



Mount George Public School

MONTHLY BULLETIN

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August 2020

Principal's Report:

Last week, schools received updated advice from the NSW Department of Education in consultation with NSW Health regarding guidelines in NSW Public Schools for the remainder of Term 3. A detailed note was posted on Skoolbag on Tuesday and a hard copy will be attached to this newsletter.

We have been required to put procedures in place to maximise the safety of everyone within our school environment and local school community, and we thank you all for following and adapting to these procedures at relatively short notice.

The activities that are permitted at school will be conducted in a way that is safe and appropriate in the current environment. While the measures may be a little inconvenient at times, I am so pleased that our school, all of its students and staff, can still come together each day as a whole school.

Student Illness – COVID-19 Testing

In accordance with advice from NSW Health, parents and carers are reminded NOT to send children to school if they are unwell, even if they have the mildest flu-like symptoms (fever, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, loss of taste, and loss of smell).

Schools will make arrangements for students who present as unwell or have flu-like symptoms to be sent home. Students or staff that have been absent or sent home from school with flu-like symptoms are strongly encouraged to be tested so that they can return to school, once symptoms have resolved, to minimise the absence from school.

Isolated incidents of sneezing or coughing may not indicate that a student is suffering from an illness. Staff will talk with students about how they are feeling to determine if a cough/sneeze is an isolated incident or whether the student is unwell. Where a student is unwell, arrangements will be made to send them home.

I appreciate the angst and difficulty this may cause families but ask for your continued support if you are contacted by our office.

Activities that are on hold for Term 3:

*Kindergarten Orientation into 2021

*Year 7 Orientation is on hold till Term 4

*School camps and Excursions for Term 3 (fieldtrips excepted)

*Group singing/chanting (choir) or playing of wind instruments in groups is no longer allowed.

Things that remain as they were before 19/8/20:

*Parents/carers and other **non-essential** visitors are not permitted on school grounds, except for face-to-face parent/teacher meetings that are essential (e.g. to discuss disciplinary or other welfare matters) or parents needing to sign their child/ren in or out of school during school hours.

*Scripture/SRE can take place.

*Students are to bring water bottles to school for use as bubblers can only be used to refill bottles

*School Library is open

*School Assemblies (limit to 15 minutes and no external visitors)

Health and Safety of our entire school community

Please remain vigilant when visiting our school site. All visitors are required to attend the front office to sign the Visitors Book and will need to complete an External Visitors to School Site declaration form.

We thank you all for your co-operation at drop-off and pick-up times. Parents remain unable to come on to the school grounds and are reminded to maintain the 1.5 metre social distancing rule between others during drop-off and pick-up times.

Please follow us on the SkoolBag app. The SkoolBag app is used to share and celebrate our wonderful school and our students' achievements as well as send correspondence to families. If you have questions in regards to things like excursions, uniforms, absences, or any other school business, please contact the office on 02 6550 6555. For enquiries relating to bus passes, please contact Wingham Buslines on 02 6553 4310.

Other news and events:

Debating

Our first school debate in 2020 was against Wingham Brush PS via Zoom. The topic was that 'Home learning is better than school'. The subject was a very topical one at present and one that I think, as parents and teachers, we would also have strong views on! We were the affirmative team. Our first speaker was Sam Fulton, our second speaker Malachi Reece, our third speaker was Tom Lednor, and our 'brains trust' was Ryan Hardgrave. Despite being incredibly nervous, our team put forth some strong arguments such as safety, productivity, and convenience however, in the end, The Brush's rebuttals were stronger and they were awarded the victory.

StreamWatch

This week was the first of the Cedar class's field trips to the Charity Creek bridge as part of our StreamWatch unit of work for Science. After a safety briefing, the students conducted a series of water tests including temperature, turbidity, conductivity (salinity), and pH (potential of hydrogen). A huge thank you to Mrs Longstaff who obtained on loan the StreamWatch equipment from Gloucester Shire's Land Care group. What the students could conclude was that the river had a neutral pH, excellent clarity, low salinity and hence low conductivity, and finally, that the water was freezing - 16 degrees Celsius!

Music

While our choir is put on hold for now, this has meant that Mrs Mander can give further time and attention to our instrumental groups. Students are learning a variety of instruments from violin, drums, guitar, bass, and keyboard. We hope to put on quite a show for the end of the year!

- *Peter Falla, Principal*

Reporting Absences

Following an absence from school, you must ensure that, within 7 days, you provide your child's school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. Absences are reported to the Department of Education, including unexplained absences. You can send a note with your child the following day as this will give them extra responsibilities or, alternatively, email the school or send a reply to our automated attendance SMS. For late arrivals or early departures, students MUST be accompanied by their parent or carer who is to sign them in/out at the school office.

Library

Friday is Library Day. Students need to bring a library bag to borrow books. If they have any overdue books, could you please return them.

P&C News

Billy Cart Derby & Raffle Fundraiser

As you would all know by now, we have had to cancel our annual billy cart derby this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We hope to be back in 2021 and we will invite back this year's Year 6 students as special guests.

The P & C has organised a huge raffle with fantastic prizes, hoping to raise money for the Cedar class Bathurst excursion in December. Students will be bringing home some tickets this week so please sell them to family and friends to support our students.

Raffle tickets - 1x entry \$2, 3x entry \$5, 10x entry \$15

Some of the raffle prizes include:

Packs of My Blue Tea, Wild Temple hamper pack,

Tranquil gardens nursery plants,

Canvas artworks by Abstract Amy,

Greenpatch organic veggie seed packets and plants voucher,

\$450 Jake Davey studios- music voucher,

Pollination Mumma's spices and tea,

\$100 Manning Valley landscapes voucher, Rainbow tree children's books,

\$50 Wild fig Cakes and Coffee voucher,

\$100 Toy universe vouchers,

\$50 The edge Art supplies & gallery voucher,

\$150 Waz Electrical installation voucher, and more!

Well done to the P&C for generating so much support from the wider community.



Gallery:



Newsletter inserts:

- Flying Fox Mobile Pre-School flyer
- School B.E.S.T. rules
- COVID-19 Advice for Families



The Flying Fox Mobile Preschool are at
Mount George School residence at
Mount George Public School
every Friday from 9am - 3pm
during school terms.

We welcome you to visit
our friendly Preschool.

For further information please contact
us on 0428 534 884 / 6553 4884.



**At Mount George PS
“We Strive” to be our**

Be Respectful

- Take pride in yourself
- Nice Talk
- Treat everyone fairly
- Look after the Environment



Engage in Learning

- Persistence
- Cooperation
- Personal Best
- Ready to Learn
- Flexible Thinking



Stay Safe

- Safe Play
- Resolve conflict with empathy



Take Responsibility

- Regular attendance
- Follow teacher directions
- Be Resilient
- Ownership for your actions - STOP, THINK & CHOOSE

