COMING EVENTS

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<td>7-9 April</td>
<td>Years 4, 5 &amp; 6 Camp</td>
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NAPLAN Years 3 and 5

Information regarding the 2015 testing was sent home to all families two weeks ago. Included in this information was a parent withdrawal form. If you did not receive this information please contact the front office. More information can also be found at www.nap.edu.au

Skoolbag App

Just a quick note to let you know that you now have Version 3 of Skoolbag. It will be ready for download soon in both the Apple App and Google Play Stores.

We are excited to announce that this release fixes the issues with the current Android version, and also brings it up to date with the same features that have been on iPhone for some time.

You also now have a dedicated iPad version in the iPad App Store!

If you have an earlier version of Skoolbag installed on your device, you will see this new version as an app update, and will install it as an update. Some users may already have automatic updates switched on, in which case the app will update itself.

New Version 3 features include:
- Supports iPhone 6 and 6 Plus resolution
- Rotation/landscape view when viewing landscape on larger resolution devices.
- New interface design and content navigation improvements
- iPhone Version has new Accessibility mode for visual impaired users.
- iPad Version!

Years 4, 5 and 6 Camp

Our students in years 4, 5 and 6 will head to Borombola on Tuesday morning. Please make sure you do not leave or park your car in the bus zone. Our students will return by 3pm on Thursday. The students will be involved in team building skills, bmx riding, archery, fencing and rock climbing. We look forward to hearing their stories on return.

Mrs Marsham, Ms Chen, Ms Meyer and Mr Evans will attend the camp with the students.

Assembly Week 10

1P and 1I will host the week 10 assembly. The assembly will also contain our ANZAC assembly. There will be no merit certificates presented at this assembly.

SRC

The SRC raised $185 for RSPCA today thank you for your support.

Thank - you

I would like to thank the Mawson Primary staff, students, parents and community for making my 5 year placement such a wonderful experience. The P&C have provided me with so much support in running the discs and fundraising events at the school. Their willingness to support the guitar program by assisting in the purchase of guitars for the students has provided so many highlights and opportunities for the students and myself. It has been fantastic to see the school grow from 157 students in 2009 to 350 in 2015 increasing our classes from 8 to 13 classes. The schools results in the 5 years have been outstanding including top 10 performances in a number of subject areas based on NAPLAN results. The teachers have done an amazing job with our students to provide them with rich learning experiences. The students are an absolute delight and have provided me with so many happy memories that I will cherish for the rest of my career. Thank you.

Keep Smiling

Rohan Evans
Deputy Principals

Cross Country will be held on the first Friday Term 2, 30 April

If rain has been forecast for Friday the cross country will be held on the following Friday, 7 May.
Parent information session will be held in the GP room next Wednesday after Learning Journeys. This 25 minute presentation will explain some strategies for supporting your child with reading and number work at home.

When: Wednesday 8 April

Where: Mawson Primary School GP room

Time: 9.30-10:00am (straight after your child’s Learning Journey)

Find out how to

- support your child with reading and writing
- encourage your child to read and write more at home
- increase your child’s confidence.
On Monday March 16, Mrs Nestler’s and Mrs Davies’s year 3 class and two students from Ms Sofo’s Learning Support Unit, left for Birrigai for a three day camp. There was much excitement at the prospect of spending three days away from home and school and participating in fun activities in the great outdoors. Birrigai certainly lived up to the students’ expectations as most of them described their experience as ‘awesome’.

The general theme of the Birrigai experience was Life During Colonial Days, so day one was spent working as a team pitching old colonial tents, building fires from scratch and cooking damper. Day two was centered on team building, problem solving, understanding our personal limitation and challenging ourselves to reach beyond what we believe we were capable of doing.

Our final day ended with an authentic reenactment of setting up a new colony in NSW. The students experienced the hardships, the challenges and the rewards. The bus returned on the Wednesday afternoon with a class of year 3 students who were tired but happy, and, in some way, changed for having had the Birrigai experience.

Some persuasive arguments “why you should send your children to camp,” from our students’ writing journals.

At the camp you learn exciting things like how to make a camp fire. William C.

Camp is good because you can learn how to take care of nature. You can also conquer your fear of heights on the Giant Swing. Gavin D.

I loved camp because there was a giant swing. Katelyn M.

I’m going to tell you why you should take your kids to the school camp. You can learn some good Aboriginal history and get good exercise instead of staying inside all the time doing nothing. Also, you’re excited because you will spend morning and night with your friends and have more fun than you have ever imagined. Trust me, I know. Christina F.

At camp we learnt a lot of things, like how to make a tent out of sticks and rope and a cover. You should go to camp because it is super special and good for your brain. Sam V.

What we got to eat: damper, spaghetti bolognaise, choc chip ice cream and hot chocolate, muffins with apple taste and biscuits and sandwiches. Brody M.

Camp will show your child how things worked in Aboriginal times. This is a great opportunity for peace and quiet for parents at home. It is a good way for your child to bond with others and get healthy. Jana V.

You can have fun learning to catch bugs. You can also have fun by looking at kangaroos and watching movies. Dania F.
Harmony Day is a very important day on the Mawson calendar, especially because we are fortunate enough to have more than 60 cultural backgrounds represented at our school. Our aim is always to make each year’s celebration bigger and better than the year before, and we certainly succeeded in 2015!

In the morning on Friday March 20, students completed activities in their classrooms, many of which included families visiting to share photos, craft, stories and other information about their home countries. We also had a special Harmony Day assembly, where the students from 2F shared their incredible Harmony Day artwork with us (this is now on display in the Front Office foyer), and read the Mem Fox book about diversity, “Whoever You Are”. The combined 3/4/5/6 Choir sang the beautiful “World in Union” and – despite some technical difficulties – we watched a film put together by Georgia Ghirardello, showing our students using some of the more than 40 languages spoken at our school.

The highlight for many of us was the wonderful “Taste of Harmony” event in the afternoon. Students visited with their classes and had a chance to sample food from many different countries. The food was DELICIOUS, and we are enormously grateful to the families who worked tirelessly to prepare food for us, set up and decorate the tables, serve the food to the students and even help clean up afterwards. A special thank you must go to Asmaa Alaubidy, who first came to us with the idea for this event last year, and who spent the whole day working at school to ensure that everything was successful.

The feeling around the school was described by teachers, students and families as “exciting”, “moving”, “joyful”, “inspiring” and “electric”. It was wonderful to see so many students, teachers and parents/carers dressed in national costume, as well as the sea of orange clothes. Here are just a few of the photos taken on the day, as well as some reflections by some of the students.

If you have photos, please email them to us (caroline.woolias@ed.act.edu.au); we have some future plans for them!
On Harmony Day there was great food. This Harmony Day was better than last year’s day. My t-shirt was orange and I ate vegetarian samosa and it was tasty. Sujay S.

I personally enjoyed Harmony Day. My class did many interesting and fun things like cooking (potato pancakes), learning about other cultures and discussing our nationalities. The assembly was good as it explained what Harmony Day was about. The food was exotic; very different from the regular food I eat. My favourite thing was the outfits; almost everything was fancy, stylish and meant something to their culture. It is an important day to celebrate diversity and it should continue. Hamish H.

It was nice to have food that I had for 4.5 years of my life when I lived in Zambia. Harmony Day was good and I think we should do it every year. Alexander M.
I desperately loved this year’s Harmony Day! Why, you ask? Because the whole entire day was to do with people’s cultures and filled with fun, Oh, and what a wonderful assembly we had. Awesome. But my favourite part of the day was the wonderful stalls. Yummy food! I think this Harmony Day was better than last year’s. I wish next year’s will be the same; I am desperately looking forward to it. Thanks to all the parents who made the wonderful food. Lea C.

On Harmony Day, I saw lots of food from different countries like Korean food and Philippine food. When it was time to eat the magnificent food, I took sushi, potato pancakes and pork barbeque. Celebrating Harmony Day is important to all of us because we’ll know other people from other countries. Patricia S.

On Harmony Day we wore orange and cultural clothes. We had a special assembly and there were a lot of parents. After recess we took turns of tasting tonnes of delicious food and all of the food was from many countries. Shan R.

It was a day of culture and harmony. Alex R.

Harmony Day was great because I knew a lot of people that know different languages rather than English. My favourite time of the day was in the afternoon, because of the yummy food. We wrote an acrostic poem in our class. Vince P.
Mawson Primary had 16 students compete at the Tuggeranong Regional Swimming Carnival held at the AIS on Friday of week 7. All students showed great determination and effort during their races in what was a very competitive field. All the students should be very proud of their efforts. Congratulations to Ben G. and Flynn O. who placed in a number of their races. The boys will be presented with their ribbons at assembly in week 10.

Ben G.
1st 200m Freestyle
3rd 100m Backstroke
3rd 50m Backstroke

Flynn O.
3rd 100m Breaststroke
3rd 50m Breaststroke.

Last week four of our teachers attended the Circle Time Professional learning. What is Circle Time?

Circle time is a fun and interactive time where students sit in a circle and engage in a range of activities. These activities are designed to mix students up and to get them interacting outside of normal social groupings. Activities also have students sharing with each other in pairs, threes, fours and as a whole circle through processes such as sentence completion or go-arounds where a talking piece is passed around the circle.

Circle time operates on three principles: inclusion, safety and democracy. Through circle time, an ethos of caring and understanding is developed among students and staff; students are developing circle skills of listening to each other, withholding judgement, taking turns to speak, responding succinctly and using a talking piece. At Mawson Primary school all classes participate in Circle Time.
ICAS provides an opportunity for all Years 3-6 students to gain a measure of their achievement in an external testing situation. All students receive a certificate and an individual student report indicating which questions they answered correctly and their score compared with the rest of the students tested. The tests are an excellent preparation for National tests and the test report is useful for highlighting your child’s strengths and weaknesses.

High quality UNSW certificates are awarded for each year level as follows:
- High Distinction to the top 1% of entrants
- Distinction to the next 10% of entrants
- Credit to the next 25% of entrants
- Participation to all other participating students

Students who receive the highest score in each year level receive a UNSW medal.

The entry fee per student is as follows and dates of competitions are listed below:
- Digital Technologies $8.00 19 May
- Science - $8.00 3 June
- Writing - $18.00 15-19 June
- Spelling- $12.00 16 June
- English - $8.00 28 July
- Mathematics $8.00 11 August
- All the above - $62.00

Permission slip and entry fees need to be in by Monday 6 April, week 10 term 1. Late entries cannot be accepted.

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES 2015
INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS AND ASSESSMENTS FOR SCHOOLS (ICAS)

To stay up to date about school news and events:

You can find us @
https://www.facebook.com/mawsonprimary.pc
or simply search for
Mawson Primary P&C
COMMUNITY NOTICES

www.parentingideas.com.au

http://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/families
A 2010 Australian study of almost 700 students shows 70 per cent of young people from Aboriginal and culturally diverse backgrounds still experience racism, mostly at school.

Young people are our future and National Youth Week (4 April to 13 April) is a great opportunity to celebrate their valuable contribution to society.

It’s a tough world for a young person. One in four will develop a mental illness, many are exposed to cyberbullying and sexual assault and we know that young people from minority groups are often targets of racism.

A 2010 Australian study of almost 700 students shows 70 per cent of young people from Aboriginal and culturally diverse backgrounds still experience racism, mostly at school.

As a society, we’ve become more aware of racism and how to combat it. We’re better bystanders and more likely to act when someone is being vilified. But racial discrimination still frequently occurs on the playground and the footy field, at school, at the shops and on the streets – and from VicHealth’s perspective, it is a serious health concern.

There is compelling evidence that exposure to racism, particularly if it is repeated, is strongly linked with serious mental illnesses. It can have profound implications for a young person’s future, like dropping out of school or taking up smoking or drinking alcohol to try and cope.

A new VicHealth and University of Melbourne study ‘Talking Culture’, by Doctor Naomi Priest, looked at how eight to 12-year-old primary school children in Melbourne learn about racial, ethnic and cultural diversity and racism.

Parents will generally only broach these topics if their child raises it first. Teachers are better at talking about it, but sometimes don’t feel qualified or empowered to discuss it with their students in depth.

The study also found that compared to parents from ethnic backgrounds, parents from Anglo backgrounds tended not to talk about issues of cultural diversity and racism at all.

Parents and teachers play a very important role in how Australian students think about their own cultural background and about people from different backgrounds.

Let’s teach our kids that racist remarks hurt more than feelings. We talk about safe sex and respect in primary schools. We teach our kids that bullying is not on. So we shouldn’t assume that our children will learn about respect for cultural diversity by absorption.

Learning at an early age the benefits of a multicultural society and how to embrace the differences that make us special is crucial for preventing racist attitudes from developing.

This makes far more sense than waiting to address the effects of discrimination after it’s occurred.

We want parents and teachers to feel confident about raising the topic of cultural diversity as often as they can. These are tough issues to broach but we can’t be frightened of them.

And as we celebrate Youth Week, it’s heartening to remember that while racism may always exist, there is an appetite from children and teachers and parents to do something about it.

Celebrating cultural diversity is not about ignoring our differences. It’s about discussing them. As a microcosm of society, school is the perfect place where we can teach respect and build a better future for all Victorians.

Dr Naomi Priest at the University of Melbourne is developing a survey to find out more about talking culture in classrooms. The findings and survey findings will be used to develop intervention strategies to support teachers and parents to promote positive attitudes to cultural diversity and anti-racism amongst children.
PRESCHOOL 2016 ENROMENTS

PLEASE NOTE –
ENROLMENT PROCEDURES
HAVE CHANGED

Enrolments open:

**Tuesday, 28 April 2015 –**
Day 1, Term 2

**DO NOT** enrol prior to this date.

**ONLINE** enrolments must be completed at:

**NO PAPER COPIES CAN BE ACCEPTED**

Enrolments close:

5 June 2015

If you have any queries regarding the new process, please contact Mary at the front office on 62058033.