School Attendance
This year our school is working on the goal of improved student attendance. We are aiming to reduce the number of whole day absences as well as part day absences. We also hope to reduce unexplained absences by having notes from parents any time a child is away for a full or part day. How can you assist?

We encourage parents to send their children along to school every day that they are well enough to be here. There are times when students will miss a day because they just don’t feel like coming or perhaps a sibling is at home for the day. We would like to avoid this happening. Also if a child has a medical appointment you are encouraged to bring your child to school for the rest of the day when possible. If your child is late to school or has to leave early, please write a note explaining the reason for the absence.

Why is this important?
If a student misses as little as 8 days in a school term, by the end of primary school they’ll have missed over a year of school. Whilst our school as a whole, has a fairly average pattern of attendance compared to other schools, there are a number of students who have a significant number of whole or part day absences each term. Some students are habitually late for reasons that are avoidable with a little more planning or commitment. Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students. The following information from the Department of Education may be helpful to parents:

Arriving at school and class on time:
· Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
· Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
· Give students their friends before class
· Reduces classroom disruption

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

My child won’t go to school.
What should I do?
You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school’s learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?
It is important to understand that the Department of Education may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurrin numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school. Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

· Compulsory Schooling Conferences

You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child’s attendance at school.

· Application to the Children’s Court – Compulsory Schooling Order

If your child’s attendance at school remains unsatisfactory...
the Department may apply to the Children’s Court for a Compulsory Schooling Order. The Children’s Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

· Prosecution in the Local Court

School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child’s full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

Stage Three News
The term is already flying past and we should see a couple of weeks where classes can get stuck into the core business of reading, writing and arithmetic, relatively interruption free.

Stage Two and Three students spent last Wednesday being forensic scientists for the day and were involved in solving the mystery of the disappearance of a twelve year old boy. The clues were taken from the crime scene and tested to deduce what had happened. Students were involved and excited about being able to prove their deductions. It was a very good presentation and we will book it again next year so that Year Five and Year Three students who missed out will have a chance to go next year.

Mrs Anderson and the Year Six Debating team: Frances, Peta, Will and Cavell have been working hard before school in preparation for the regional stage of the Premier’s Debating Challenge. The team left early yesterday to compete in Batemans Bay. The results were very pleasing and they won the first debate only to miss out winning the next debate after an excellent performance. These events would not occur if it were not for the enthusiasm of Mrs Anderson and the wonderful parents Mrs Smith and Mrs Martin who offered to transport and provide support at the competition. They will do us proud.

If your child says they have no home work give them a time tables test. Make them write their errors out and test again. Repeat.

Gavin Murray

News from the Sport Shed...
Regional Athletics
Well done to our students who represented our District and attended the Regional Athletics carnival last Friday at the AIS, Canberra. We had 11 students participate in individual and relay events. Congratulations to Riley, Jacob, Jackson and Justin who achieved personal success in their events. They will represent the Region at the State Athletics Carnival at Homebush Olympic Park on Friday 4th September.

Thanks to our parents for your continued support of your children in attending these fantastic opportunities in sports.

PSSA League Tag Gala Day
All permission notes are due in Friday, 28th August. The PSSA League Tag Gala Day is scheduled to be held on Friday 4th September. All students who are ending should come to school in their school sports uniform. Any students in years 3-6 not ending the gala day are expected to attend school as usual. Parents who have volunteered to manage teams will be contacted during the week with further details once I have received the draw and times.

In the event of the continued inclement weather, the grounds may be closed. If this is the case then the gala day will be held on Friday, 11th
September and a new note will be issued.

**Swim School scheme**
The Swim School Scheme will be running during weeks 8/9 in term 4. All students in years 2/3 will have preferential places offered then years 4-6 will be offered. Notes will be sent home in week 1 Term 4.

**Gymnastics**
Gymnastics will be offered to all students K-6 in Term 1 2016 as part of our school sports program. If you would like to start making financial contributions towards this program please see Mrs Luhr to arrange an account. The cost is $28 per student for an 8 week Gymnastics Program.

*Michele Fisher*

**NATIONAL PARKS and WILDLIFE SERVICE INDIGENOUS EDUCATION DISCOVERY PROGRAM**
When: 2nd and 3rd September
Who: All students from K-6
Cost: No cost as this was included in the resource pack paid at the beginning of the year.

This year as part of our NAIDOC celebrations we have the National Parks and Wild Life Services visiting our school. They will give all students hands on learning experience and opportunities in our Indigenous culture. Activities included are women and men’s business, bush tucker, tools and weapons, interactive activity based on this year’s NAIDOC theme, “Sacred Ground”, they will also be learning music and dance. During the activities photos may be taken for reporting and promotional purposes. If you do not want your child’s photo to be taken please let Mrs Allen know.

**Cinderella by Opera Australia**
Each year we have Opera Australia visit our school and perform a condensed, primary school orientated Opera.
When: Tuesday 8 September
Where: Mittagong School Hall
Cost: $7 per student
Notes have gone home with students. If you would like your child to attend, please return the note with money before Friday 4/9/15.

**Gold Lion Awards**
Exciting news for the students who receive their Gold Lion award this year. Instead of getting a glass Gold Lion they will now receive a Gold Lion badge that they can wear with pride every day. The badge will be presented to the students at the assembly.

*Jay Fawcett*

**Science News**
Every Tuesday and Thursday lunch-time we have a science club where all students are welcome to come and play with interesting stuff. Many children have shown an interest in construction so I am asking for donations of LEGO. There must be mountains of LEGO out there that is not being used and just sitting in storage. Bits that the dog hasn’t chewed are preferred but any donations will be gratefully accepted. It would not take long to build up a supply if all ex LEGO lovers donated even just a few bits. If you have some unused LEGO lying around I would love to be able to offer a pile of it our budding engineers to build and test their ideas.

**3-6M visit Featherdale**
3-6 M has been learning about Australian animals. They spent a day with the many native animals at Featherdale Animal Park. Some of the highlights were meeting Cooper, the koala, seeing the beautiful dingoes and being amazed at the size of the enormous saltwater crocodile. The wombats even woke up and said hello! What a great day of getting to know more about our fascinating wildlife!

*Congratulations to Jemma in 2S who is the first recipient in 2015 to achieve her Gold Award.*
### Community News

**Silver Awards**

Congratulations to the students who received an award at the Assembly on Friday 21/08/2015

**IRON LION**
- 1/2F: Jake
- 1E: James H
- 2S: Cody
- 1L: Alannah

**BRONZE LION**
- KA: Toby, Samuel, Brianna, Ava, Isabella
- KH: Archie, Madelyne, Lochlan, Mikayla, Ethan
- KN: Annastasia, Tristan, Serylity-Ann, Janil
- KS: Noah, Charles
- 1E: Jackson T, Samuel
- 1L: Tully, Charlie, Aleesha
- 1/2F: Phoenix, Maddison, Jesse
- 2B: Hugo, Blake
- 2S: Will, Riley

**SILVER LION**
- KA: Madison, Oliver
- KS: Lara, Tori, Amelie, Georgie
- 1E: Jovie
- 1L: Archie, Jayashruthi
- 1/2F: Kursty
- 2S: David

**GOLD AWARD**
- 2S: Jemma

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### School Calendar 2015

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<th>Monday</th>
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<td>3-6 Tag clinic</td>
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<td>Debating</td>
<td>Senior assembly</td>
<td>Book Club Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept</td>
<td>Term 3</td>
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<td>Fathers Day Stall</td>
<td>P&amp;C mtg</td>
<td>NAIDOC celebrations</td>
<td>League Tag Gala Day</td>
<td>Athletics State Championship</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Choir@ Eisteddfod</td>
<td>Opera Australia Cinderella $7</td>
<td>Chess Comp</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Week 10</td>
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<td>Dance party</td>
<td>Lawson Fun Day</td>
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**Mittagong Cricket Club** is seeking under 12’s, 14’s and 16’s and senior players for the 2015-16 Cricket Season. Registration will take place outside Amart Sports, Mittagong on Saturday the 29th September 2015-16 between 1:00pm and 2:00pm. We will also be seeking under 10’s players for the T20 Big Blast games which start in late October. For further information please contact the Mittagong Cricket Club President on 0431 159 838.