2014 School Term Dates

Term 4: Last day for students Wednesday 17th December

2015 School Term Dates

Term 1: Staff Development Day Tuesday 27th January
Students return Wednesday 28th January (Years 1-6)
Wednesday 28th–Friday 30th January (Kindy Best Start)
Monday 2nd February (Kindergarten starts)
Last day for students Thursday 2nd April

Term 2: Staff Development Day – Monday 20th April
Students return – Tuesday 21st April
Last day for students Friday 26th June

Term 3: Staff Development Day – Monday 13th July
Students return Tuesday 14th July
Last day for students Friday 18th September

Term 4: Students and Staff return Tuesday 6th October
Last day for students Wednesday 16th December

Week 10A – Wait for adults to finish their conversation before speaking to them and remember to say “Excuse me”, when you do!
(begins Monday 8th December)
End of Term’s Events

Presentation Day is being held on Thursday 11th December

3-6 @ 9:30am-11:30am at Pittwater High School
K-2 @ 12:30pm-1:30pm at Pittwater High School

Years 3-6 Award Recipients, 2014 and 2015 Leadership Team are to go straight to Pittwater High at 8:45am, please leave your school bags with your parents.

Performance Band are to go straight to Pittwater High at 8:45am. Please leave your instruments at PHS for the Big Band Bash at 5:30pm.

Students in Years 3-6 who are NOT receiving an award are to arrive at school at 8:30am. Please meet under the COLA lines as normal then will walk to PHS with your teachers. K-2 will be travelling down by bus at 11:30am and will walk back to school.

Performance Band and 2014 and 2015 Leadership students will stay at Pittwater High until the conclusion of the K-2 ceremony. They will walk back with K-2 and leave their instruments in the hall for the Big Band Bash that evening. These students need their bags/lunch as they will be there the majority of the day.

We look forward to seeing you there.
From the Deputy Principal

You Asked – We Said: Class Formation Myth Busting!

At this time of year, many parents raise questions regarding how classes are formed. In this article we would like to provide you with correct information regarding many of those questions, along with discussing some of the myths that are often present in the school community.

Question: What are composite classes and why are they formed?

Composite classes are formed when the number of students in a grade exceeds the number of teachers allocated to that grade. Each year, the school receives a staffing entitlement report based on the number of students in the school. A staffing ratio is applied to this number and we are then allocated staffing positions to meet the staffing needs of the school.

Towards the end of Term 4 we form classes for the following year based on the guidelines set out by the DEC. As we are staffed on total numbers rather than grade specific numbers, sometimes we need to form slightly smaller or larger classes on some grades depending on their size. In cases where there are several students above the DEC recommendations the school can form “composite” classes by combining students from different grades rather than having straight classes of 35 students or more.

Composite classes are therefore classes made up of students from 2, 3 or even 4 grades. Sometimes the grades are concurrent and in other cases they may skip a grade – eg: 2/4 or 3/5. In country schools, it is not uncommon to have family grouping classes: K-2 and 3-6. Children in composite classes are taught the curriculum from their grade, irrespective of the makeup of the class, and are included in all grade excursions, camps and specialist programs.

When a school chooses to form composite classes a variety of models can be applied. Composite classes can be formed based on independent working ability, remediation or extension opportunities or for specific purposes – eg: a technology class. If a composite class is to be formed based on extension opportunities, then the extension class policy guidelines are followed when selecting students for the class. (See MVPS Extension Class Policy attached)

Question: Will my child be disadvantaged if placed with a younger grade in a composite class?

The simple answer to this question is no. In actual fact, every class could be considered a composite class if you understand that you can have an 18 month age difference between the oldest and the youngest child in any straight class. Add into that mix the differing ability levels of students from highest to lowest and the gap can widen even further.

In a composite class, when you combine students of similar ability levels, regardless of year level, you actually narrow the range in terms of meeting students’ needs. The teacher is able to focus on developing the abilities of like-minded students, allowing for a more streamlined approach to programming for that class. The older students are still catered for at their level, in the same way that they would be in a non-composite class. Independent work habits are obviously desirable in any composite class as there will be times when one grade will be required to work independently on a task while the teacher works with the other grade/s in the room.
Myth: The ‘best’ teachers are given to the extension classes.

Our job as educators is to meet the academic, social and emotional needs of all students, regardless of ability. As a school, when placing teachers on a class we consider the skill set of each teacher and match them to specific groups of children. Some teachers have additional qualifications or skills sets in meeting the needs of students requiring additional support, early childhood education, specialist subject areas or gifted and talented education. Teachers placed on extension classes have these additional skills and are best matched to those students – it does not mean they are ‘better’ than other teachers who have specialist skills in other areas of education.

Myth: Only ‘well behaved’ children are placed in the extension classes.

Students placed in extension classes are selected based on the criteria within the extension class policy. These students represent the broad spectrum of behaviour which exists in any class at Mona Vale Public School.

Myth: OC classes get more activities than other classes.

This is an interesting one. The OC by definition stands for “Opportunity Class”. The OC is a district resource class in which students gaining entry leave their schools to come to the OC to engage in a specific gifted and talented specialist program. Whilst the new students are embraced into our school community and fully participate in all other grade specific events, from time to time they participate in additional external programs or events as part of their specialised program.

Myth: Mona Vale students have a better chance of gaining entry into the OC classes.

This is incorrect. All students seeking entry into the OC classes sit an external exam set by the High Performing Students Unit in the DEC. We have no say in who gains entry into the class – we are sent a list from the Unit once they have determined the successful candidates. The Unit manages all applications and correspondence with families applying for positions.

We hope that answers some of your questions regarding class formation at Mona Vale PS. Our staff spend many hours considering all class placements so that students’ academic, social and emotional needs are best met.

Regards

Mrs Leesa Martin
Deputy Principal
From the Office

Administration hours are Monday to Friday 8:30am – 3:15pm

Don’t forget to order your Text Book and Exercise Books for 2015

Please note orders are to be placed online with 2 different suppliers.

**TEXT BOOKS** - are to be ordered through **Dominie** from now until 16th January 2015.

**EXERCISE BOOKS** - are to be ordered through **Five Senses** from now until 15th December 2014.

Orders for 2015 Kindergarten to Year 4 students can be made online now. Please order for your grade in 2015. If your child is placed in an extension class, Dominie will arrange an alternative text book for your child when classes are finalised at the start of next year.

*Please note students in Year 5 (including OC) and Year 6, 2015 - you will receive instructions on how to order later in the year. Students in Support Classes will be notified individually of their requirements.*

Notes have been emailed and sent home as hard copies to students. Kindergarten 2015 students were given notes at Orientation.

Stationery lists and BYOD information was emailed home last week. All notes, stationery lists and BYOD information has been posted on our website - go to www.monavale-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au and click on the notes tab, then Planning for 2015.

We look forward to all students having text and exercise books delivered to school for their first day in 2015.

**Planning for 2015**

We are currently planning for 2015, if you are leaving Mona Vale Public School next year please email the school on monavale-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au to confirm.

If you will be returning late in 2015 from holidays we also need written confirmation to continue your enrolment. Please email the school and let us know when you are returning.

**Whooping Cough**

We have a diagnosed case of Whooping Cough in Year 3. Please look out for any symptoms. If your child shows any signs of Whooping Cough please go to the doctor for advice.

Thanking you

Mrs Leonie Gallard  
School Administration Manager
This week we acknowledge International Day of People with a Disability

At Mona Vale Public School we are proud to cater for all students’ special needs. Our Support Unit currently comprises of three support classes; one for students with autism and two for students with a moderate intellectual disability. These students participate in many school activities as appropriate. The classes are staffed by specialist teachers and learning support officers who ensure the delivery of rich, quality learning experiences on a daily basis.

Throughout 2014 our support classes have actively joined with other classes across the school to participate in many educational and engaging programs. We wish to thank Stephen Hosking Manager, Quays Marina, Church Point and his wonderful staff for their corporate support of our classes this term. Our students recently experienced a wonderful day on Pittwater with a BBQ lunch at the Basin courtesy of the Quays.

Our students also participate in a wide variety of life-skills programs including shopping, cooking, catching public transport, boating, beach skills, tennis and much more. Finally, a record-breaking 8 support class students recently joined our Year 6 for a 4 day trip to Canberra. What a wonderful experience for all of our students!

Congratulations and thank you to all Year 6 students and staff!

Mrs Annette Palmer
AP (Support)
CONGRATULATIONS and well done to our PSSA teams and their coaches for our Pittwater Zone Spring competition.

Results are as follows:

**Senior Girls Softball**
- A’s - 5th
- B’s - 2nd

**Senior Boys Cricket**
- A’s - 3rd
- B’s - 2nd

**Junior Boys Softball**
- A’s - 7th
- B’s - 6th

**Junior Girls Eagle Tag**
- A’s - 5th
- B’s - 1st!!!!!!!!!!!!! Amazing result girls- undefeated all season.

I’m sure you are looking forward to a well-earned rest and back next year for more sporting fun.

Well done everyone!

Mrs Melissa Stevenson
Teacher
Recently, twenty of our Year 5 students were given the opportunity to visit Pittwater High School and work in partnership with Year 8 students on creative writing skills. Together with Mr Jonathan Leonard, we firstly explored themes, imagery and personification. Then we learned to write story beginnings that would grab a reader's attention and build suspense. We were amazed by the wonderful writing our students produced. Enjoy!

**Courage**

Courage strides through green fields  
She looks fear in the face.  
And spits in its eye.  
Her golden cape sweeps the floor.  
She clenches her fists and feels power coursing through her veins.  
Fear trembles in her presence.  
She wants to conquer her nation and leave none behind.  
She is victory.

_By Sammy, Emily and Ryan_

**Humour**

Humour skips out of his mouth into another soul.  
He creeps into their hearts  
Like a silly spider!  
He is bright: red bow tie, pink top hat, big red poker dotted floppy shoes!  
He slithers into every vein  
Like a snake chasing a mouse.  
People jump with joy and happiness,  
He has come to make them laugh,  
To make their day better,  
To make their day a bundle of sunshine.

_By Levi, Kaye and Blayze_

**Fear**

Fear rapidly scatters across floors,  
She leaks through bodies like a broken pipe,  
Her clothes as dark as night.  
She surrounds the room with terrifying horror.  
He is stuck… frozen… trapped…

_By Will, Jasmine and Lucy_
Anger

Anger flows thick like blood
He moves like a gushing river
He fills up the space that holds him back, ready to burst
He wears a mask, held up by a tall, slender body.
He waits impatiently at the edge.
Finally he blows up and lets loose havoc and destruction.
He wants everything to burn and crumble,
Leaving emptiness.

By Zac and Wil

A Very Peculiar Plague

Click, clack, click, clack. The sound of our footsteps echo down the alleyway.
“Where are we going? What is going to happen to us?
My thoughts come into my head like a flood. The tentacles stretch out above our heads coming closer and closer as we walk forwards.
“Will we make it in time?”
A sudden swoosh, a sudden cry. My heart is throbbing and beating out of my chest.
Darkness.
Footsteps.
More screams.
The comfort of my mother’s hand vanishes. I start running, sprinting. A sudden pain rushes through my body. I hit the ground, breathless, clueless.

By Lily and Toby

The people looked up and there it was. Slowly it glided over the tall buildings into the town. As the sun went down, they emerged from the cloudy sky and their heavy wings whistled in the air. The townspeople dropped their belongings and raced into the dark alleyways trembling with fear.
Two people were left alone as they stepped out of their house.
“Where is everyone?”

By Penny and Abi

Well done budding authors and poets!

Mrs Sarah Bryce
Teacher
REGULAR OPENING HOURS

Mondays 2:30pm – 3:00pm
Tuesdays & Thursdays 8:30am – 10:30am
(When making purchases by cash please keep notes in small denominations)

CLOTHING POOL

If you have a donation for the Uniform Shop please drop them off to the Office if the Uniform Shop is closed. Please do not leave any bags outside the Uniform Shop if it is not open.

HATS

Hats are always available to purchase from the school canteen.

Orders for uniforms can be placed at any time by completing an order form which is available on the website. Enclose your order in an envelope (with payment or credit card authority) and leave it in the grey box at the school office. Uniform purchases can also be processed via Flexischools. Orders will be forwarded to your child in his/her class as soon as possible.

Profits made during the year in the uniform shop are given back to the P&C to support initiatives within the school.

Regards

Mrs Tracey Cranston
Uniform Shop Supervisor
tracey.cranston@det.nsw.edu.au

Volunteers are always needed so if you can spare a couple of hours once or twice a month please text Tracey on Mobile 0427 224 893 or contact her via email.
The canteen will be open the last week of school Monday 15\textsuperscript{th}, Tuesday 16\textsuperscript{th}, Wednesday 17\textsuperscript{th} December for normal recess and ice-blocks at lunch time ONLY.

The canteen will be running the stock down very quickly towards the end of Term 4 so you will notice some items will not be available. There will be very little choice for those children who forget to pack their own lunch during the last week of Term.

**Presentation Day**

As K-2 Presentation Day is 12:30pm-1:30pm on Thursday 11\textsuperscript{th} December there will be NO LUNCH ORDERS available on flexischools that day for K-2 children.

**Sushi**

This term sushi is available on flexischools Monday, Wednesday and Friday. It has become the most popular item on flexischools. It’s great to see so many children enjoying sushi.

**Thank You**

Thank you so much to everyone who has volunteered this year in the canteen.

Thank you to Michelle and Lana for all their support and to Mark, Olivia and Rachel from the P&C for their support throughout the year.

**2015 Menu**

Look out for the new 2015 lunch order menu on Flexischools next year. There will also be some slight price increases due to increases from suppliers.

**2015 Roster**

The volunteer roster for 2015 will be sent out mid January. If you would like to be a canteen volunteer next year and haven’t already let me know, please call me on 9997 2442.

**WEEK 10A ROSTER**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday 8\textsuperscript{th}</th>
<th>Tuesday 9\textsuperscript{th}</th>
<th>Wednesday 10\textsuperscript{th}</th>
<th>Thursday 11\textsuperscript{th}</th>
<th>Friday 12\textsuperscript{th}</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tatum Moane</td>
<td>Sandra Dwyer</td>
<td>Craig Raikuna</td>
<td>Presentation Day</td>
<td>Last Day For Lunch Orders</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lana Mares</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jack Pfeiffer</td>
<td>3-6 Lunch Orders ONLY</td>
<td>Olivia Munro</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Louise Crowther</td>
<td>Biance Berkley</td>
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<td>Hannah Jones</td>
<td>Jenelle Stocken</td>
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**NO LUNCHES WILL BE MADE IN THE LAST WEEK OF TERM.**

Regard

Mrs Rebecca O’Donnell
9997 2442