



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- **Issue No.1 - 6 February 2015**
- **Message from the Principal**
- **Potential School Re-structure**
- **Newsletters and Term Planners**
- **Meet the Teacher nights- Wednesday, 25 February and Thursday, 26 February**
- **Early Arrivals/Late Pick Ups**
- **Voluntary Contributions and Charges**
- **Assembly**
- **In-term swimming- Tuesday, 3 March- Friday, 13 March**
- **Late Arrivals/Early Pick Ups**
- **In-term Vacations**
- **Student Health Care Summary Form**

Issue No.1 - 6 February 2015

Message from the Principal

Welcome back to all students, families and staff to Maylands Peninsula Primary School in 2015. I hope everyone had a restful and enjoyable Christmas and New Year. I'd like to especially welcome all students and families who may be coming to Maylands Peninsula Primary School for the very first time, especially our Kindergarten students who are transitioning into school over the coming two weeks.

We have had a relatively smooth start to the school year. I would like to congratulate all parents/carers, students and staff for their efforts in making this transition into the school year a most pleasant experience.

With the move of Year 7 students to secondary settings, it was a slightly different look in our assembly area on Monday morning when we gathered the students together for the first time in 2015. The lack of much larger bodies was quite noticeable.

I'd like to welcome the following staff members who are new or returning to the school in 2015:

- Mrs Lesley Watt- (JB5)
- Ms Michelle Martyn- (Kindy A/B and PP1)

I would like to remind parents/carers that if you have any concerns

- **School Chaplaincy programme**
- **Breakfast Club**
- **Library News**
- **Maylands Peninsula P&C Association- 'Get on board'.**
- **Book Club**
- **School Canteen**
- **Student Banking**
- **Primary Music Institute**
- **Ascot Kayak Club**

COMING EVENTS

S1 Assembly- **Friday, 13 February**

Camp Quality Incursion
(Pre Primary- Year 3)- **Monday, 16 February**

Meet the Teacher night
(Kindy and Year 4-6) -
Wednesday, 26 February

Meet the Teacher night
(Pre Primary and Year1-3) - **Thursday, 26 February**

S2 Assembly-
Friday, 27 February

Labour Day holiday-
Monday, 2 March

In-term Swimming commences- (PP- Year 6)
Tuesday, 3 March- Friday, 14 March inclusive.

P&C CONTACTS:

Main email:

pac@mpps.wa.edu.au

Canteen email:

canteen@mpps.wa.edu.au

Canteen orders:

Our Online Canteen

regarding any aspect of your child's schooling, the first point of contact should be your child's classroom teacher(s). Please arrange a mutually convenient time either directly with the teacher or through the office. Furthermore, feel free to make a time with Mrs Johnson, Mrs Alver or myself if you would like to discuss any matter relating to school or its operations.

I look forward to working alongside a highly committed and dedicated staff, our wonderful students and in collaboration with our parents/carers and local community members.

Potential School Re-structure

As highlighted in the letter sent home to all families on Monday, proposed school structures can change dramatically over the summer break as students enrol or leave the school. Over the last week, the school Leadership Team has been assessing the overall impact that these arrivals/departures have on staffing. On our initial 'Crunching of the numbers' it appears that a re-structure is on the cards due to the close to/above capacity numbers in some classes. However, no decision will be made until every student that is currently on our class lists has been accounted for.

I shall inform the school community of the outcome of this process once the school's staffing entitlement has been confirmed and class structures have been finalised. I appreciated your patience and understanding on this matter.

Newsletters and Term Planners

Every fortnight from Friday, 20 February an SMS alert/email will be sent out to all families with the link to the school newsletter on our school website. Hard copies will be also available from the school office and the canteen. Please take the time to read through the newsletters as they are the main avenue for communication between the school and home. The Term One School Planner also accompanies this newsletter. All the key dates/activities that are already known to the school have been included. Please keep a copy on the fridge and add in any extra dates that are made known to you throughout the term. For those families new to our school, the school's web address is <http://www.mpps.wa.edu.au/> Furthermore, as a general rule any hard copy, whole-school information e.g. Book Club order forms, In-term swimming notes etc will be sent home via the oldest/only child in each family on Thursday afternoons via classrooms.



Messages for the Canteen or the P&C can be placed in class canteen baskets.

SCHOOL ETHOS

We at Maylands Peninsula Primary School are committed to:

Encouraging students to be successful learners.

The principles of developmental learning.

Life-long learning and reflective practices.

Developing attitudes and values of care and concern for self, others and the environment.

Maintaining a safe environment for all.

Building partnerships with students, parents and the community.

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Richard and Sandy Catlin
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Meet the Teacher nights- Wednesday, 25 February and Thursday, 26 February

We know that learning and teaching is most effective when students, parents/carers and staff work together in partnership to meet the needs of each individual child. As a result, teaching staff will be holding Parent Information meetings on Wednesday, 25 February (Kindy and Year 4-6) and Thursday, 26 February (Pre Primary and Year 1-3) starting at 6.30pm and concluding at 7.00pm. This will provide the opportunity for the teacher(s) to explain various aspects about the class and its day-to-day operations. Furthermore, each teacher will provide a Parent Information Book- which will be sent home on Thursday, 19 February- to help support this process.



If any parents/carers are unable to make the meetings, please feel free to make an alternative time to meet with your child's classroom teacher.

Early Arrivals/Late Pick Ups

I would like to remind all families that the school does not provide before school supervision, as such, it would be appreciated that parents/carers not bring students to school earlier than 8.30am. Any student and family member/carer that arrives earlier than 8.30am must make their way to the undercover and central courtyard area where they will be supervised by Mr Andrijich and Mrs Johnson/Mrs Alver.

At the conclusion of the school day, any students who haven't been collected by 3.15pm will either be brought to the office by staff for supervision, in the case of our younger students, or expected to make their own way to the office under their own steam for our older students. Contact with parents/carers will then be made by the office staff. For the safety of your children please do not make arrangements for your child(ren) to wait in car park areas or out on Gibbney Reserve for extended periods of time awaiting collection as this may put them at risk. They must come to the office.

Please contact a member of the office if you require any additional information about these arrangements.

Voluntary Contributions and Charges



Voluntary Contributions and Charges form an integral part of the school's financial budget each year. These monies are used to purchase resources and materials as part of the

Teaching and Learning programmes offered by staff and goes directly towards improving outcomes for children. In 2015, the School Board has approved a flat rate of \$30.00 per student for each child from Kindergarten to Year 6. Please feel free to see Ms Madden or Mrs Millar in the office to arrange payment at your earliest possible convenience. At the request of parents/carers, reminder notices will be posted out throughout the year for those families who would prefer to pay their Voluntary Contribution and Charges later in the year once uniforms, booklists etc have been attended to.

Assembly

As has been the case in previous years, assemblies are held each Friday fortnight just after the commencement of the school day at 8.45am. Each class teacher will award Merit Certificates at every assembly.



Furthermore, you will also notice on the Term Planner that Excellence Awards and Aussie of the Month Awards will be presented on alternative assembly dates. We are again very fortunate to have the continued sponsorship of Harcourts Integrity who provide our Academic Excellence Awards, Bosch Timber Flooring, who present our Writer of the Month prize and Finance 4 You who supply our Science Excellence Award. Our senior classes will host the assemblies this term with Mrs Turvey's Year 6- S1 class starting proceedings on Friday, 13 February. I look forward to seeing many members of our school community out in support.

In-term swimming- Tuesday, 3 March- Friday, 13 March



Next Thursday, 12 February, all families will receive some preliminary information regarding the arrangements for In-term swimming for our Pre Primary to Year 6 students which is taking place in Weeks 5 and 6 of this term. I would encourage all parents/carers to read the information

carefully in order to have a thorough understanding of the schedule and arrangements being put in place. The cost for this year's In-term swimming will be \$40.00 per participant. A reminder to all parents/carers that this charge covers bus hire and pool entry only as the Department of Education covers the cost of the swimming lessons themselves. Please forward payment and swimming forms to your child's classroom teacher or directly to the office at your earliest possible convenience. If up-front payment is of concern to some families, a payment plan can be entered into with Ms Madden in the school office to ensure that all students have the opportunity to

participate.

Furthermore, due to increased classes, we are not able to have all students back at school for the 2.30pm early close during these weeks. As a result, there will be no early close for entire school (including Kindy students) on Tuesday, 3 March and Tuesday, 10 March. School will finish at the regular 3.00pm time on these days.

Like reading and writing, being able to swim is an essential life skill. There is an expectation that all students will participate in In-term swimming lessons regardless of age or ability. Please see Mrs Alver if you have any questions or concerns regarding the swimming lessons themselves.

Late Arrivals/Early Pick Ups

As per the Department of Education's Attendance Policy, any students who arrive after the commencement of the school day at 8.45am will be asked to go to the office to collect a Late Slip. This will allow the school to keep an eye on issues regarding school tardiness. Conversely, any student that needs to be collected before the scheduled end of the school day at 3.00pm (2.30pm on early close Tuesday), will need an Early Departure Slip from the school office. Please do not be affronted if staff ask you to go to the office in the event that you front up to the classroom door without this documentation. The general rule is if you arrive late, or need to go early, pass by the school office first. Thank you for your understanding on this matter.

The image shows a rectangular form titled "LATE - SLIP". It contains four lines of text, each followed by a horizontal line for writing: "Name", "Late", "Date", and "Signed".

In-term Vacations

On the attendance theme, in early 2014, the Department of Education put in place new protocols for recording student absence for In-term vacations. This was in response to the large numbers of students across the state taking vacations during the school term.

As a consequence, parents/carers are reminded of the requirement to make contact with a member of the Leadership Team- principally Mr Andrijich- to discuss the reasons why your child(ren) will be absent during the school term, nominate the length of stay, expected return date etc. Once this meeting takes place, the Leadership Team will use their discretion to determine if a student's absence for a vacation is justified (authorised) e.g. family wedding, significant cultural or religious event as opposed to a family holiday (unauthorised) e.g. sipping cocktails in Bali or swimming at 'The Basin' at Rottneest.

So if you are intending to take children out of school during school

term, please make a time to meet with Mr Andrijich through the school office.

Every day matters with your child's education.

Student Health Care Summary Form

Accompanying this newsletter is a 'Student Health Care Summary' form which is completed by parents/carers at the commencement of the school year. A copy of this form is retained at the office and classroom level for staff to refer to when planning excursions or attending school events outside of school- such as In-term swimming and Edu Dance rehearsal.

By completing this form, parents/carers will not be required to fill in the same form again when your child(ren) leaves the school grounds for any school related activity throughout the year. Any subsequent excursion paperwork that is sent home throughout the year will ask you to simply tick a box indicating whether your child's health care needs that are listed on this summary form are current. However, if there is a change of circumstances regarding contact details or student health care needs, it is imperative that the office is notified and a new form completed.

Could all forms be returned to your child's classroom teacher or to office staff by Friday, 20 February 2015.

School Chaplaincy programme

As mentioned in the last newsletter of 2014, Maylands Peninsula Primary School was one of 250 schools that were unsuccessful in obtaining funding for the 2015-2016 National School Chaplaincy Programme. Further to this, due to public outcry, the Education Minister, Mr Peter Collier announced in late December that the Department of Education would pick up the shortfall in funding to accommodate an additional 71 school chaplaincy places in government schools. Again, we were not fortunate enough to go be one of the schools to receive funding.

Nevertheless, the school is in conversation with YouthCare, the managing authority, to determine what options are available in terms of maintaining some level of chaplaincy within the school using carry over funds from 2014. I shall keep the school community informed of any developments as they come to light.

On a related note, some members of our school community may have seen Ms Spatara's smiling face in an article about school chaplaincy that was published in *The West Australian* in January of this year. Ms Spatara is now working at Burbridge PS, Bambara PS and Eddystone

PS in the northern suburbs. On behalf of the school community, I would like to thank Ms Spatara for her work with our school over the previous 18 months and wish her well in her new schools.

Breakfast Club

For Term One, Breakfast Club will operate every Tuesday and Thursday morning commencing Tuesday, 10 February in the Art Room. For those families new to the school, Breakfast Club is open to all students from 7.55-8.25am and provides an opportunity to be part of the school community in a fun and socially



responsible way. One of our parents, Mrs Hayley Doan, has 'Stepped up to the plate' and offered her assistance to coordinate the Breakfast Club programme in lieu of a school chaplain. Hayley will be assisted by members of staff in the day-to-day operations each Tuesday and Thursday morning. On behalf of the school community, I would like to thank Hayley for assisting the school maintain this service in 2015.

Library News



Welcome back everyone and a special welcome to our new families. We hope you all had a relaxing holiday and managed to keep out of the heat most of the time.

With the New Year comes our annual reminder:

- Each class has it individual borrowing time.
- A library bag **MUST** be used to borrow.
- If an extension to the loan is required, please bring in book to be re-scanned.
- Please encourage your children to remember their library day and return their books on time.
- The library is open on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday before and after school. Feel free to drop in with your child and have a look around.

Thank you

Debbie Fielding/Helen Jones – Library Officers

Maylands Peninsula P&C Association- 'Get on board'.

Maylands Peninsula Primary School Parents and Citizens' Association President Teresa Borwick joins with the School Principal

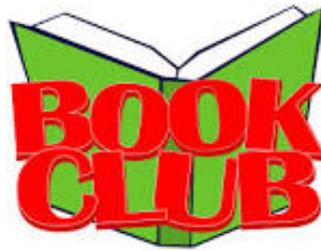
and Teachers to welcome you to our school community and encourages you to get on board by participating and joining in the activities of the Parents and Citizens' Association.

The P&C Association meets on the first Wednesday of each month in the school staffroom at 7.00pm. The first scheduled meeting of 2015 is Wednesday, 4 March.

"Parents/carers and family members of our children can 'Get on board' by way of volunteering time, selling raffle tickets, providing cakes or foodstuffs for carnival days and much more," said Teresa, she can be contacted on 0419043485 for a chat on how you could get involved.

Regards
Teresa Borwick
Maylands Peninsula PS P&C President

Book Club



In years past, the provision of the Ashton Scholastic Book Club service has been undertaken by the school- principally by the Ms Abel, our school library officer and more recently, by Ms Spatara. In years past, when our school numbers were considerably smaller, the time and effort required to manage the process of distributing order forms, collecting money, ordering the books and handing them out when they arrive in school was time consuming, but manageable. However, with the increase in school numbers and the associated time and effort required to maintain library 'core business', this service was becoming increasingly difficult to manage. This concern was 'flagged' at the last P&C meeting of the year in the hope that a member of the school community may be able to take on the Book Club coordinator role. I am pleased to say that one of our parents, Mrs Miriam Xavier, is happy to take on this role in 2015. Thank you, Miriam.

As Miriam is new to the role, she will need some time to undertake some training in order to become familiar with ordering processes. As such, I am confident that everyone in the school community will show the required level of patience and understanding as Miriam begins her training.

School Canteen

Welcome to all for 2015. Helen and I are looking forward to another busy year in the 'Tummy Rumbles' canteen feeding the hungry

hoards. You may also notice a new face in the canteen in Denise McVee, who has now been employed by the school P&C to work in the canteen a couple of days a week.



Even though there is an extra body in the canteen, we are always on the lookout for volunteers. If you think you can help out, even for three hours once a term or once a month, we would love to see you. Simply call into the Canteen and speak to us or phone us on 9473 4111 to discuss any queries you have.

"Our Online Canteen" is our preferred method of ordering, so for those not familiar with this facility please visit - ouronlinecanteen.com.au - for further information or call their helpful staff on 1300 484 888 with any queries.

Melinda and Helen
Canteen Organisers

Student Banking

Our very popular School Banking programme is up and running again in 2015. Banking takes place every Tuesday morning before school in the library from 8.15-8.30am. If you are new to the school and would like to know more about the programme, please collect an information pack from the school office or come into see one of the lovely school banking ladies next Tuesday morning. By way of information, the school receives \$5.00 for every new account that is opened and 5% of deposits throughout the year. In 2014, this amounted to a little over \$1200.00, which goes directly back into purchasing additional resources for students.

Fiona Hornung
School Banking coordinator

Primary Music Institute



Primary Music Institute (PMI) provides small group and private instrumental music lessons at your school

through our unique keyboard program.

To enrol now please visit our website (www.primarymusicinstitute.com.au). If you have a paper enrolment

form you can either enrol online or fax your completed form to 1300 764 674.

- Lessons are held on school campus – with exact lesson days and times confirmed on an individual student basis depending on availability and school preferences
- Only \$13.50 per child per small group lesson (typically 3-5 students for 30 minutes)
- Our small group lessons provide a fun and affordable opportunity to learn instrumental music
- Structured learning objectives and student development plans – provided as part of the PMI Stars program
 - Outlines a student learning plan for all program participants
 - Each level passed by completing activities across theory, aural and sight reading, scales and performance
- Parental engagement and visibility of student progress – including via open lesson days, progress reports (as part of the PMI Stars program), recitals, school performances, etc.
- Unique curriculum – developed with the input of a panel of musical and education experts
- Continual innovation – led by new Program Directors since mid-2013
- Quality teaching – stringent selection criteria, safety certification, ongoing curriculum development and teacher coaching

For more information about any of the PMI programs please have a look at our website and to receive any further information please contact our Parent Support Team at admin@primarymusicinstitute.com.au or call on 1300 362 824.

Ascot Kayak Club

Ascot Kayak Club is holding a free slalom kayaking —Come and Try day for juniors on Sunday, 1 March from 9.30am to 11.30am. And introducing: Our Paddle Passport Course for Term 1/Term 2 We will be recruiting for our Paddle Passport Course (\$100 for 8 weeks) being held by Slalom Group at Ascot starting Term 1 – Wednesday, 4 March and concluding Term 2 – Wednesday, 6 May (this course doesn't run during school holidays).

Slalom kayaking is an excellent sport for children 9 – 17 years. It gets kids into the great outdoors and enables them develop both physically and mentally. Ascot is Perth's largest kayaking club and is run almost entirely by volunteers.

Please contact Jenny Vogel on 0427 449 824 if you would like to know more.

NEWSLETTER ITEMS

To include items in the school newsletter contact Selina Millar by email

Selina.Millar@education.wa.edu.au

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60 Kelvin Rd
Maylands WA 6051

Ph: 9473 4100

Fax: 9473 4150

MaylandsPeninsula.PS@education.wa.edu.au

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