning 8.25am-8:50am. All children are welcome and if there are any parents that would like to volunteer on these days please call in and ask Mrs Gardiner.



Financial Support for your Children

Our school contributions have not increased this year, they still remain at **\$20 per child**. These funds are collected from all families and form a vital part of our school budget. In order to provide for the quality and variety of opportunities at MSPS we need families to continue to support the Contribution Scheme. We thank all families in advance for their support.



Just a reminder that the school car park is **NOT** to be used by parents as a drop off/ pick up area or a place to park before and after school.

The car park is for Muswellbrook South staff and Department of Education & Communities employees only.



PARKING

SURVEYS HAVE BEEN SENT HOME ON MONDAY 5 MARCH AND ARE DUE BACK AT NOON ON THURSDAY 8 MARCH.

EXCITING NEWS!!!!

DON'T FORGET the first class to have all their surveys in on time will receive a **free pizza lunch!**

The other exciting news is that all families who return their PSP survey by Thursday 8th March will be able to join in the celebration afternoon, where there will be a jumping castle, a disco, face painting and games on the oval all free of charge!!! The only thing you have to do is to return the PSP surveys.



HEALTHY HABITS

Dairy Foods Are Important

The Australian Guide to Healthy Eating recommends children eat 2-3 serves of dairy foods, such as milk, cheese or yoghurt each day.

Why not try these high-calcium foods:

- *milk on cereal or a tub of yoghurt at breakfast
- * cheese on crackers after school
- * fruit smoothies as a drink
- * custard and fruit as a dessert

Some interesting Vegetable facts

Frozen vegetables are usually snapped frozen on ripening and can have the same nutritional value as fresh vegetables. Try to include different vegetables each day.

Different coloured vegetables provide different vitamins and other nutrients. Eating enough vegetables can protect you against many lifestyle diseases including heart disease, stroke, some cancers and diabetes.

Safety of our students

Remember to keep our students safe. Only use the walk-in gates. Please do not walk through ANY car park as this puts our students at risk. Our gates are shut, but not locked.

***Selective High Schools Placement Test
15 March***

The selective high schools test is held annually for Year 6 students wishing to enter a selective government high school. For key dates, online applications and more information for parents, see www.schools.nsw.edu.au/learning/k-6assessments/shsplacement/index.php

***Curl Lewis Public School
Horse Sports Day.***

Term 2 – Friday 25th May, 2012

All enquiries to:
Helen Wise, Curl Lewis Public School
6744 1239

UNIFORMS:

Remember, Muswellbrook South is very proud to be a uniform school. This includes safe black shoes (not slip-ons). Joggers are suitable for sports day. Our uniform shop is affordable and well stocked. If you have any old uniforms they would be most welcome. Please leave at the school office.

We apologise, but unfortunately the uniform shop will not be open next Monday and Tuesday. Normal operating hours, listed below, will resume as of Friday

The uniform shop is open **Monday and Tuesday afternoons, 3:00 – 3:30pm and Friday mornings, 9:00am – 9:30am.**

Please feel free to call and arrange a time to visit if these days don't suit you.

Craig Rossow: 0488 999 068

Anne Henderson: 0477 063 184

Host an Exchange Student!

STS Exchange are seeking typical Aussie families who are busy, friendly, interested in other cultures and willing to welcome an STS exchange student into their family.

For more information please contact STS Exchange.

1800 263 964

stsf@people.net.au

www.sts-education.com.au

DATES FOR THE DIARY – 2012

8 March	Hunter Swimming
9 March	Cross Country
14 March	Stage 2 Surf Awareness Excursion to Nobbys Beach
21 March	Harmony Day
23 March	Bursting with Energy Expo
26 March	Goal Setting Meetings and Parent Interviews start this week
26-28 March	Parent Interviews
2 April	Zone X-Country
4 April	Term One Ends
5 April	Staff Development Day
23 April	Students Return (Term 2)
24 April	School Anzac Day Ceremony
25 April	Public Holiday, Anzac Day March, Main Street Muswellbrook

Want me to know something? Email me at muswellbrs-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au or our schools Facebook page.

MUSWELLBROOK SOUTH PUBLIC SCHOOL

ABSENCE NOTE

Student's Name: Class:

My son/daughter was absent on
(date/s) because.....

.....

Signed: Date:

Parent/Guardian