EXECUTIVE PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

Yamma

The school year is off to a flying start and I am so proud of our students who have returned after a long summer break and engaged back into school routines with minimal fuss.

The executive would like to thank you, the parents, for being patient and understanding whilst we finalise classes. We are doing our best to place your child in the most productive and supportive learning environment possible. You may have observed that class composition for 2014 is looking somewhat different so please come along next Tuesday 25th February at 5.30pm where this information will be shared.

In more detail, about next Tuesday the 25th February....this day has been identified as the day MEPS school community will hold a family fun afternoon. Come and meet the 2014 Moree East Public School staff in particular your child’s teacher and have a look inside their classroom. There are many things that they would like to share with you about their learning space. A BBQ will be operating and organised games will end the afternoon. An information sheet with more details is contained within this newsletter.

Finally, well done to all students who participated in last week’s school swimming carnival and congratulations to all age champions. Good luck to those students who have qualified for the district swimming which will be held this Friday 21st February at the Moree Artesian Aquatic Centre.

Until next week, take care of yourself and each other.

Muriel Kelly
Executive Principal
Moree East PS
A Great Start For Kinder

Kindergarten is off to a good start for 2014.

Kindergarten teacher, Miss Horvat, has been very happy with the way the children have settled into the routines and structure of school.

Kindergarten has been learning about being a learner, being safe and being respectful at school.

All children received a school hat at the whole school assembly in the hall last Friday. These hats will remain at school to be worn during recess and lunch as part of the sun safety policy.

Kindergarten students are fortunate to have the support of Mrs Barwick each Monday and Tuesday as well as the daily support of School Learning Support Officer, Brian Saunders, and Aboriginal Education Officer, Aunty Jacque Draper.

Ms Horvat would also like to thank parents Aunty Bridget and Aunty Lil who have been volunteering when they can. This team approach has helped make the start to school positive for everyone.
On Tuesday the 11th of February, the staff and students of Moree East took part in our annual Swimming Carnival. It was a great day and we all had an enjoyable time.

Many students participated in events that included 50m freestyle, backstroke, breastroke, and 100m freestyle. Novelty events were also held for students that didn’t compete in the swimming races and the teachers even raced!!!!

Many students were confident to take part in the events and are becoming much more aware of why it is important to be able to swim.

The winning house was BOOLOOROO.
Whole School Attendance 93%

Attendance Class of the Week
Kindergarten

Congratulations to all students, parents and staff last week all classes had 100% attendance for the majority of the week.

We have many rewards in place for students to encourage daily attendance including our morning attendance raffle, class celebrations, weekly certificates, birthday rewards if you attend school on your birthday and term reward activities for all students.

Included for your information in this newsletter is information on Compulsory School Attendance and guidelines for what you need to do if your child is sick or if you are going away.

If you have any questions or concerns relating to school attendance, please contact me on 6752 1733.

Kate Brennan
Relieving Assistant Principal
THE SCHOOL DAY

BELL TIMES

SCHOOL STARTS- 8:55am
LUNCH BREAK– 11:10am to 11:40am
RECESS– 1:40pm to 2:10
SCHOOL ENDS– 2:55pm

BREAKFAST CLUB

MEPS operates a breakfast club every morning, Monday to Friday, in the Careunga Kitchen from 8.15am to 8.50am.

EMERGENCY LUNCHES

IF, FOR WHAT EVER REASON IT MAY BE, YOUR CHILD IS NEEDING A SANDWICH AT LUNCH OR RECESS THEN MEPS PROVIDES THIS SERVICE. WE ARE NOT HERE TO JUDGE BUT TO SUPPORT EVERY CHILD’S EDUCATION AND NUTRITION IS A CRITICAL COMPONENT.

FRUIT BREAK

Every day at 10am all classes stop for a fruit break so ensure that you pack a fresh piece of fruit in your child’s lunch box.
CALL FOR VERBAL EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR PARENT REPRESENTATION ON THE MEPS CONNECTED COMMUNITIES – REFERENCE GROUP

As you aware Moree East Public School is a Connected Communities school. A critical element of the Connected Communities strategy is a School Reference Group. The Group is made up of representatives from key stakeholders that have a vested interest in improving the educational outcomes of Moree East PS students. The Group provides advice to the Executive Principal on the implementation of the Connected Communities strategy.

The Group is calling for verbal expressions of interest from parents of the Moree East PS students.

If you are interested and are able to commit yourself to task by attending meetings then please contact myself or Matthew Priestley on 67521733 or better yet come on in see us.

We will be able to provide you with more detailed information about the Reference Group and what the role and responsibility of being a parent representative entails.

Let your voice be heard!!!
Come and meet the MEPS staff at a Family Fun Evening.

On Tuesday 25th February a Family Fun Evening will be held on the front lawn of MEPS.

This is a prime opportunity for parents and carers to come and meet the MEPS staff for 2014 in a relaxing environment.

Classrooms will be open so your child can show off their learning space.

Bring a picnic rug and relax whilst your child joins in organised games.

A BBQ will be operating and you can purchase sausage sandwiches for $1.00, drinks for $1.00, and ice sticks for 50 cents.
Compulsory school attendance
Information for parents

The compulsory years of schooling

In New South Wales, all children from six years of age are legally required to attend school or be registered for home schooling. After they complete Year 10 and until they turn 17 years of age, students then have the following options. They may also be in:

- full-time further education and training (e.g. TAFE, traineeship, apprenticeship);
- full-time, paid employment of an average of 25 hours per week; or
- a combination of both of the above.

Children are expected to attend all school activities, on time. Regular attendance helps your child:

- develop the skills needed to access the world of work and other opportunities
- to learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- make and keep friendships.

What if my child has to be away from school?

If your child has to be absent from school, you must tell the school and provide a reason for your child’s absence. To explain an absence parents and carers may be required to:

- send a note to the school, or contact the school via electronic means such as SMS text message, fax or email, or
- telephone the school, or
- visit the school.

A small number of absences may be accepted by the principal. For example, if your child:

- has to go to a special religious ceremony
- is required to attend a serious or urgent family situation (e.g. a funeral)
- is too sick to go to school or has an infectious illness.

Did you know that if a student misses as little as eight days in a school term, by the end of primary school they will have missed over a year of education?
ATTENDANCE

What are school Principals responsible for?

Principals help to ensure the safety, welfare and wellbeing of your child. Principals have to keep accurate records of student attendance and the reasons for any absences. Principals are responsible for accepting or not accepting a parent’s explanations for their child’s absences. Principals may request further information from parents for long or frequent absences, even where they are explained by parents as being due to illness.

When absences are unexplained by parents, or the explanations are not accepted by the principal, the school will work with parents to help address the issue. The main aim is to sort out what is preventing the child from getting to school and putting strategies in place to help. Sometimes, the school will ask support staff and other agencies to assist.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department may take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unacceptable absences from school. Some of the following actions may be undertaken.

- Attendance meetings and compulsory attendance conferences
- Applications to the Children’s Court – A Compulsory Schooling Order
- Prosecution in the Local Court

Further information regarding school attendance can be obtained from the following websites

Policy, information and brochures:
http://www.sCHOOLS.nsw.edu.au/gotoschool/a-z/attendance.php

The school leaving age:

Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are provided, where possible, for parents/carers who do not speak or understand English well and for Deaf parents/carers who use sign language. The Telephone Interpreter Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week at the telephone number: 131 450. You will not be charged for this service.

See the website address:
Meet Beyond Empathy’s new Mubali ladies, Merinda Johnson and Tornelle Austin.

The Mubali Belly Casting Project has taken up residence in Moree East Public School’s Community room and will be running on Wednesdays and Thursdays 10-3pm during the school term.

Merinda and Tornelle will continue belly casting plaster work and painting there, after the moulds are made with the AMHS midwives at the hospital for first time mums-to-be. If you are a Mubali mum or dad please come and join them working on and painting your belly cast and participate in a program of visiting artists, health and community service partners. Bubs and toddlers are welcome.

For more information, access and parking come to the entrance beside Boughton Oval on the corner of Balo St, Wednesday or Thursday 10-3, and text or call Merinda 0405 261 818 or Tornelle 0455 367 949.

Beyond Empathy Sea of Bellies project coordinator—Jo Davidson jo@be.org.au
02 65877178 or 0419 634842 or check out our websites www.be.org.au & www.seaofbellies.org.au
WHAT’S HAPPENING AT THE PCYC?

The Moree PCYC has some exciting new activities in 2014 for school aged children and there has been some changes to the previous timetable;

**Laser Tag** - The 1st, 2nd & 3rd Fridays each month from 6pm - 9pm. The cost is $5 per game or 3 games for $12. Each game runs for 15 minutes of adrenaline pumping action packed fun. Laser tag is also available for hire on Saturday & Sundays for Birthday parties, Team Bonding sessions, Businesses and Youth Groups. Ages 5+

**Blue Light Disco** - The last Friday of each month and the cost is $5. Junior Disco runs from 6pm - 7:30pm and the Seniors from 8pm - 10pm

**Gymnastics** - Thursdays 3:30pm - 5:15pm. Please note a change to costing due to affiliation now with Gymnastics NSW and they are as follows; $40 term fee and $35 affiliation fee with Gymnastics NSW (Please note affiliation fee is for 12 months). Ages 5+

**Brazilian Jui Jitsu** - Has now moved to Tuesday Night at 6pm and cost is $5. Ages 5+

**Archery** - Has now moved to Tuesday at 6pm and cost is $5. Ages 5+

**Physical Culture** - An exciting move for the Moree PCYC as it is now called home for the Moree Physical Culture club for 2014. If you wish to participate please contact club for more information.

**Junior Futsal** - We are requesting interested parents to come along on Wednesday at 4pm to the Moree PCYC to hopefully generate enough interest to continue Futsal at our club. We hope to operate a competition with a minimum of four teams and need parental guidance and confirmation of children attendances before futsal will operate.

**Junior Netball** - We are looking to run a Junior Indoor Netball competition of a Tuesday afternoon. We are asking all parents/ friends that are interested and willing to help to contact the Moree PCYC.

Please note to participate in the above you must be a current member of the Moree PCYC. Junior Membership for 12 months is $10. Please find our updated timetable for 2014 at [www.pcycnsw.org.au/moree](http://www.pcycnsw.org.au/moree)

For all other information please contact the club on 02 67523741
POSITION VACANT:
The Site Coordinator – HIPPY Moree will coordinate the development and implementation of the HIPPY program at the Moree site.

The Position Aims:

To co-ordinate the Miyay Birray Youth Service HIPPY program. Work with children and families within Moree to ensure efficient and effective program delivery.

To contribute to the development of HIPPY ensuring effective promotion of the program throughout the broader community, and recruiting children and families who will most benefit from HIPPY.

To supervise, train and support home tutors, volunteers and students.

To prepare a timely budget, and manage and monitor budget performance ensuring accountable, effective and efficient utilisation of resources.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES:

Program Development

Recruit families and home tutors to participate in the program and to support their continuing involvement.

Select, train and support HIPPY Home Tutors for the program.

Maintain, resource and support a local Community Advisory Group.

Liaise within the local community, including other early childhood and parenting service providers, local community organisations and local government.

Co-operate with current research projects, and participate in additional research and evaluation as required.

Regular travel within Moree and occasional travel to metro areas for training will also be required.

Program Implementation

Co-ordinate the implementation of the HIPPY program within Moree to ensure efficient and effective program delivery.

Attend Training and site visits to gain knowledge for the Moree program.

Administration

Maintain and continue to develop appropriate and organised administrative systems, including regular reporting, data and issues documentation.

Ensure MBYS policies and procedures are followed, including Occupational Health and Safety protocols.

Supervise and support volunteers as appropriate.

Participate in regular MBYS and HIPPY staff meetings and professional development opportunities.

Prepare reports for HIPPY Australia.

Staff Supervision

Provide support and supervision of HIPPY staff, paid and unpaid.

Ensure all staff are aware of Human Resources practices.

Participate in Performance Development and Review on an annual basis.

Keep line manager informed of all staffing issues.

Financial

Working with the line manager to monitor and participate in the preparation of the site Budget.

Ordering and organising required materials for the HIPPY program.

PROGRAM PURPOSE:

The Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters (HIPPY) is one of the major ways Miyay Birray is working to tackle childhood disadvantage — by supporting the central role of parents in lifting their children out of poverty. The HIPPY initiative has already proved to be most successful in working with families and children aged between 4 and 5 years to build a strong foundation for school success. HIPPY is an early childhood enrichment program which works with parents of young children in disadvantaged communities. Through regular home visiting and group activities over a two year period, parents are provided with the materials, skills and confidence to enable them to better help their children prepare for a successful start to school life.
The program aims to:

- foster a love of learning in children, promoting cognitive and social development and enhancing school readiness
- increase parental skills and confidence as the child’s first teacher
- increase participation in kindergarten, school and community life of otherwise marginalised families
- facilitate community development through developing local leadership capacity in disadvantaged communities
- Keep the line manager informed of Budget performance.
- In consultation with manager to seek and apply for additional funding.

ORGANISATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS:

Reports to: CEO, Miyay Birray Youth Service
Internal Liaisons: Youth Officer
External Liaisons: HIPPY Australia National Coordinator, HIPPY Australia Consultants

KEY SELECTION CRITERIA:

Essential:

Experience in working in an early childhood (0-6 years) service or system and strong foundations in early childhood development and/or early intervention programs for children and their families.

Knowledge of and experience working with children and families, particularly in disadvantaged communities and newly arrived and refugee communities.

Successful experience in working with local

Successful experience leading and managing a team of paid and unpaid staff and able to work with autonomy.

Excellent written and oral communication skills and computer literacy skills (Microsoft Word essential)

Strong administrative, organisational and time management skills

Experience in budgets, accountability and reporting.

Current NSW LR Driver Licence or willingness to obtain one.

Relevant Tertiary Qualifications

Desirable:

- Pre-school and/or primary teaching and curriculum development experience.
- Adult Education Qualifications (eg: Certificate in Workplace Assessment).
- Reading Recovery or other Early Literacy qualification or training.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Education, Early Childhood, Community Development, Bachelor of Social Work, Diploma of Welfare Studies or equivalent qualifications in a related discipline appropriate to the coordination of child, youth family and community services.

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT:

- Conditions as per the Social, Community, Home Care and Disability Services Industry Award 2010:
  - Hours will be Part Time at 30 hours per week;
  - Salary will be in the Social and community services employee level 4 range pro rata.
  - This is a maximum 3 year appointment up to 31 December 2016.
  - It is a condition of employment that all staff take responsibility for a safe and healthy work environment and have a commitment to equal employment opportunity and a workplace free of discrimination and harassment;
  - All staff are expected to behave in accordance with the principles of the Miyay Birray Youth Service (MBYS) Code of Conduct;
  - In accordance with legislative requirements and the Miyay Birray Youth Service (MBYS) and Working with Children Check policies, all MBYS staff and volunteers are required to undergo a Working with Children Check (WWCC);
  - A standard Police Check will be performed on the successful applicant to any position within Aged and Community Services, Children’s and Family Services or Employment Services. The Police Check Policy is designed to increase the assurance of quality care provided to MBYS clients;
  - A three month probationary period applies;

Miyay Birray Youth Service (MBYS) operates a smoke-free work environment

APPLICATIONS CAN BE DROPPED OFF TO THE MBYS OFFICE 3 ENDEAVOUR LANE OR EMAILED TO darrel@miyaybirray.ngo.org.au BY 5PM THURSDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2014.