Presentation Day

I would like to thank the parents who were able to attend our annual Presentation Day awards ceremony which was held at Mittagong RSL on Monday. It was lovely to have so many join us in recognising some of the excellent student achievement at our school in 2015!

Farewell Mrs Bell-Mackie

I would like to congratulate Mrs Bell-Mackie on her recent success at merit selection! Her hard work and dedication at our school has been greatly appreciated and has also allowed our collection of books to transition smoothly to the new Oliver system, the latest management system from the Department of Education. Thank you Mrs Bell-Mackie and we wish you well in starting at your new school in 2016!

Parent Survey

Parents are invited to complete an on-line survey to give us some feedback on our school. The questions are simple and if you do not choose to add comments it can be completed in less than a minute. The link is as follows but it can also be accessed through our school website: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TQ9CPDN

We are always looking to review and where possible improve or maintain quality programs so we would be grateful for the feedback.

Reports

On Monday our Semester Two reports were sent home with students. For parents who may have missed this information last week, I will repeat the following:

I’d like to encourage parents to take the opportunity to review the progress their child has made to date by sitting with them and discussing their grades. Take note of the Effort rating for each area as this is a good indicator of the level of engagement your child has displayed. Also keep in mind that on the scale of attainment a “Sound” ranking is not a poor score. This ranking tells you that your child is performing where they ought to be at this time. I emphasize this as
sometimes parents fear this rating reflects poorly on their child’s achievement as if it were somewhat lacklustre or just barely getting there. Nothing could be further from the truth!

Without overgeneralising things too much, to score “High” your child would have been working at a similar level to one year above their year level. To score an “Outstanding”, their work attainment is considered to be the equivalent of two years ahead. For this reason High’s and Outstanding’s are not lightly given out. In the “olden days” a “C” grade meant an average student. Today C or “Sound” often means a student is performing very well in everything, so don’t miss-read the grade and conclude your child needs to try harder. That conclusion is better read from the effort score. If you have any questions for your child’s teacher in relation to their report please contact our office to make an appointment. Our staff will be happy to answer any queries.

Students finish school on Wednesday December 16 and resume next year on Thursday January 28, with the exception of new Kinder students who will begin classes the following week. Each of these children will shortly receive an allocated time to visit school and complete their Best Start Kinder Evaluation prior to starting class. As this will be the last newsletter for this year, I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season!

Stage 2 News

Stage 2 Market Day & Grandfriends Day was a Great Success. The teachers and students of Stage 2 (including the Year 2 children in 2/3P) wish to extend thanks once again to our wonderful families for their amazing support of our Market/Grandfriends Day. We had loads of positive comments from friends and family about the happy atmosphere, fun activities and delicious refreshments. I would like to acknowledge the work of Miss Michael in organising our day, Mrs Bahls in coordinating the dance and our fabulous admin staff (Mrs Luhr and Mrs Blackburn in particular) for counting all that money! Thanks to your great support, the students of Stage 2 will be enjoying a fabulous pizza party to celebrate the closing of 2015 in grand style.

Many Thanks! On a more general note, I wish to
thank the parents and students from Stage 2 2015 for a fantastically positive year. The ongoing support and enthusiasm is acknowledged and the enthusiasm of the students makes the job of the teachers a joy. We look forward to another positive year in 2016.

**Reading Eggs Have Hatched**

Late this year it was decided that the school would sample a new online literacy resource K-6. The trial period was a great success and so the school has decided to continue the subscription for 2016. The resource is called Reading Eggs (K - 2) and Reading Eggspress (3 - 6). The students who have trialled this resource have thoroughly enjoyed the online interactive site. There are books available, games, spelling activities and many many more items. Each child was given a trial username and password. Should your child have NOT received their trial username and password, please see your class teacher. In 2016, the children will be issued with a new username and password and the subscription will replace the Lexile/ Scholastic Learning Zone component of the resource packs. Students will be issued with their 2016 username and password once these fees have been paid. The trial username and password will be available for children to sample until February 2016. Reading Eggs can be found at [www.readingeggs.com.au](http://www.readingeggs.com.au). There will be a link to Reading Eggs on the Mittagong Public School website, under the ‘Curriculum and Activities’ tab, then ‘Interactive Learning Websites’ page.

**News from the Sports Shed**

Congratulations to all our students who received awards in recognition for their outstanding achievements in sport this year. The sporting opportunities that we are able to offer to our students provide them with valuable experiences that will assist in their personal development as well as their skill set. It is worth mentioning that last week we had a past student Chloe Wilson mentioned in the local paper highlighting her sporting success as she prepares for a week long trip to Fiji playing soccer in the Highlands Rep team. Chloe was our Sports Person Of The Year in 2014 and was selected in the PSSA State Soccer Championships. It is through these school based sports and other sporting commitments and opportunities that enable future success for our students.

**House Fun Days**

This year we trialled a new event for our sports houses which involved each house team hosting a funday each term. These fundays aim to promote self awareness, independence and team spirit while raising money to purchase play and fitness equipment that will enhance our future participation in the Premiers’ Sporting Challenge and fitness programs across the school. This year we raised over $4000 which is an outstanding achievement. Thanks to our house captains, students and teachers who worked together to make these days a success.

**Gymnastics PE Program 2016**

A reminder that Gymnastics 4 Hire will be conducting an 8 week Gymnastics program for all students in K-6 during Term1, 2016. The cost of this program is $23 per student which is great value (under $3 a lesson). Permission notes will go home in the first week of the new school year. If you would like to start making payments towards your child’s participation in gymnastics in 2016, see Mrs Luhr in the office to start an account.
House Captains 2016

As the formalities of Presentation Day have come to an end, we now make considerations for those students who would like to be nominated as House Captains next year. Interested students, who are not members of the 2016 SRC, attended a meeting earlier this week and we discussed the roles, responsibilities and expectations of house captains throughout the year. Just to highlight some of the responsibilities: they work on a rotating roster to maintain the borrowing and tidiness of the sports shed, as well as lead their house team at carnivals and assist in the Junior Tabloid and FunDay events. This will require the successful students to give up some lunchtimes to attend meetings, prepare for carnivals and tend to the sports equipment under teacher supervision. House Captains have been nominated and house meetings have been held this week. The successful candidates will be presented with their House Caps at Friday’s assembly at 12:25pm in the hall during the final assembly of the year.

As we wrap up for the end of the year, I would like to make special mention of thanks to our parents and teachers who have assisted in managing, coaching and supporting our students in all areas of sport this year - school carnivals, tabloid events, gala days, trial selections and knockout competitions. We appreciate coaching, attending training sessions and transporting children to sporting events within our local district and as far as Batemans Bay. Without your support and assistance, these opportunities would not be possible.

Wishing everyone a safe and healthy break.

Michaele Fisher

LIVE LIFE WELL - Health Promoting Schools Initiative

Why reduce television time?

Ø studies have shown we use less energy watching TV than sitting still
Ø TV influences the food choice of kids – Australia has a high rate of food advertising during children’s viewing hours
Ø TV replaces time a child can be active and enjoy physical activity
Ø there is an association between TV watching and being overweight
Ø 40% of children 5 – 12 years report watching an average of two hours or more of television or videos a day.

Being active as a family - If you’d like your child to be healthy, start by looking at yourself and your family. Being active as a family allows you to be good role models, it helps everyone reduce stress, and it’s a chance to have fun together. But it takes some organisation to get going, and effort to maintain.

Building activity into daily life - Usually the biggest hurdle to family activity is finding time, but you don’t need to do everything all the time. Just try and fit a few activities into daily life in a balanced way:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
<th>Sunday</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec Term 4 Week 10</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Annual Presentation 9:30am Reports home</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5/6 Drama 6:30pm</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5/6 Drama 11:30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec Term 4 Week 11</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Gold Pool Day</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Talent Quest Yr 6 Farewell 5:30pm</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Last day for students Yr 6 Pool Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 2016 week 1</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>January AUSTRALIA DAY</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>Staff return to school</td>
<td>28</td>
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HOLIDAYS
• Walk or ride a bike with your child to the local shops or to and from school
• Encourage children to help with household chores such as walking the dog, washing the car or mowing the lawn
• Go for a family walk after dinner
• Keep a football, frisbee, jump rope, scooters or bat and ball in your car at all time.

Stage Three News

The year is almost complete with reports out and students wondering what 2016 might bring for them. Year Six students have had enough of primary school and are ready, but a little bit scared about high school. They will all do well. The Year Six Farewell is beginning outside the school hall at 5:30pm. Parents like to take photos at this time. Invited guests enter the hall at 6:00pm and the night begins. Parents are invited to arrive back at the hall at 8:15pm to watch their child receive their graduation certificate. The evening concludes at 8:30pm. I wish to acknowledge the wonderful organizing and planning that has been going on behind the scenes with our parents who have used their skills and great ideas to put together what is going to be a brilliant night.

On Wednesday the Year Six students are going to Moss Vale Pool at 10:00am to have their pool party. They should bring their swimmers and lunch and money for the canteen which is always popular. They will return to school at 2:30pm to say their farewells to the rest of the school. We have ordered extra boxes of tissues for the event.

Thanks to all parents for your wonderful support during the year and thanks again for raising such wonderful children.

P&C End of year wrap

Well, I just wanted to start my wrap by saying ‘What a YEAR!’ After being elected in March, I have been trying to fill the very big shoes left by Sue Miller. It was a VERY steep learning curve but I think I found my feet around August! We hope to achieve more next year and are always keen to hear from new families. May take time to make a special thanks to the Executive - Georgina Moore, Sarah Farnese, Karen Hill, Lisa Hamilton, Glenys Isbester and Kim Ripley. Without them and their efforts, P&C does not function. I also want to make special mention to Maree Bates who after seven years on P&C has decided to take a break. She has worked tirelessly on the P&C, always coming up with new projects and ideas, helping in and with the canteen and so much more.

Also to Suzie Novak and her team of school bankers getting all the children's school banking done each Friday. A very big thank you also to Lisa and Peter Hamilton and all who volunteer on the sausage sizzle each Friday.

To finish off the year, we hope that you all have collected your cookie dough and all have your Christmas Photos.

We will not be having a BBQ this Friday, but it will resume again in the new year at a date to be advised. Canteen will operate till the last day of school, 16 December and Cindy is hoping to get the new menu up and running when the canteen opens in the second week of Term One 2016.

Remember to LIKE our Facebook page and post questions if you need to know anything at all.

Have a very Merry and Safe Christmas, and most of all, I hope Santa is good to you all! Jen

Thank you 3/4B and 3/4M who decorated the Christmas tree with recycled decorations. This tree will be on display at Bunnings, Mittagong.
Congratulations to the students who received an award at the Assembly on Friday 4/12/2015

**IRON LION**
KS: Gypsy  
1C: Stella  
2/3P: Jaxson

**BRONZE LION**
KN: Sahijpreet  
2B: Alexis

**SILVER LION**
KN: Jackson  
Gib: Johnathan  
1L: Cody, Allison, Olivia  
1C: Ally  
2B: William, Brendan  
2/3P: Chloe

**GOLD LION**
KH: Madelyne, Vincent  
KN: Serylity-Ann, Aaron, Caitlin  
Gib: Bodie, Bam  
1C: Jack  
2B: Jimmy  
2S: Mackenzie, Zayne
2015 Annual Presentation Awards

Most Improved  2S  Jemma D
Most Consistent  2S  Riley Mc
High Achieving Student  2S  Allegra J
Citizenship Award  2S  Will F
Most Improved  3/4B  Rianna W
Most Consistent  3/4B  Hayley F
High Achieving Student  3/4B  Cordelia I
Citizenship Award  3/4B  Miranda C
Most Improved  3/4L  Laura H
Most Consistent  3/4L  Hayley M
High Achieving Student  3/4L  Massimo F
Citizenship Award  3/4L  Blake A
Most Improved  3/4M  Ushas Y
Most Consistent  3/4M  Jackson H
High Achieving Student  3/4M  Scarlett A
Citizenship Award  3/4M  Bonnie C
Most Improved  5A  Georgie B
Most Consistent  5A  Rachel Z
High Achieving Student  5A  Wilfred A
Citizenship Award  5A  Claire B
Most Improved  5F  Flynn M
Most Consistent  5F  Linnea R
High Achieving Student  5F  Tahlia C
Citizenship Award  5F  Matthew F
Most Improved  6A  Braelyn H
Most Consistent  6A  Frances C
High Achieving Student  6A  Elliot M
Citizenship Award  6A  Peta S
Most Improved  6B  Amelia S
Most Consistent  6B  Cohen F
High Achieving Student  6B  Cavell M
Citizenship Award  6B  Will N
Class Award  3-6M  David R
Class Award  3-6M  Eve S
Citizenship Award  3-6M  Clayton O
Class Award  Alex.  Cody C
Class Award  Gib.  Johnathon E

Most Improved  KA  Rory E
Most Consistent  KA  Madison K
High Achieving Student  KA  Oliver L
Citizenship Award  KA  Amelia P
Most Improved  KH  Alexander A
Most Consistent  KH  Ethan C
High Achieving Student  KH  Amelia C
Citizenship Award  KH  Lochlan C
Most Improved  KN  Janil P
Most Consistent  KN  Jenson G
High Achieving Student  KN  Mason A
Citizenship Award  KN  Caitlin B
Most Improved  KS  Georgie P
Most Consistent  KS  Lara B
High Achieving Student  KS  Tane E
Citizenship Award  KS  Amelie J
Most Improved  1E  George P
Most Consistent  1E  James B
High Achieving Student  1E  Matilda C
Citizenship Award  1E  Erica J
Most Improved  1C  Harry I
Most Consistent  1C  Lucas H
High Achieving Student  1C  Sofia N
Citizenship Award  1C  Abigail H
Most Improved  1L  Leylah M
Most Consistent  1L  Jayashruthi P
High Achieving Student  1L  Finn D
Citizenship Award  1L  Michael T
Most Improved  1/2F  Hayley F
Most Consistent  1/2F  Maddison B
High Achieving Student  1/2F  Benjamin S
Citizenship Award  1/2F  Jason C
Most Improved  2/3P  Zayne I
Most Consistent  2/3P  Nevarra B
High Achieving Student  2/3P  Charlotte C
Citizenship Award  2/3P  Hannah W
Most Improved  2B  Issabella B
Most Consistent  2B  Lucas S
High Achieving Student  2B  Joshua H
Citizenship Award  2B  Zen S
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award</th>
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<tr>
<td>SRC</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Claire B</td>
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<td>Henry G</td>
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<td>Rachel Z</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visual Arts Award - Junior</td>
<td>Benjamin S</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visual Arts Award - Senior</td>
<td>Isabell H</td>
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<td>Thompson Health Care Community Service Award</td>
<td>Octavia I</td>
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<td>Sheldon Bequest P&amp;C Award</td>
<td>Natarsha D</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quiet Achiever Award</td>
<td>Mikayla G</td>
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<td>Mittagong CWA - Alma Cayford Award</td>
<td>Caleb T</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rotary Club of Bowral/Mittagong Citizenship Award</td>
<td>Thomas H</td>
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<tr>
<td>Francis Family Award for High Academic Achievement</td>
<td>Elliot M</td>
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<tr>
<td>BHS Academic Scholarship Award</td>
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<tr>
<td>BHS Citizenship &amp; Leadership Scholarship Award</td>
<td>Frances C</td>
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<td>Concert Band Award</td>
<td>Albert F</td>
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<tr>
<td>Junior Choir Award</td>
<td>Matilda C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior Choir Award</td>
<td>Cameron C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Performing Arts Award</td>
<td>Lachlan J</td>
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<tr>
<td>Library Award</td>
<td>Charlie M</td>
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<tr>
<td>Library Award</td>
<td>Elaina F</td>
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<td>Literacy Lions</td>
<td>Poppy W</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading Recovery</td>
<td>Olivia O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming Champion Junior Girl</td>
<td>Emily M</td>
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<td>Swimming Champion Junior Boy</td>
<td>Daniel C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Swimming Champion 11 Year Girl</td>
<td>Kaeley G</td>
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<tr>
<td>Swimming Champion 11 Year Boy</td>
<td>Darcy N</td>
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<td>Swimming Champion Senior Girl</td>
<td>Peta S</td>
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<td>Bailey M</td>
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<td>Alice H</td>
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<tr>
<td>Athletic Champion Senior Boy</td>
<td>Lachlan M</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sport Champion</td>
<td>Riley O</td>
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