Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to our last school term for 2015. It is great to be back at MBPS after the school holidays, refreshed and ready for the term ahead, though it’s hard to believe how quickly the year is soon coming to an end. There are a number of exciting activities planned for the rest of the year, commencing with the Koomurri Performance yesterday and Grandparents Day today. Thank you to Mrs Wojcinski for organising both events and ensuring that all activities ran smoothly. Thank you to Mrs North for her efforts and dedication in planning additional lessons that teachers can follow up in their classrooms after the performance. We hope you notice the beautiful banner that Ms Spicer and 1S did for our Grandparents day. Thank you Ms Spicer and 1S students for your work.

**NAPLAN 2015**

Congratulations to all our Year 3 and 5 students who sat the NAPLAN testing for 2015. Overall the school and individual student results were very pleasing both in Literacy and Numeracy. The school will undergo a thorough analysis of NAPLAN data to determine future directions and academic goals.

**Applications for year 7 selective high school placement in 2016 Government schools**

Important Information

Parents must apply online at [www.schools.nsw.edu.au/shsplacement](http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/shsplacement) Applications for entry in 2016 can be made online between 13 October 2015 and 16 November 2015. Application website closes. Late applications will not be accepted.

Key dates

Thursday 25 February 2016

Test authority letter sent by mail and email

Thursday 10 March 2016

Selective High School Placement Test

Early July 2016

Placement outcome information

Enquiries

High Performing Students Unit

Email ssu@det.nsw.edu.au

Telephone 1300 880 367 (for parents)

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**Dates for Your Diary**

**Term 4**

**Thursday 22nd October**

Grandparents Day

**Friday 23rd October**

Big Start Begins

**Friday 30th October**

World Teachers’ Day

**Wednesday 4th November**

Stage 2&3 Biosecurity Video Conference Incursion

**24th November**

Last Scripture Lesson

**Thursday 3rd December**

K-2 Award Ceremony and Concert

**Friday 4th December**

3-6 Award Ceremony and Concert

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**HAVE A GREAT TERM 4!!!!!!!**
Planning for 2016

In preparation for the 2016 school year we would like to know of students who will not be returning to MBPS at the commencement of the 2016 school year. This could be because of a number of reasons including that you are moving, travelling overseas and have not returned when school starts for students on 28 January 2016, or that your child is leaving MBPS to attend another school. Please inform the school in writing asap. Thank you for your assistance.

Communication Update

A letter box is placed in the foyer for parent/teacher/principal communication needs.

The box will be checked daily and enquires will be dealt with as seen necessary.

Coffee and Chat Afternoons – will be held every 3rd Thursday of the month in the staffroom. This is an opportunity for the executive and parents to meet and have an informal chat.

The first one is today 3:30pm - 4:30pm

Kindergarten Transition – Big Start

This Friday, 23rd October we will welcome fifty three smiling faces into our school – Kindergarten 2016! We warmly welcome these students and their parents and carers into our school. We look forward to you joining our school community next year and we also welcome back our current families with their new starters for school.

Apply now to become an Ethics Teacher

Primary Ethics provides the opportunity for NSW public primary school students who don’t attend scripture classes to participate in philosophical ethics classes.

We need 4-5 more volunteers to teach Years K-6 ethics classes at MBPS in 2016 to ensure all Ethics students are able to attend class. The classes teach children how to approach ethical issues and develop their capacity for considered moral judgement, to respond more thoughtfully to the problems and issues they will face in their lives. Volunteer Ethics Teachers are trained to deliver age-appropriate curriculum every week. Teachers need to be available every Tuesday during term, from 9.30-10am or 10-10.30am.

Apply NOW to be trained in time for Term 1 2016 and to ensure students don’t miss out. For more information, please visit www.primaryethics.com.au or contact Celia on mbpsethics@gmail.com
PSSA Sport

The summer PSSA competition (AFL and T-Ball/Softball) continues tomorrow. I have included a fixture of match locations for the term and encourage parents, carers and friends to attend games and support our teams. For safety reasons it is compulsory for all students playing AFL to wear mouthguards. Please ensure that your child comes to school with a hat and applies sunscreen before leaving school to help ensure their safety in the sun. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those parents who have volunteered their time to assist in washing uniforms this term. I would also like to thank Mr Crowther, Mrs Wojcinski and Ms Ghereghty for their efforts in coaching teams this term.

Mark Gigli

Sport Co-Ordinator

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School Leader Elections

The process for electing our Year 6 student leaders for 2016 is currently underway. Although the actual elections will not be held until Monday 23rd November, I would like to remind parents and carers of Year 5 children that their 250 word letter to Ms Jovanovska expressing their interest in standing for the position is due on Monday 2nd November. If you have questions or concerns about the process please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mark Gigli

SRC Co-Ordinator
School Camp Recount

I clutched the bow fiercely in my hand; I was ready to shoot the arrow sharply and steadily onto the bullseye. It was Monday the 2nd of September 2015 and 5/6 students from Maroubra Bay had arrived at the Collaroy Centre, starting their activities. I was in a small group with several of my friends starting archery. As my mates cheered me on I pulled back on the string, keeping my eye closely on the bow. I released my grip just as our group instructor showed us. POW! The arrow shot through the air quickly spearing into the wood on the side of the shack of the targets.

I leaned forward, heaving the ball just barely over the tall net, just before I fell into the sand. The boys’ team missed the shot. Just before night games on the second day of camp after a full day of fun and activities; the 5/6 students got some free time. Most students were playing volleyball eliminations. It was boys vs. girls in the game of volleyball, and I was one of the last five people on my team. The ball smashed in many people’s hands over the net and occasionally onto the floor. After a fun play on the sand volleyball court, next to rows of cabins, a garden shed a grassy field and a walking trail we all settled back to the common room before night games.

After an exciting dinner full of noisy chatter we climbed the trail uphill to the chapel where the night games began. We played from 8pm to 10pm with our fun instructors. One of my favourite games was an activity where all students choose teams of 5 or 6. “What is this song?” asked the night games instructor humming and singing a tune I knew from a movie I had once or twice seen. The game was to guess songs or bring objects to Evy, one of our camp instructors as she called out random things to bring or humming or singing songs from famous artists or movies. Each group had to send one person to run to the centre of the large room and bring the selected objects.

Another night game I enjoyed was crab soccer. This was a game where each kid was given a number from each team and went into the game crawling on their feet and hands, backs facing the carpeted floor when their number was called. I went into the circle of children around me while I and other students kicked the ball to other kids on our team struggling to score goals.

After a full day of activities and a supper of hot chocolate and cookies, I ran into the small comfortable cabin spreading my sleeping bag across the bottom of the bunk, with my 6 other cabin mates. Going to bed took a lot of effort. My friends & I were up late in the night telling horror stories and passing notes through the crack in the wall leading to our neighbouring cabin.

“Helmets and harnesses on!” I heard the instructor say as I pulled the empty flying fox, anxious to start my turn I had long waited for.

“Can I do the five metre?” I breathed to the instructor on the third day, slowly leaning back so I was horizontal on the leaf green abseiling wall. As I half-shuffled half-slipped down the first quarter of the wall I was trembling with fear. It was on the final day of school camp at the Collaroy Centre. My group was doing abseiling and I had just climbed up the shaky and tall ladder, 10 metres high. I was on the abseiling 10 metre wall regretting going this high. After I had gained my confidence I started to hop, bending my knees and pushing of harder and higher each time. I felt like yelling in joy each time I flew through the air. I never thought this would be so much fun!
After lunch on the final day of camp I flopped on my bunk. It would be the last time I did this as I stared at the mess of laundry, hairbrushes, suitcases and pairs of shoes. Gathering all my belongings and sitting on my bags forcing the zips shut trying to stuff my puffy, bulky pillow into my suitcase.

As I clambered onto the huge bus carrying my belonging, I settled on my seat and lay my head on my pillow. As I woke I was thrilled to see the familiar ‘Maroubra Bay Public School’ sign in front of the green gate and students playing on our lush green oval.

**Natasha Ward 5/6G**

Koomurri Incursion

On Wednesday the 21st October we were lucky enough to be part of an incursion looking at Aboriginal Culture. The day was a lot of fun and started with us learning about different hunting tools and what they are used for. Dave, the name of the man teaching us, taught us some different words for different animals. In addition to this he explained about the different animals and why certain weapons were used on different animals. Dave informed us that there were 60 different types of boomerang and out of that number only one returned. In fact if you boomerang returned you had failed at hunting. We found this funny as we all thought that boomerangs should return to you. We were then given the chance to throw a boomerang for ourselves. It was more difficult than it looked. He then played the didgeridoo and we had to pick which animal call he was imitating.

After that we went into the school hall and learnt about Aboriginal songs, dance and bush tucker. The men there also taught us about dreamtime stories. At the end of this session we had our faces painted with dots and stripes. The stripes on the boys stood for a young warrior and the dots on the girls were all about the galaxy we live in.

To finish off we went and put our hands on a piece of cloth to make an artwork for the school.

We both enjoyed the day as we learnt things about Aboriginal Culture that we did not know. It was also lots of fun.

Tane and Abbey 5/6T