



MOUNT GEORGE Public School

1524 Nowendoc Road, Mount George

Phone – 02 6550 6555

MONTHLY BULLETIN

Issue 6

JULY 2023

Principal's Report:

Special Education Week Assembly and Farewell to Mrs. Owens:

Last week, we held a special Education Week assembly, celebrating the incredible achievements of our young stars. Additionally, we bid farewell to our beloved Mrs. Owens as she embarked on her maternity leave. It was the perfect opportunity to come together to show our appreciation and wish her all the best - Thank You Whitney for all your hard work and dedication to all of our students.

Welcome to our new Music Tutor:

I'd like to welcome Bernadette Evans to our Mount George Public School team. With Mrs Mander now on maternity leave, Mrs Evans has joined us to continue music tuition for our students for the rest of 2023 and brings with her a lifetime passion for music - her particular interests are piano and performing in choirs. She has studied at the Newcastle Conservatorium of Music, is currently the S.A.M. of Bobin Public School, and is also completing a Masters of Teaching through the University of New England. Our students loved their first lesson with Mrs Evans last Friday. Welcome Bernadette!

School Photos:

Mark your calendars for a picture-perfect moment! School photos are scheduled for Week 7, Tuesday, 29th August 2023. Due to the retirement of our usual photograph, Annette Hawkins, we have engaged MSP Photography for 2023. Envelopes with payment details will be sent home soon so don't miss the chance to capture lasting memories.

School Bytes Transition:

Exciting news: we are thrilled to announce that our School Bytes transition is now underway. Parents can access calendars, attendance records, excursion notes, and important notices via the School Bytes Parent Portal. Stay tuned for the Finance module, which will be added soon. If you have any questions or need assistance, don't hesitate to book a time to speak with Leanne.

Learning Conversations:

Parents, mark Tuesday of Week 4 on your calendars! Learning Conversations are a valuable opportunity for you to engage with teachers, to discuss your child's progress, and to set goals for their future. Make sure to book a time and be part of this meaningful dialogue.

Manning PSSA Zone Carnival:

Congratulations to the talented students who qualified for the Manning PSSA Zone Carnival! Zenla and Liarnah qualified for their age race and, by all accounts, represented themselves and our school proudly at the Zone carnival, putting in a huge effort with fast races on the day. Our school's PP6 relay team also competed at Zone, with each team member giving 100%, running

an incredible race and qualifying to compete at the Regional Athletics Carnival to be held at Glendale in September. Our relay team consisted of Quin, Sam, Xavier, and Tom standing in for Benny. Well done to all seven of these athletics superstars for giving it their best!

Great Aussie Bush Camp in Term 4:

Get ready for an adventure of a lifetime! For those participating in the Great Aussie Bush Camp in Term 4, please note that full payments are due by the end of this term. Submit your \$50 deposit promptly to secure your spot. This camp promises unforgettable experiences like high ropes course, canoeing, zip line, rock climbing, and more.

Small Schools High Potential Gifted Education (HPGE) Day:

Yesterday, 1st August, our students attended the Small Schools HPGE Day, a fantastic music-focused event at Bobin PS and Hall with Jon Maddin. This event explored the HPGE Policy, recognising students' potential in various domains. Students enjoyed a day of inspiring and enriching experiences.

Book Week:

Calling all bookworms! Book Week is fast approaching, and we have an exciting event planned for you. Don't forget to capture your wackiest photos for the photo competition. Let your creativity shine!

** Please note the change of date – our Book Week Assembly will now be held on Thursday, 24th August, 2023 at 11:00am and all families are invited to join us!

Billy Cart Derby:

Volunteer superheroes, we need your help! Keep an eye out for the volunteer notes that were sent home recently for the Billy Cart Derby. Please indicate your availability to assist at the event, and if you're able to distribute flyers or promote the market stall holder forms over the next couple of weeks, please contact our school office. Your help is much appreciated!

Kidpreneur Program:

Attention young entrepreneurs! The much-awaited Kidpreneur program is back! Embrace your creativity and business savvy as we challenge you to invent and sell products using a comprehensive approach. Combining Science, Geography, Maths, English, and Creative Arts, this program encourages collaboration and teamwork. Each student will receive a \$50 'loan' from the school with a 5% interest rate. Each student group's aim is to make enough profit to pay off the loan and donate at least \$20 to a charity of their choosing. It's a fun-filled learning experience with opportunities to shine! We look forward to seeing students bringing their ideas to life and enjoying the entrepreneurial journey together.

Bushfire Season:

Our school is in a bushfire prone area and is listed as Category 1 on the NSW Department of Education's bushfire risk register. Our school and staff are prepared for an emergency situation should the need for evacuation occur at any time. To give families a quick outline of our bushfire management action plan, we have sent a note home, *Arrangements for the Upcoming Bushfire Season*, which outlines our evacuation centres and links to online resources, including the NSW Education Parent Update app.

Warmest regards, *Peter Falla, Principal*

Other school news:

From the P&C:

The August P&C meeting will be held on the last Tuesday of the month – Tuesday, 29th August, 2023. All families are invited to come along and join in the discussion and planning for upcoming events including Father's Day, the Billy Cart Derby, and other events and activities.

The meeting will commence at 8:30am in the school library. All visitors to our school are to sign in at the office please using the QR code outside the main entrance or the Check-In Kiosk iPad in the foyer. Thank you.

Newsletter inserts:

- School Calendar
- Attendance Matters
- Double Helix Quiz Questions and Brainteasers
- Safeguarding Children from Cyberbullying
- July Photo Gallery

School Calendar:

W3 Term 3	Jul 31	August 1	2	3	4
		Bobin Music Excursion 8:40am Music excursion to Bobin Public School	NO canteen today - canteen CLOSED	8:30am Italian language lesson	
W4 Term 3	Aug 7	8	9	10	11
	Book Club Issue 5 orders due	Canteen open Learning Conversations - Term 3	Canteen open	8:30am Italian language lesson	Kitchen Garden class - volunteers welcome
W5 Term 3	Aug 14	15	16	17	18
		Canteen open School Finance Finance Module goes live to Parent Portal	Canteen open	8:30am Italian language lesson	
W6 Term 3	Aug 21	22	23	24	25
		Canteen open	Canteen open Combined Small Schools Public speaking competition - Taree Public School	8:30am Italian language lesson 11:00am Book Week Assembly	Kitchen Garden class - volunteers welcome
W7 Term 3	Aug 28	29	30	31	September 1
		Canteen open P&C August meeting	Canteen open	8:30am Italian language lesson	
W8 Term 3	Sep 4	5	6	7	8
		Canteen open	Canteen open	8:30am Italian language lesson	Kitchen Garden class - volunteers welcome
W9 Term 3	Sep 11	12	13	14	15
		Canteen open	Canteen open	8:30am Italian language lesson	
W10 Term 3	Sep 18	19	20	21	22
		Canteen open	Canteen open	8:30am Italian language lesson	Kitchen Garden class - volunteers welcome Term 3 end

Attendance Matters:

Regular attendance at school is important for students to achieve quality life outcomes. Schools, in partnership with parents, are responsible for promoting the regular attendance of students.

Student absences must be explained within 7 days of the first day of absence by means of verbal or written explanation **from the parent/carer**. Our school has a dedicated SMS service to make it easy for parents to provide an explanation. The process for marking absences is as follows:

Day 1 – student is marked “absent” and an SMS is sent to parent/carer for explanation of the absence.

Day 3 or student’s first day back at school - if no response received to SMS, an absence letter is sent home providing parents/carers with further opportunity to explain the absence.

Day 7 – if no explanation has been provided, the parent/carer will receive a phone call from the school seeking explanation.

Continued unexplained absences or high rates of non-attendance are referred to a Home School Liaison Officer for support.

NSW Department of Education

Why attendance matters

When your child misses school they miss important opportunities to...



Learn

education.nsw.gov.au



Build friendships



Develop life skills



From the CSIRO's Double Helix magazine:

Fun Quiz Questions:

1. Domestic animals are all descended from wild animals. Which of the following correctly matches a domesticated animal to its wild ancestor? a) Dog – Grey wolf, b) Cow – Auroch, c) Chicken – Red junglefowl, d) All of the above
2. True or false? Humans domesticated cats before we domesticated dogs.
3. Which of the following cat myths is true? a) Cats can see in complete darkness, b) Cats can't taste sweetness, c) Cats always land on their feet, d) Cats have nine lives
4. Which of the following cat facts is also a dog fact? a) They have retractable claws so they can move quietly, b) They use purring to calm themselves down, c) They have scissor-like back teeth that are designed to slice meat, d) All of the above
5. Which of the following pets is NOT a rodent? a) Rat, b) Ferret, c) Mouse, d) Guinea pig

To check your answers to the above questions, go to <https://blog.doublehelix.csiro.au/animal-friends-a-quick-quiz/>

Brain teaser: Difficulty: Fun

Mariana the astronaut weighs 51 kilograms on Earth and 8.5 kilograms on the Moon. Mariana is training Javier to go to the Moon. If he weighs 78 kilograms on Earth, how much will he weigh on the Moon?

To check your answers to the above brain teaser, go to <https://blog.doublehelix.csiro.au/out-of-this-world/#answer>

Protecting our (increasingly younger) children from cyberbullying:



The internet has given children and young people new opportunities to learn, play, and socialise. However, this increased online presence, especially since the COVID-19 pandemic, also exposes them to new harms and risks.

Concerningly, reports to eSafety's cyberbullying complaints team show younger children are increasingly experiencing negative online behaviour. Reports of serious cyberbullying of children between the ages of 8 and 13 years has more than tripled compared to pre-pandemic 2019 – jumping from a little over 200 complaints in 2019 to almost 740 in 2022.

eSafety is here to help with advice and resources to help you support your family's online safety.

- Set up a [family tech agreement](#) and [parental controls](#)
- Explore ways to stay safe online for [parents](#), [kids](#) and [young people](#)
- Download [online safety resources](#), including this [guide to reporting cyberbullying](#) (links available in "documents" on School Bytes)

June/July Photo Gallery



Crazy Hair Day, Pirate Ships, Soccer Gala, and Musical Performances.