

OUR NEWSLETTER

MOUNT OUSLEY PUBLIC SCHOOL

Hello and welcome to our MOPS community... Whether you are near or far, if you are reading this, we would like you to feel part of our community - either physically or virtually. Here are some stories about what we've been up to, what we're currently creating or what we're dreaming up for our future...

Term 1 | Week 7 | 2020

STORIES FROM MOPS

We are very excited to have our new Solar Production screen installed at the front office. Now we can see how much energy our solar panels are producing every day and how much carbon we are saving.

What a fantastic opportunity for learning and modelling environmentally responsible behaviours. Come and check it out!



STUDENT LEADERS

Our MOPS student leaders were honoured last Tuesday at the Keira Community of Schools Leadership Induction. It was an

opportunity to nurture the strong connections we have across our community of schools and to celebrate our leaders. Congratulations to all the outstanding 2020 student leaders from Mount Ousley, Balgownie, Coniston, Wollongong, Fairy Meadow and Pleasant Heights Public Schools and Keira High School!



SCHOOL PHOTOS

Our 2020 school photo day is Thursday 26 March. The envelopes have already gone home which you can return at anytime right up until photo day.

P&C MEETING

Last Tuesday night, we held our Annual General P&C meeting (AGM) where executive positions were voted upon. Congratulations to our President - Candice Gil, Vice President - Andy Smith, Secretary - Lisa Malone, and Treasurer - Josh Silver. We look forward to working together to make a difference in the lives of our young people. Our next meeting will be Tuesday 12 May 2020 at 6:30pm in the Library.

MARCH

Mon 2	Assembly
Tue 3	Keira HS Student Leadership Assembly
Fri 6	Stage 3 Cyber-safety talk
Fri 6	Sport in Schools tabloids
Tue 10	P&C AGM
Mon 16	Assembly
Fri 20	National Day of Action Against Bullying
Thu 26	School Photos
Mar 23 - Apr 3	Parent Teacher Conferences
APRIL	
Thu 9	Easter hat Parade
Thu 9	Last day of Term 1
Mon 27	Staff only day
Tue 28	First day of Term 2
Wed 29	ANZAC Day Assembly

HARMONY CIRCLE

Our next Harmony Circle is Tuesday 17 March. Harmony Circle meet-ups are designed to be casual and social with a focus on making sure everyone feels welcome in our school. If you are interested in joining us, please meet in the Outdoor Learning Area after morning assembly and bring your own coffee / cake. Last week, a Community Cookbook form was sent home. We would love you to share with us your favourite recipes. Thank you in advance!

FIRST NATIONS EDUCATION

Our school is currently developing a RAP - a Reconciliation Action Plan. When thinking about preparing our plan, one of the first questions we asked ourselves and consulted the NIAECG on was....

“First Nations or Indigenous - What is the appropriate term?”

“The true definition of ‘Indigenous’ means ‘belonging or occurring naturally in a particular place’ (Oxford Dictionary). It is used throughout the globe to describe all first peoples (native people) and even flora and fauna. Because of these global interpretations, it does not respect the unique and diverse cultures of Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People. It also risks reducing distinct cultures into a homogenous group. (....) ‘First Nations’ recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the sovereign people of this land. It (...) recognises various language groups as separate and unique sovereign nations. It is widely used to describe the First Peoples in Canada and other countries across the globe. Over recent years, the use of this term has grown in popularity. It is a better choice than many (other) outdated and offensive terms...”

You can read more about this at: <https://www.commonground.org.au/learn/aboriginal-or-indigenous>

Bush Tucker Garden

Our First Nations students have been busy in the garden learning about traditional bush tucker and medicine as well as designing a gunyah (shelter) for our school. They have been sharing their learning with other Stage 2 students.

Junior AECG

All students (First Nations and non-First Nations) aged 11-18 are invited to join our local Junior Aboriginal Education Consultative Group. The Junior AECG is a platform to learn more about Aboriginal people and culture. It offers leadership opportunities and involves students in community events. It would be fantastic to have some MOPS students representing us. Stay tuned for details of the next meeting.

COS Yarn Meeting

Our first 2020 Community of Schools combined Yarn Meeting is planned for Term 2 Week 2. Stay tuned for details to come.



NUMERACY TARGETS

As part of our school’s commitment to strengthening academic targets and ensuring our students get the best chance to achieve future success, we are investing in a multi-faceted approach to building students’ numeracy at Mount Ousley. This will include Number Sense withdrawal support, NAPLAN data-informed numeracy focused learning support, and a Years 3-6 Mathsburst program building on spatial awareness. A note will be coming home this week to explain our numeracy strategy further. We are committed to doing all we can to see a lift in student outcomes and, as a result, improvement in the life opportunities for our young people.

HIGH POTENTIAL AND GIFTED (HPGE) EDUCATION

The High Potential and Gifted Education Policy promotes engagement and challenge for every student, regardless of background, in every school across intellectual, creative, social-emotional and physical domains. It supports every student to achieve their educational potential, through talent development opportunities and differentiated teaching and learning practices to ensure that their specific learning and wellbeing needs are met. We are proud that, at MOPS, we offer a variety of unique opportunities for **ALL** learners. Some of the HPGE opportunities at MOPS are:- Genius Time, The Innovation Project, The Empathy Project, Operation Art, Keirabald, Southern Stars, Choir, Sporting teams, STEM, Tournament of Minds, Debating, and some of our newer opportunities like the GameChanger Challenge and Number Crunchers.

As in all public schools, some of our students have just completed the entrance assessments for the Year 5 HPAG classes (previously known as AG class). Year 6 students have had the opportunity to apply for some of our local high schools catering specifically to high potential and gifted students in the domains of creativity (WHSPA) and intellect (Smiths Hill). This being said though, our local high school, Keira HS, is also committed to supporting high potential and gifted learners and offers a range of high performance activities in order to achieve this. I have recently joined forces with Keira HS principal, David Robson, and a number of local public school principals with a mission to develop strategies to not only find the potential amongst our students, but also develop their talent to empower them to achieve high performance. We aim to ensure that the transitions between our primary and secondary contexts in these areas are strong.

COMMUNICATION

As always, we love to keep the lines of communication open and ensure we are all working as a team in the development of your child. If you need to communicate with me or make an appointment with your child's teacher, please come to the front office to book in a time, or send an email to the school and it will be forwarded to the right place. Our school email address is:- mtousley-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

REFLECTIONS

As you may have noticed, we are getting our school painted! It will be so uplifting to get a fresh face on our tired old buildings. I'm sure you're looking forward to seeing the results as am I. I will post photos in the newsletter when it is done.

Last week, I spent many hours collaborating with a Work Health and Safety expert to update and refine our policies and procedures to ensure all of our students, staff and visitors are safe while in our school. Among a whole range of things, you will now notice that we have 'visitor' stickers to identify visitors in our school, there is a safety briefing to read before working on site and trip hazards are being highlighted and fixed. Let's ensure we all keep safety in mind when moving around our school.

OUR PROJECTS - INNOVATION | EMPATHY | FOOD FOREST | LIVE LIFE WELL

We are just over halfway through the term and have well and truly launched into our student learning projects, our teacher professional learning and our community projects. We are looking forward to seeing you again at our upcoming Parent/Teacher Conferences this month where you will have a chance to discuss your child's learning with their teacher. Don't forget that we always welcome you to get involved any way you would like to - helping out at school with reading or gardening and working bees, being a part of our P&C or Harmony Circle Meet-ups, or even just hanging out in our Welcome Garden to chat and socialise with other parents and carers. Please be assured, you have a voice and a place in our school!

EMPATHY PROJECT



We are the Mindfulness Club, an Empathy Project group. We are a group of people who want to help other people. We are helping students in our school by holding activities to help them calm down. Mindfulness helps to get your brain working and to help you feel happy. The whole school is welcome at our Mindfulness Club. (on Mondays at recess in the Outdoor Learning Area)

*Zoe, Toby & Tilly
The Mindfulness Club*

This year we are doing Waste Free Wednesdays. We are asking all students to bring a waste free lunchbox with no single use plastic. From Wednesday the 25th March we would love it if you could bring a waste-free recess to help reduce the plastic waste at our school. Stay tuned for more helpful hints for a waste free lunchbox!! Thanks.

*Vanessa & Eilidh
Waste Warriors*

INNOVATION PROJECT - Mr Green's report

Stage 1 has been working on using various filming techniques, such as close ups, mid shots, landscape and slow motion. We are also working on up-skilling our use of 'Clips' which has involved combining the techniques mentioned above, along with using effects and emojis to make a short video about ourselves. Stage 2 & 3 have been working on creating their own silent movies using range of film techniques, such as mid shots, long shots, landscape, slow motion and time lapse. The students have been very creative, and have even been using our drones, dash bots, and other technology.



NEW 2020 PROJECTS

Two new initiatives this year are our Food Forest project and our Live Life Well project. Both of these projects are under an overarching theme of wellbeing.

1. The Food Forest Project (FF) is focused on sustainability - learning where food comes from and seeing the relationships between healthy soil, insects, growing plants and our food. Mrs Hart is driving this project.
2. The Live Life Well Project (LLW) is focused on physical health and mental wellbeing and is being driven by Mrs Myers.

Both projects will run on Thursdays. Every class in the school will take part throughout the year.



As always, I look forward to building on our relationships, and continuing to grow our dynamic school.

*Tiffany Sinton
Relieving Principal*

CANTEEN

CANTEEN ROSTER

MARCH

Tue	17	Simon G, Kath G
Wed	18	Sarah B
Thurs	19	Amanda P
Fri	20	Andy L, Greg F

Tue	24	Simon G & Kath G
Wed	25	Amy W
Thurs	26	Leanne N
Fri	27	Sarah S, Holly S



Canteen Cameo's

No experience, no worries!

All you need to do is shadow our regular and help out serving.

#mopssquad

Extra helpers required on the following dates:-

**March - Wed 18th, Thurs 19th, Wed 25th,
Thurs 26th**

If you are able to help on one of these days
please contact Amanda at
amandalawler77@gmail.com

OUR ASSEMBLIES

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AWARDS

Term 1 Week 6

K-1 Harmony:	Jonab P, Isabella C, Jean L, Rose A
K-1 Kind:	Safee M, Zara Co, Zaheen A, Celina H-L
1/2 Curious:	Sabrina B, Aaliyah W, Steo L, Jovee F
1/2 Wonder:	Ada S, Ashton C, Eleni F, Mohammad A
3/4 Unique:	Elias A, Gwen S, Abood A, Sienna G
3/4 Unite:	Alizei T, Amelie P, Amber H, Hirada L
5/6 Courage:	Ebtihal A-M, Darius G, David C, Ruby L
5/6 Create:	Levi R, Emma F, Desmond F, Gensun M-H
5/6 Inspire:	Jayke G, Billy S, Ella M, Victoria D

Library

Ollie W and Jack A.

ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS' AWARDS

Zoe H for kindness to others.

PRINCIPAL'S AWARD

Mohammad A-R for being an upstander and Luke V for making positive and inclusive choices at school.
Congratulations!

Bookings now open for Autumn Holiday Club



Example of a day at your Holiday Club



Full day of adventures at HQ

Get hands-on and create something cool with a project-based workshop or experience something new with special guests.

- Mexican Cooking Days
- Exploding Science Experiments
- Rocket-based engineering
- Building Block Workshops
- Astronaut Training • Hunger Games
- 70s & 80s Disco Party • Martial Arts



Embark on a journey

Join us on an adventure to visit some new and exciting places. This Autumn your children could go to:

- The Movies • Wildlife Sanctuaries
- Inflatable Playcentres
- Laser Tag • Tenpin Bowling
- Roller Skating • Ice Skating
- Glow Parties • Rock Climbing



All about convenience

- Over 200 showcase activities & events
- Over 220 locations
- Government subsidies available for eligible families
- Enriched learning in every activity

To attend any of our Holiday Clubs your child doesn't need to be a student at the school where we operate.



Bookings now open

To book, visit www.campaustralia.com.au/holidayclubs

6:30am Breakfast

Flexible Play options:
Comic Books • Bead Jewellery

9:00am Activity

Games around the world
Learn about sports and games from around the world, then let's play them!

10:15am Morning Tea

10:30am Activity

Group time
Music: Improvised Instruments
Outdoor games
Frisbees, Mit & Ball Catch, 44 Homes

12:00pm Lunch

Let's enjoy our taste of Mexico
Get creative in the kitchen as we make quesadillas and guacamole!



1:30pm Flexible Play

Board games • Playground •
Art Corner • Dress up Corner

3:00pm Group Game

Water-balloon Baseball

4:00pm Afternoon Tea

4:30pm until close

Key Activity
Mindfulness Meditations & Storytelling.
Flexible Play options
Group Games • Dance Party • Quiet Corner