Dear Parents
Welcome back to the new school year. We are looking forward to getting to know better the many new families that have moved to our school in 2016 as well as enjoying the company of our friends from last year! Also welcome to all the new parents of our Kindergarten students for 2016! We again have a large Kinder enrolment and it is pleasing to see how well they are all settling in. Teachers have remarked that they seem settled and very ready for school.

Classes
Thank you to our great parents and teachers who have handled the transition to 2016 beautifully. I appreciate the support we have received in class placements and in our efforts to place students in the best setting for their needs and the needs of the school as a system. It is always a pleasure to work with patient and reasonable folk! We are not heading towards a 19th class at this time so I believe classes will remain stable and as they are for the time being.

Security
Parents are reminded that aside from home time and before school, our gates remain locked to help keep the school grounds safe and secure. Parents are requested not to enter the grounds to wait for their children until after 2.45 pm. If you are coming into the school before 2.45 pm you will need to sign in to our office as a visitor. Until this time the gates will remain locked.

On a similar note, students should not arrive on the school grounds before 8.25 am of a morning. Before this time there are no teachers on duty to supervise students or respond to any incidents. Please make arrangements for family or friends to supervise them at home until the teachers are on duty or contact WOOSHC to arrange before school care on 4861 2866

Book Pack Resource Fees
We are asking any parents who have not already paid their child’s book pack fees to do so now. These fees cover books, text books, some in-school performances and access to some online learning programs that can also be accessed at home at a greatly reduced cost.

Our fees are very low compared to many other public schools. Please help us to keep providing great learning opportunities by paying these fees promptly. If you are having difficulty doing so we will be pleased to discuss assistance options with you.

We thank you for your support and look forward to the year ahead. If you have any personal details that need updating please contact our lovely office ladies on 4871 1020

Notes week 2
Gymnastics - $23 for all students. Money due 15/2.
Swimming carnival - 9 February $6.50 yrs 3-6.
Publication consent - all students, this needs to be done annually.
Resource fees - $50 per student yrs K-6

School Photos
When: Wednesday 17 February
Who: All students will have their photo taken
Cost: Order envelopes will come home with students next week.
Dress code: All students in full summer uniform including black shoes.
Family Photos: There will also be an order form for
siblings at school to have their photos taken together.

School Equipment for Sale
When: Tuesday 9 February from 8am to 9am
Where: at school, morning assembly area
What: old desks, chairs and cupboards
Cost: $5 per item
For more details please ask at the front office.

Kindergarten news
In Kindergarten we have had a very busy and productive start to 2016. It is uplifting to see fresh, shiny and excited faces in the playground every morning with not too many tears, from our Mum’s, Dad’s, family and friends! Our Kindergarten students are in enthusiastic and energetic hands. We welcome back to our Kindergarten team, Miss Jemma Noakes (KN), Miss Rebecca Stirton (KS) and Miss Amanda Legget (K/1L). We would also like to welcome a new member to our team Miss Erin Irons (KI). With our Kindergarten teacher’s professionalism and commitment to students well being and learning 2016 is going to one of the best years yet. Our classes are settling in well to their new routines. Once all classes and students have settled in we will extend an invite for a quick visit into our classrooms.

This week all students received a note regarding school contributions. These contributions go providing valuable learning resources for your children, supporting their education and enabling our teachers to deliver quality educational programs. All students from K-6 are offered the opportunity to take part in Gymnastics lessons. The program is delivered by highly trained instructors and will be starting in week 4 this term. Notes have been sent home regarding this program. A prompt payment will ensure your child to start in the first week of the program. These Gymnastic lessons will be Kindergarten’s sports program for Term 1.

The Early Stage One ‘Meet the Teacher’ afternoon will be held in the coming weeks. This will be a chance to informally meet your child’s kindergarten teacher and find out their class routines. We look forward to getting to know all 2016 Kindergarten students and their families this year.
Stage One News

Welcome back to the new school year. It is wonderful to see the students so excited and enthusiastic about the year ahead. Our 2016 Stage 1 classes are as follows:
K/1L - Miss Leggett
1F - Ms Fawcett
1E - Miss Squires
1/2S - Mrs Schmitzke
2E - Mr Egan
2F - Mrs Fisher
2B - Mrs Scott (Mrs Egan Term 1)

Please take the time to introduce yourself to your child’s teacher and do not hesitate to speak to them if you have any queries or concerns throughout the year. Our Stage 1 ‘Meet the Teacher’ afternoon will be held next Wednesday 10 February from 3.30-4.00pm. This is an opportunity for you to meet your child’s teacher and receive information about what to expect in terms of your child’s learning and classroom routines this year. Each classroom teacher will be available to chat in their classroom from 3.30pm. Please note, parents of children in K/1L should attend the Kindergarten ‘Meet the Teacher’ session.

This week students brought home permission notes for our upcoming swimming carnival and Gymnastics program. Please return completed permission notes and payment at your earliest convenience. School Photos will be held on Wednesday 17 February (Wednesday, Week 4). Please look out for information regarding photos arriving home with your child soon.

Stage Two News

Welcome to all of our returning and new Stage Two families. I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays and are now feeling rejuvenated and ready for a great year of learning ahead. For the first 8 weeks of Term 1, Mrs Julie Penn is on leave and in her absence we welcome Mrs Rachel Smiltnieks to 3P. The other Stage Two classes are as follows: 3L- Mr Lance Leith, 3/4M- Miss Rebecca Michael, 4A-Mr Colin Abbott and 4/5B- Mrs Natalie Bahls.

Stage Two will be holding a ‘Meet the Teacher’ afternoon on Wednesday 17th February. All parents are invited to attend. We will all meet together in the library at 3:15pm to discuss general Stage Two matters then we will go to individual classrooms so that you can hear from your child’s teacher about specific class details. Please note that parents of the Year 4 students who are in 4/5B should attend Stage Three’s information session.

Thank you to all families who have already paid for their child’s book packs. If you have not yet done so, please attend to this soon so that all students can be given their exercise books as well as their Mathletics and Reading Eggs log-in details. These resources are an important part of your child’s learning and we hope to be able to start using them as soon as possible.

Stage Three News

Welcome to Stage Three Year Five students and welcome back Year Six students to your final year at Mittagong Public School.

We have a number of staff changes in Stage Three and we welcome Mr Christodoulopoulos and Mrs Bahls to our Stage and look forward to them sharing their ideas and skills with us. Mrs Anderson and Mrs Buchanan will continue to provide the quality education that they are able to because of their passion for teaching and learning. We are intending to have a parent teacher night next Wednesday the 10th of February starting at 5:30pm. We will all meet in Mrs Anderson’s room. Parents are invited to attend to find out all the exciting things that will happen in their child’s classroom and also learn all the things that will need to be practised at home like Multiplication Tables and regular reading of quality literature. There will be information of excursions and other activities provided. If you are unable to come on the evening and wish to know what is going on, you are welcome to make an appointment to speak to your child’s teacher at any time.

Next Friday the 12 February our 2016 SRC will be inducted into their roles. They will receive their badges and their duties will commence. They will be available to represent the students at school and I predict that the Year Six eating area will be early on the agenda, as will the Year Six Shirts.

Thank you to all parents who have paid for their child’s Book Pack. There might seem to be a big rush of asking for money just now, but it will settle down and we ask that you pay the book pack promptly so that we can give students their exercise and text books to allow them to really get stuck into the year’s work.

Lunch Time Activities

There are a range of lunch time activities available for students to participate in at Mittagong Public School. The most notable change is that the library will be open three lunch times each week for reading,
borrowing and quiet board games. All of the fun lunch time activities will start in week 3.
Monday - Library is open K-6 and Stage One can attend the Computer Lab.
Tuesday - Mr Murray will be running his Science/ Construction and Chess Club K-6.
Wednesday - Library is open K-6, the Computer Lab is open for Stages Two and Three and the Play Equipment is open for Kinder and Stage One students.
Thursday - Mr Murray will have the Science/ Construction and Chess Club open K-6 and the Play Equipment is open for Stage Two and Three.
Friday - Library is open K-6.

News from the Sports Shed...
Welcome back to a fun filled first term of 2016. We have many programs that will be continuing throughout the year.

House Captains
Congratulations to our Year 6 students who were voted by their house as captains for the coming year. I am sure they will fulfill their roles as sports leaders with pride and good sportsmanship values and attitudes.
Kendall - Janaya and David
Mackellar - Natarsha and Jackson
Lawson - Linnea and Joshua
Paterson - Raiden and Georgie

Swimming Carnival
We are ready to start the year with our annual Swimming Carnival next week, Tuesday 9th February. Permission notes have been sent home this week. All notes and payments must be handed in by the due date. All students in Years 3-6 are expected to attend, non competitors will participate in supervised novelty events in the middle pool. A special reminder that only students in year 2 who are 8 or turning 8 and competing in events are invited to attend as they are eligible to compete to qualify for a place to represent at the district carnival. Obviously for safety reasons, it would not be advisable for any year 2 child to attend if they are not able to competently swim a full lap of the main pool. Keep in mind this is their first year participating at these school carnivals and we would like for them have positive experiences that set a foundation of participation through their primary years. There will be opportunities for the year 2 students to attend both the Cross Country and Athletics carnivals this year, so they won’t miss out. Parent helpers could you please meet Mrs Fisher at the pool at 9am (or earlier to help set up).

Gymnastics
This term all students in years K-6 will participate in Gymnastics. This is an 8 week program that will commence in week 4, Monday 15th February. Students in years 3-6, 2F and Gib will attend on Mondays and students in K-2 will attend on Wednesdays, commencing on the 24th February. A catch up lesson will be scheduled in lieu of Easter Monday and School Photo day. Permission notes have been sent home this week. All notes and payments must be received by the due date. If there are any concerns regarding payment please speak to Mrs Luhr in the office to discuss alternative arrangements. Students should wear school shorts on these days to allow for ease of movement and avoid any embarrassment as they participate in activities that involve a range of movements.

PSSA Sports Trials
This term there are many opportunities for all year 5 and 6 students to attend selection trials to represent in the PSSA District teams in a range of sports. Students
should have played in their nominated sport at a competition level. Announcements will be made at the morning assembly of upcoming trials over the next few weeks. The trials are held at various locations in our local area after school hours. If your child is successful and chosen to represent in the district team they will be required to travel by private transport to the next venue, usually Queenbeyan, Goulburn or Batemans Bay. Please see Mrs Fisher for any further information regarding any of the trials.

Congratulations to Jackson, William and Willow on being selected to represent in the Wingecarribee PSSA Basketball teams. Good luck tomorrow at the Zone trials in Queenbeyan.

Regular updates of sports events and achievements will be noted in the school newsletter and school website, so continue to read and watch these spaces. Thank you for your continued support in school sports!

Music Notes
Senior Choir
Senior Choir is open to any students from Yr 3-6. The senior choir rehearses on Thursdays from 12:25-1:10pm. During this time students who are not in choir will be participating in other singing and performing arts activities with their stage.

Concert Band
Concert Band rehearsals will continue to be on Thursday mornings at 8:10am in Pioneer Cottage. Our first rehearsal will be in Week 4 Thursday 18th Feb. The concert band is open to students from Yr 3-6 who have been having lessons on their concert band instrument (flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone or baritone) for at least one year.

Private music lessons
If your child is interested in learning a concert band instrument, we have tutors that come and teach half hour private music lessons during school time. Lessons cost between $25-$30 each half hour and the school has a selection of instruments that may be hired for $35 per term if you are unable to purchase one. There are also a number of tutors in the local area that offer lessons outside of school hours, should you prefer.

Our concert band can only continue running if there are enough players and each year as our Year 6 students head to high school, we grow thinner. We particularly need more brass (trumpet, trombone, baritone) players!

For all music enquiries, please see Miss Michael at school or send an email to: rebecca.michael6@det.nsw.edu.au

Book Club
Scholastic Book Club sends out brochures a couple of times a term. Our school does get 20% of the sales to spend on books for the school. All students have the opportunity to purchase these books. On an admin side, all cheques are to be made out to Scholastics and you can put all of your childrens’ orders on one payment. Please do not feel that you are obliged to purchase any of these books.

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