Dear Parents and Friends of Morisset PS

Welcome back!
It was wonderful to see the students, staff and parents after the well deserved break. I have already told the students I think they have all grown over the holidays. The students are looking fantastic in their school uniforms. If you are having issues with purchasing a school hat please come and see me as it is school hats we are encouraging our students to wear. Over the holidays we had amazing weather! Unfortunately the weather wasn't that amazing on ANZAC day. The parade was cancelled. A special thank you to those students, parents and staff who attended the services at the Morisset RSL representing our school.

Term Calendar
Our term is already filling fast as you can see by the Term 2 calendar. Please be mindful that some of these dates may change with short notice due to unforeseen circumstances. Your child’s term class letter will be out next week to keep parents updated with the learning that is happening in each class. This information can be found on our school website as well. Please note there is a mistake with the return date for students it should be - Term 3 Tuesday 15th July. The Monday is a Staff Development Day. NAPLAN for Years 3 & 5 information is also included in this newsletter. Please come and see the school if you have any questions. I am really looking forward to the activities on June 5th so keep that date free! Thank you to the P&C for organising the Mothers Day stall once again this year. Please help support this wonderful team by having your orders in by Monday 5th May.

Parents Online Payment
We have already had parents who have used the parents online payments to pay for school costs. The feedback is that it is very simple to follow and makes paying for things at school much easier and less time consuming. Please let us know what your experience is when you pay with the online option. Don’t forget you can find the make a payment tab which is located on the front page of our school website above the newsletter and calendar section. If you need any help with this please don’t hesitate to call the office.

School App
I have been told our school app is very close to being launched early in Term 2. This will help with up to date communication with parents. Exciting !!!

Stewart House
Every year we send students to participate in a 2 week all expenses paid visit to Stewart House. Students are given the opportunity to participate in many wonderful experiences and activities. Our school values this organisation and Parliament will be supporting Stewart House by selling the high bounce balls. Parents are able to also support Stewart House by making a gold coin donation in the Stewart House envelope. Your child will be able to come to school out of uniform on that day. Any support is greatly appreciated. Thank you.
At the end of Term 1 the environment group harvested parsley, basil and capsicums. Brock Turnbull and Zoe Shreve organised the bagging and sale of the produce. Proceeds will be used to purchase more materials for the gardens.

Margaret Reynolds.

**Gardening**

I look forward to catching up with you over the term. Please don’t hesitate to say hello or ask questions. Good feedback is also always appreciated. Hopefully we will see some new parents at our next P&C meeting on the 16th May. All parents/grandparents are very welcome in being a part of making decisions that impact on our students/school and community.

Make the most of the awesome moments.

Kathy Duncan
Principal

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**2014 SELECTION FOR YEAR 5 OPPORTUNITY CLASS PLACEMENT IN 2015**

Applications for Year 5, 2015 Opportunity Class Placement are now open. Apply online at: www.school.nsw.edu.au/ocplacement

Applications close on **Friday 16 May 2014**.

Check the website for more details about applying. Some applications are available from the school office if you do not have access to the internet.

**Key Dates:**
- Friday 16 May 2014 - Applications close
- Wednesday 9 July 2014 - Test centre advice received by parents or carers
- Wednesday 23 July 2014 - Opportunity class placement test
- October 2014 - Outcome advice sent

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**CARING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AT MPS**

Kindy kids miss out on gardening every week, so on the last day of Term 1 Mrs Reynolds helped Madeleine, Nate, Ava and Grace build three scarecrows near their garden plots. As the photos show, they are not quite finished but lots of fun was had. These little people will make great environmentalists, as they provided all the materials for the scarecrows from recycled goods!

Next job is to plant herbs and veggies in the gardens.
**P & C NEWS**

**Mother’s Day Stall** – The stall will be next Thursday 8\(^{th}\) May. The stall will be run as previous years. Order forms have been sent home late last term. Please fill out the order form and send in with the amount of gifts your child wants to get on the day with correct money by next Monday 5\(^{th}\) May, so we have time to have enough gifts ready for the day. If your order form has been misplaced, please pick up another from the office.

**Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea** - Raising money for The Cancer Council, will be held on Thursday 5\(^{th}\) June. We will be entertained by our beautiful children singing in the junior & senior choir and Drumming groups. Please come and join us for this very worthwhile cause.

**Thompson Pie Drive** – Will be run at the end of this term just in time for the next school holidays. Order forms will be sent out with the Newsletter in Week 5.

Next **P & C Meeting** will be held on Friday 16th May in the Community/Multipurpose Room at 9.15am.

Reminder of the **Shopping Bus Trip Fundraiser** on Sunday 19th October. Put in your Diaries! Lots of fun! Lots of shopping! Delicious lunch! Fantastic Company! More information will be sent home shortly.

Another busy term!!

Thank you and have a great week.

Rebecca Harridge
P&C President

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**DATES TO REMEMBER**

**APRIL 2014**

**TERM 2**

**Week 1**

Fri 2 Zone Cross Country

**MAY**

**Week 2**

Mon 5 Money due for Mothers Day Stall
Girls Cricket Knock Out
Tues 6 Starstruck rehearsal
Wed 7 Rookies Workshop Yr 6
Thurs 8 Mothers Day Stall

**THURS 8 - ASSEMBLY 4/5D**

Fri 9 Stewart House Mufti Day
Regional Cross Country

**Week 3**

Tues 13 NAPLAN Yrs 3 & 5 - Writing
Wed 14 NAPLAN Yrs 3 & 5 - Reading
Thurs 15 NAPLAN Yrs 3 & 5 – Numeracy
Fri 16 P & C Meeting 9.15am
Walk Safely to School Day

**Week 4**

Tues 20 ICAS Competition - Computer
Wed 21 GRIP Leadership Excursion

**Week 5**

Mon 26 National Sorry Day
Wed 28 Lake Macquarie Parent Night-Speech
Pathologist @ MPS Hall

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**You Can Do It Awards**

**TERM 1 WEEK 11**

K/1CA - *Quinn Harrison* - Always keeps trying
K/1G - *Katelyn Dawe* - Always keeps trying
1K - *Isla Davis* - Persistent in all her school work
1/2O - *Harrison Bailey* - Persistent with all tasks
2B - *Anya McAndrew* - Always persisting with her class work
3N - *Rebecca McBride* - Persistence with story writing
3/4KW - *Shayla Ridley* - Always persistent
4/5D - *Summer Visocchi* - Always persisting with her class work
5/6G - *Zac Oliver* - Persisting with all his class work
5/6W - *Noah Leist* - Always persistent in maths and literacy
Make Online Payments

It is now possible for parents to make online payments to the school for amounts owing for students, via a secure payment page hosted by Westpac. Payments can be made using either a Visa or MasterCard credit or debit card. The payment page is accessed from the front page of the school's website by selecting $ Make a payment.

Items that can be paid include voluntary school contributions, subject contributions, excursions, sales to students and creative and practical arts activities (these include band, drama and dance). There is also a category called Other, this to cover items not covered in the previous headings, Other can be used to make a complete payment of a school invoice.

When you access the $ Make a payment you must enter:

- the student's name, and
- class and reference number OR
- the student's name, and
- date of birth.

These details are entered each time you make a payment as student information is not held within the payment system. There is also the option to enter the Student Registration Number and Invoice number if you are aware of them, these are optional fields.

This is a secure payment system hosted by Westpac to ensure that your credit/debit card details are captured in a secure manner, these details are not passed back to the school.

You have the ability to check and change any details of the payment before the payment is processed. Receipts can be emailed and/or printed.

Details of the payments are passed daily to the school where they will be receipted against your child’s account. As a receipt has been issued from the payment page a further receipt will not be issued by the school.

For any enquiries regarding the Online Payment process please contact the School Administration Office.

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**Canteen Reminder**

*Please remember to take lunch orders to the canteen as soon as you arrive at school and put your child’s name and class on their lunch order.*

Thank you

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**Stewart House Day**

**Friday 9th May**

The School will be holding a mufti day and fundraiser for Stewart House on Friday 9th May. Envelopes are being sent out with the newsletter today for donations.

Bring back your Stewart House Envelope with a gold coin donation for *Out of Uniform Day*! Fill out the envelope for a chance to win a family holiday.

Joey and Sam will be selling -

**Special Stewart House High Bounce Balls** for $3.00 each on the day.

All proceeds on this day will go to Stewart House, a charity which is dedicated to helping students in need.

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**Book Club**

Book club orders and money are due back on Friday 9th May. Please make sure you write the students name and class on the order form.

Thank you

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INFORMATION FOR PARENTS OF STUDENTS IN YEARS 3 & 5

BOSTES  
BOARD OF STUDIES  
TEACHING & EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS NSW

National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy 2014  
LETTER TO PARENTS

In May 2014 the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) will be completed by students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. NAPLAN has the support of all State and Territory Education Ministers and will assess the literacy and numeracy skills of students across Australian schools.

The results of the tests will provide important information to schools about what each student can do, and will be used to support teaching and learning programs. Parents will receive a report indicating their child’s level of achievement. Each student’s level of achievement will be reported against the national minimum standard.

Background information (student name, gender, date of birth, language background and Aboriginality) will be collected as part of the National Assessment Program. This information is treated confidentially and held securely to ensure that every student’s right to privacy is maintained.

The NAPLAN tests will be conducted from 13 - 15 May 2014.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>TUESDAY 13 MAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY 14 MAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY 15 MAY</th>
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| Language Conventions  
(Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) | Reading | Numeracy  
(Number, Algebra, function and pattern; Chance and data; Measurement and Space) |
| Writing | | |

In the Numeracy tests students do not require any measuring tools such as rulers or protractors. In Years 7 and 9 there will be two Numeracy tests: one where a calculator is allowed and one where calculators are not to be used. For the calculator test, the student should use the calculator that they currently use at school.

Friday 16 May – A ‘catch-up’ day is scheduled for students who missed a test or were absent on a test day.

Students may be considered for exemption from the tests if:

- they are newly arrived in Australia (less than one year before the test) and with a language background other than English, or
- they have significant intellectual disability and/or significant co-existing conditions which severely limit their capacity to participate in the tests.

All other students are expected to participate in the tests. Disability adjustments which reflect the student’s normal level of support in the classroom may be provided. Large print, Braille, coloured paper versions and electronic tests are available to meet the needs of individual students.

Access to disability adjustment or exemption from the tests must be discussed with the school Principal and a parent or carer consent form must be signed.

Students may be withdrawn from NAPLAN by their parent or carer. This is a matter for consideration by parents in consultation with the Principal. If you wish to withdraw your child from the tests, a parent or carer consent form must be signed.

Please make an appointment with the Principal of the school your child attends if you would like to discuss your child’s participation in NAPLAN.

Additional information about NAPLAN can be found at www.nap.edu.au/NAPLAN/Parent_Carer_support/index.html.
Milo in2CRICKET is coming to Charlestown Indoor Sports Centre

The MILO in2CRICKET program will offer boys and girls aged 5 to 10 years the opportunity to learn lots of new cricket skills like batting, bowling, catching and throwing whilst most importantly – HAVING FUN!

This program will operate on Friday afternoons for 6 weeks at Charlestown Indoor Sports Centre from 4pm till 5pm commencing on May 16th. This program will be run by Cricket NSW staff with the cost $80 per child (includes Milo in2CRICKET participant pack - shirt, hat, bat, ball, drink bottle & bag)

Parents can register their child/ren online at www.in2CRICKET.com.au

Please direct any questions to Neil via email at Neil.McDonald@cricketnsw.com.au