



Mount Warren Park State School Newsletter No. 01 Thursday 28 January 2016

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From the Principal

WELCOME TO THE 2016 SCHOOL YEAR

I hope you had a chance to rest and recharge over the summer break and gear yourself up for what is set to be another exciting year for education at Mt Warren Park State School. The beginning of the school year is the time to layout the agenda for the next 12 months. We know that a sharp and narrow focus is a common trait of highly effective and successful schools. This translates into being explicit and clear in setting no more than two or three school-wide targets for improvement and communicating these targets (with accompanying timelines) to all school members: - parents, families, teachers and students. Over 2016 and 2017, \$480 million of the Australian Government's Students First funding will be provided directly to schools using a revised allocation model that better supports students and schools most in need. When preparing the budget to accompany the Annual Implementation Plan and the Investing for Success Plan, the Leadership Team is looking for positive gains in student achievement, and allocating budgets and personnel on the strategies that will maximise benefits for students.

The Leadership Team is currently assessing the student achievement data to plan the best programs for students and the best supports for teachers.

The next P&C Meeting is the Annual General Meeting [AGM] on Wednesday 17 February at 6.30pm in the Staff Room. I look forward to presenting the Implementation Plan the Leadership Team and Staff are working on to P&C members for valuable input and feedback. Best wishes for a fantastic year ahead!

Extra Teachers and Guidance Officers

From 2016, 875 extra teaching positions and 45 additional guidance officer or equivalent positions will be recruited over three years in addition to those required for enrolment growth. This includes at least 290 additional teachers each year from 2016 to 2018, and will benefit every state primary, secondary and special school. At Mt Warren Park we have taken advantage of this and employed our Guidance Officer, Ms Jacquie Lather, full time for 2016.

Mental Health and Student Protection Support for State Schools

Schools will receive additional mental health and student protection support from new regional staff in 2016. Mental health coaches will assist regions and schools in early identification of student mental health concerns, while student protection officers will provide student protection training and advice. At Mt Warren Park we have employed Ms Crystal Wilmott as a PBL Coach. She will be working with teachers and students to continue the great PBL work that is happening at MWSS.

Do you have a child starting school in 2016? Supporting Successful Transitions

Do you have a child starting school in 2016? Schools, early

childhood education and care services and families all have a part to play in helping children enjoy a positive start to school.

Information for families

Starting school is an exciting and significant time in every child's life. A positive start to school can lead to children developing a lifelong love of learning. We encourage our families to work in partnership with Mt Warren Park SS to ensure all children enjoy a successful transition to school.

What is transition to school?

Transition to school begins well before a child starts school and ends when your child feels safe, secure and a sense of belonging at school. It involves a range of partners working together to provide experiences that will help your child gain the skills and confidence they need to adjust to their new school environment.

Orientation activities that help your child become familiar with their new school environment and routines are an important component of your child's transition to school.

What does it mean for my child?

Successful transition can improve social skills, reduce behavioural problems and ultimately improve academic outcomes. All partners in your child's support network will play an important role in your child's transition to school. Your child's early childhood education and care service, our school and relevant community organisations will work together to help you and your child feel prepared for and confident to start school.

How can I help prepare my child for school?

Children who can play cooperatively with others, explain their thoughts, ideas and feelings and follow routines and directions are socially and emotionally prepared for school. There are many simple ways you as a parent can encourage your child's development of these skills.

Talking with your child about what they see and understand about everyday family events is a simple way you can support your child's development.

Reading together, especially stories about change or starting school will develop your child's language, thinking and literacy skills. Visit your local library or ask your child's early childhood teacher for recommendations on books to read.

Enrolling your child in a Queensland Government-approved kindergarten program is an important way you can help prepare them for Prep. Kindergarten programs help children develop a love of learning, build their confidence and make friends in the year before they start school.

As it gets closer to the start of school, set up a morning and evening routine to help reduce the number of changes they will experience. The routine can include packing their lunch box, dressing themselves, practising the trip to school.

Helping your child to work out answers to problems or concerns will help them develop coping strategies and make them more independent and confident. Encourage them to ask for help if they need it and talk to their new Prep teacher, another staff member or an older 'school buddy' about their concerns.

Talk to your child's early childhood teacher to get their suggestions for other ways you can help prepare your child for school.

How can I support my child's transition to school?

You have an important role in your child's transition to school. Here are some helpful hints on ways you can support them:

- get to know other Prep children and their families as soon as appropriate, as building these relationships can foster a sense of belonging for you and your child
- know your child's concerns and provide comfort and support by talking together
- speak positively about their new school
- get to know your child's new school and the staff by participating in any school orientation activities
- contribute to the development of your child's Transition Statement and provide a copy of the completed statement to your child's Prep teacher.

As a parent, you know your child best. Talking to the Prep teacher about your child's other prior to school experiences will also help them understand and prepare to meet your child's learning, social and emotional needs.

Enrolment: Sighting birth certificates upon enrolment

Schools must record in our OneSchool computer system that we have sighted a student's birth certificate. If a birth certificate cannot be provided, Principals may satisfy themselves of a child's birth date, full name and relationship to the person seeking enrolment through other evidence such as Australian Government documentation and a statutory declaration from the child's parent and (where possible) witnesses to the birth. If you have not yet provided a copy or an extract of your child's birth certificate please do so as soon as possible.

2016 SCHOOL CALENDAR NOW AVAILABLE

The 2016 school calendar can be downloaded at http://www.education.qld.gov.au/public_media/calendar/pdf/2016-school-calendar.pdf

PBL – Positive Behaviour for Learning

At Mt Warren Park SS, Positive Behaviour for Learning (formerly known as Schoolwide Positive Behaviour Support) is a whole-school approach to creating a safe and supportive environment that has a strong evidence-base and is used in many Queensland state schools.

A safe and orderly school environment is important to learning. Disruptive classroom behaviour is known to interfere with learning and is a cause of stress and concern for students, teachers and families.

Most children start school with the social skills they need for success. They have learned these socially valued behaviours from their parents, families, carers, early childhood learning experiences and their social networks. Children learn behaviours very quickly, but often they also learn "misrules" or behavioural errors.

Common examples of behavioural errors include a student swearing when they get something wrong, raising their voice to get teacher attention, crying to avoid doing work, and fighting, threatening or embarrassing others in order to get certain things, social attention from their peers, or to be included in games.

SWPBS schools understand that problem behaviour serves a purpose for their students. The fastest way to turn problem behaviour around is by teaching them acceptable and appropriate ways to get what they need.



MWPSS Chose PBL Because:

- we want to improve academic outcomes
- we want to reduce rates of problem behaviour across the school
- our parents and community want to raise the positive public profile of our school

- we want our Responsible behaviour plan for students to ensure that everyone is consistently managing problem behaviour
- teachers want to improve the way problem behaviour is being managed
- staff want to increase teaching time and the positive feeling tone (climate) of the school and classrooms.

A Whole-School Approach

Using a whole-school approach to promote positive behaviour across our school is the most effective way to develop a safe and supportive learning environment.

In a whole-school approach, the school community (students, parents and school staff) work together to establish the expectations for behaviour. The expectations are simple, clear and explicit.

Research shows that students are more likely to respond positively when they know what is expected of them and when responses to behaviour are fair and consistent.

In a whole-school approach all students are explicitly taught the expected behaviours. Some students will require additional support to learn the expected behaviour. A few students will require intensive support to assist them to learn appropriate ways of behaving. For more information visit <http://behaviour.education.qld.gov.au/positive-behaviour/whole-school/Pages/why.aspx>



Parent and Community Engagement

Parents and the wider community play an important role in creating a safe and supportive school environment. Schools benefit when school staff engage in regular positive, respectful interactions with students and their family.

Parents are valuable partners in supporting the school and their child's learning and behaviour. Parents have valuable insights about how to best support their child's behaviour and learning. Parent support helps to align the behaviour expectations of the school to community expectations and means everyone shares an understanding of what is expected.

Effective Teaching

Effective school staff are critical to developing safe and inclusive classrooms, where students are supported and engaged in learning. A whole-school approach to curriculum provision, using a continuum of support, caters for the learning needs of all students. This includes those in need of learning support or behaviour support; those who have educational support needs arising from disability; those who are gifted and talented; and those learning English as an additional language or dialect (EAL/D), or a combination of these.

Successful teachers define, teach, reteach and model the expected behaviours. They provide regular opportunities for students to practice the expected behaviours in the settings in which they will be used. They also actively supervise students, promote the expected behaviour, prevent and correct inappropriate behaviour and acknowledge positive behaviour continuously.

Great teachers differentiate behaviour support practices and strategies, based on data related to student progress and responsiveness, to teach appropriate behaviour and social and emotional skills. They also differentiate approaches and support to recognise disability, while not accepting inappropriate behaviour. Teacher interventions aim to increase student functioning and self-regulation in school and beyond.

Expectations

At MWPSS, we believe a key role of the Principal and all school staff is to set high expectations for behaviour and learning across the whole-school community and for all students. It is important that all students know and are taught what is expected of them so that they can behave in appropriate ways. Setting and consistently reinforcing clear expectations, allows

schools to provide consistency in what they teach and what to correct in terms of student behaviour. Our teachers will be setting these expectations with students in this first few weeks of school. At MWPSS, we have identified three positive, school-wide behaviour expectations for all members of the school community to follow. They are: Be safe, Be a Learner, and Be Respectful.

School staff develop and implement formal lesson plans using positive behaviour examples that represent typical school settings and each of the three positive expectations. Our school community has set the disciplinary consequences for unacceptable behaviour and this is contained in our Responsible Behaviour Plan. Our school has developed and implemented procedures for responding to inappropriate behaviour and we train new staff to ensure consistent effective implementation. Disciplinary consequences are most effective when they are applied fairly and consistently.

Do you know someone with an intellectual disability or ASD who is 8 years or older and would enjoy participating in Sports training and competition?

Special Olympics provides regular sports training and competition for athletes (8 years and older) who have an intellectual disability and/or ASD. The Special Olympics Logan Allstars Club was established in 2013 and now has sports programs in aquatics, basketball, futsal and tenpin bowling in the Logan area. As membership grows, new sports will be added to the offerings.

An information evening is being held for all interested athletes, coaches, families and carers on **Monday 15th February at 7pm at Logan Metro InSports (357 Browns Plains Rd, Crestmead)**. You will have the opportunity to learn more about Special Olympics and hear from current athletes and coaches.

Please register your interest in attending the information evening by email at info@soglogan.com or contact our club registrar, Joy Gavin on **3208 0174**.

Vaccination and Childcare

From 1 January 2016, new Childcare vaccination legislation gives childcare services (including outside school hours care) discretion to refuse the enrolment or attendance of children whose immunisation status is not up to date. Children who cannot be vaccinated for medical reasons and/or are on a recognised vaccination catch-up schedule are exempt.

Early Entry to Prep

Principals should only approve early entry to Prep for a child who turns five years old by 31 July, if it's in the child's best educational interests. As per the Principal's guide, the child's aptitude and ability, social and emotional competence, physical development, and level of knowledge and understanding must be considered.

Use of Legal Name and/or Preferred Name

Parents and Carers are reminded students must be enrolled under their legal name, consistent with their birth certificate. A preferred name can be recorded and used for internal purposes. The default setting for semester reports is the legal name, but schools can change an individual student's default setting to 'preferred name' if requested by parents.



From the Deputy Principals



Welcome Back

Welcome back everybody, we hope you all had a wonderful holiday and all your Christmas wishes came true!

We are sure the nine weeks of Term One will fly by as quickly as the holidays seemed to – especially with all the wonderful learning experiences that will be taking place in the classrooms this term. We'd like to give a very special welcome to the students and parents who have joined the Mount Warren Park School community this year and we would like to extend a special welcome to our new Prep students.

Our first day of school seemed to progress very smoothly and it was great to see the students enthusiastic about moving into their new classrooms and meeting their new teacher. We are sure there was much to talk about around the dinner table over the last few nights and we are confident the wonder, enthusiasm and love of school will continue throughout the rest of the year – especially with the wonderful teaching and learning experiences our teachers have planned - Mount Warren Park State School where the learners of today will be the leaders of tomorrow!

School Assembly

The format has changed this year to a whole school parade every Monday afternoon instead of the morning time slot. Parade will start at approximately 2:10 p.m. and all parents are welcome to attend.



New Drop off Zone

After much consultation with the school and the P and C, we would like to thank Councillor Don Peterson for his support in having the council revitalise the parking lines around the school and making a drop off zone in the top car park. Entry to the car park will now be via one of two lanes. The left lane is to enter the drop off zone where a 2 minute waiting time limit applies while the right lane gives entry to the parking area. The drop off zone helps to ensure the safety of our children as they do not have to cross any traffic areas to be picked up and we ask that all parents follow the two minute maximum parking rule to allow clear and easy access.

Family Information

Please keep us informed of any changes to family arrangements regarding the care for your children. We need the latest documentation to ensure we meet legislative requirements and can support you in the best way that we can.

If you have moved over the Christmas vacation or have changed phone/emergency contact details, please send the office a note with your new details. It assists us in emergencies to have current information on your child/ren.

Requisites Reminder

While we fully appreciate the cost of starting a new year, particularly with a number of students in one family, we ask that you supply the requirements of your child's class booklist as soon as possible. This will ensure they have the right materials to take full advantage of the educational opportunities offered to them.

Early Collection of Students

Parents are reminded to see Administration Staff when collecting their child/ren before 2:50pm. This is for your child's safety. Parents are asked to contact the office where you will be asked to sign the children out and be presented with early

Jewellery Policy

The wearing of jewellery is discouraged at school. To assist you with this policy we have come up with the following more specific guidelines: Children may wear studs or sleepers in their ears but not dangling earrings. Children may wear a signet ring as long as it doesn't protrude dangerously. Religious symbols (eg. necklaces) may be worn if parents give written permission but must be worn under the school uniform. Bracelets, key chains and nail polish are not permitted.

Hair Style

Your child's hair should be styled in a neat and respectable manner. Coloured hair or outrageous styles are not permitted. This includes Mohawk style haircuts. You will be asked to correct such cuts.

General School News



Cash Collection Procedures – Cash Window

The Cash Window is located in the Admin Block. We offer several methods of payment being cash, cheque, EFTPOS, B-Point (see above) and Internet Banking. The cash window will be **OPEN every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8am to 10am.**

Late Payments - It is a solid requirement that all events be paid for by the due date which is stated on all permission / information notes sent home to parents.

Late payments cannot be accepted under any circumstances so please keep updated by checking our newsletter each fortnight.

Refunds - Refunds can only be given in part. This means if there is bus travel involved for the event this is **NOT** refundable. Whether your child attends or not the buses have been booked and need to be paid for. You must complete a "Refund Request" Form available from Administration.

Payment Due Dates - Every fortnight payment reminders are printed in the "General News" and "Dates To Remember" sections of the school newsletter (this is also available on our website).



NEW PAYMENT OPTION - BPOINT

Parents will notice a change to the way they can pay school invoices. The new payment method of BPoint is now available as an online payment system.

BPoint can be accessed via **ANY** Computer or Smart Phone. Payments accepted via Mastercard or VISA and is a secured payment method.

Parents can log into: www.bpoint.com.au/payments/dete. Once you have logged in you will need the information from the school invoice to complete the BPOINT payment page.

Information Sheets are available from the office if you require further instructions.

Parenting Program:

For parents/carers of pre-teens and adolescent age children..
Fridays: February 12, 19 and 26 from 12:45pm to 2:45pm. Presented by our Behaviour Support Teacher, Miss Percy. No charge! If you are interested in attending please register at the School Office.

Mt Warren Park State School Guitar Lessons:

The half hour group guitar lessons will commence on Wednesdays starting at 3:00pm in the Music Room. The cost is \$15 per student. For bookings please phone Dan on 0438 543 144 or through www.ozguitar.com

PE News

Term 1 this year is an extremely busy one in many areas and sport is no exception. Throughout this term the following sporting events will occur.

- Pacific Rim District Swimming Carnival 15th February at the Chandler Aquatic Centre.
- Mt Warren Park Cross Country Tuesday 1st March - Prep to year 6
- Gala Days – Year 5 and 6 each Friday 11th and 18th March in Term 1 and continuing in Term 2 – 15th, 22nd and 29th April.

Interschool Sport - Gala Days Year 5 and 6

Mt Warren Park State School will again participate in the Beenleigh Zone Interschool Sport Competition throughout 2016. This year the competition will run over 5 half days in Term 1/2 and then again in Term 4. Each team will play at least 2 games per half day: – 11.00am to 2.15pm.

The cluster of interschool sports offered to students in Term 1 and 2 will be Netball, Soccer, Rugby League, AFL and Girls Touch Football.

- **Competition dates for Term 1 - Friday 11th and 18th March and continuing in Term 2 – 15th, 22nd and 29th April.**

Throughout the first two weeks of Term 1 students will be asked to sign up for their sport preference. If your child is successful in being selected in one of our school teams they will be receiving an information note indicating cost and a permission slip within the coming weeks.

Students wishing not to play an interschool sport will be offered either:

- **Ten Pin Bowling at the Mt Warren Bowling Lanes at a cost of \$6 each week for 7 weeks.**
- **Rotational Activities** where they will take part in a variety of activities such as indoor games and outdoor modified games at school.
- **Boot Camp** this group of students will be taken through 'boot camp' type activities. These students will learn about healthy eating and keeping active

Cross Country

The 2016 school Cross Country will be held on Tuesday 1st February. Students wishing to improve their fitness are welcome at Cross Country training on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday morning beginning at **8.00am** on the oval. If raining, training will take place in the hall. **This training will begin Week 3 MONDAY 8th FEBRUARY.**



Dates To Remember

2016 Dates	
Monday 25 January 2016	Pupil Free Day
Tuesday 26 January 2016	Australia Day Public Holiday
Wednesday 27 January	School Commences for 2016
Thursday 24 March	Final Day of Term 1
Friday 25 March to Friday 8 April Easter Vacation (2 weeks)	
Monday 11 April 2016	Term 2 Commences
Friday 24 June 2016	Final Day of Term 2
Monday 27 June to Friday 8 July Winter Vacation (2 weeks)	

P & C News

Next Meeting

The next P & C Meeting is our 2016 AGM and will be held on Wednesday 17 February from 6:30pm in the Staffroom. Everyone is welcome.

Tuckshop News

EFTPOS - Payments can be made by Cash or EFTPOS - **A minimum purchase of \$10 must be made.** To guarantee your child gets exactly what they want we recommend that you order their lunch through the bag ordering system. Various items are available over the counter but we cannot guarantee hot food will be available unless it is ordered.

Breakfast Menu – NOT AVAILABLE AFTER 8:30am

Even though it is not printed on the 2015 Menu we do offer a small breakfast menu that can be purchased before school up until 8:30am. Please do not ask for Breakfast Menu items from 8:30am onwards as refusal often offends.

Uniform Shop News

Open Hours - 8:00am – 9:00am Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings and 2:15pm to 3:15pm every Wednesday afternoon. Payment can be made by cash or EFTPOS only, we CANNOT accept cheques.

Secondhand Uniforms - If you have any uniforms at home that your children no longer wear or fit into and if they are good enough for someone else to use please drop them into either the office or the uniform shop as we are always in need of secondhand stock.

NO CREDIT FACILITIES

It is policy that the Uniform Shop and Tuckshop **CANNOT** offer credit to parents, students or staff. So please avoid an awkward situation by not asking staff for credit. Thank you.