



Mt Cotton State School Parents & Citizens Association Newsletter – 2nd February 2016



'For Our Children'

Email: pandc@mtcottonss.eq.edu.au

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NEXT P&C MEETING

The **next P&C Meeting** is to be held on Wednesday, **10th February 2016 at 7pm**, in the school library.

The **P&C AGM** will be held on **Wednesday 9th March 2016 at 7pm**. Everyone is welcome to come along!

From The President



Hi everyone. The executive team had a discussion and thought it would be a good idea to give a little background about us and why we volunteer our time. So this week I am the first to give it ago.

My name is Nicole McGarrity and I am the current P&C President. I have held this position for a year now and previously I held the secretary position for three years. I also coordinate the school discos and all fundraising events.

I have four children, a girl in Year five, a boy in Year three, a girl in Year one and my baby girl has just started at Kindy. My children are very involved in outside school sports which keeps us very busy.

I got involved in the school to be a part of the children's education, to help improve the school by raising money to purchase home readers, iPads for Prep to Year 3, fans for the hall, new furniture for the Year 4 classrooms and wireless internet across the school. It is very rewarding. I also enjoy helping out in my kids classes and being able to see what they do in their everyday routine. My children love having me involved around their school.

I look forward to meeting some new faces at our next meeting.

Regards Nicole

BANKING NEWS:

We're back!! School Banking starts again this week. Look out for some information packs coming your way shortly. We are "Outback Savers" this year and have some great reward items on offer. Keep an eye out for the display in the library. Now don't worry if you don't have a Commonwealth Bank Account, because the bank is coming to us. We are holding an "Account Opening Day" on Wednesday 17th Feb from 8am outside the hall. All you need to open an account for your child is a drivers license. Easy Peasy! More details to follow and information packs will be distributed to the Preps in the next week.

COMPETITION TIME! Who wants to go to Australia Zoo and meet Bindi and Bob Irwin? (More details to follow) You have got to be in it to win it! So get those banking wallets out of the cupboard, dust of the cobwebs and let's get banking!! I am looking forward to seeing your wallets every Tuesday.
Anita (Banking Guru)

P&C Facebook & Twitter Pages

Don't miss out on all the current school information and reminders for upcoming events. 'Like' and 'Share' our '**Mount Cotton State School Community**' page on Facebook, or search for '**MCSS Community**' on Twitter. Remember to send any reminders or notices you are aware of for your child's class or year level through to Nicole McGarrity so we can share the information with other parents on Facebook. Please email Nicole at nicolemcgarrity@gmail.com.



HOW CAN I HELP?

- **CLASSROOM HELP** – Why not ask your child's teacher if there is anything they need help with? Maybe you can take some cutting out or similar home after drop-off and bring it back at pick-up time?
- **TUCKSHOP** – Can you spare a couple of hours on a Wednesday, Thursday or Friday to help out in our wonderful Tuckshop? If so, please drop in and see Rachelle.
- **UNIFORM SHOP** – Can you spare an hour to help out in our Uniform Shop? Please contact Mel Foster email mel-foster@live.com.au, phone 0418 438 747 to offer your assistance.



Tuckshop News:

Welcome to Week 2!

I cooked and baked all last week to prepare for this week. I am excited to say we are open from Wednesday 3rd February.

Just a reminder to Prep parents/caregivers that Preps do not order until next week – Week 3.

Price increases for Term 1:

- **Traveller pies have increased to \$3.20**
- **Chicken Nuggets have increase to \$3.20**

Our standard pikelets are now being made from ingredients containing gluten. However, we have a GLUTEN FREE pikelet option. Please specify which one you would like to order on your bag. If you order online please tick the type of pikelet you would like to order. (Although all care is taken our gluten free pikelets are not prepared in a gluten free environment.)

New parents

There are 2 options for ordering your child's tuckshop:

1) Online through our online ordering system www.ouronlinecanteen.com.au, Cut off time is 8.30am.

OR

2) Bag orders. A different bag needs to be used for each child as well as each break. If you do not have bags we sell them at the tuckshop for 10c each. Cut off time is 8.45am.

Please advise your children to come to the tuckshop and see me if there are any issues with their order.

All frozen treats are only available at 2nd Break.
Any ice creams, yoghurts, custards etc are not put in the bags.
Your child will have a stamp on their tuckshop bag which they are to bring to the tuckshop to receive the item ordered.

Help is needed on all days. Come in and see how things are run, whilst helping your school out. Volunteers are always needed in the tuckshop. Without volunteers, tuckshops simply couldn't open. If you could spare 1/2 hour, 1 hour, 2 hours or all day..... either weekly, fortnightly, monthly or occasionally..... please contact me either through the school office, via email tuckshop@mtcottonss.eq.edu.au or just stop in and see me at the tuckshop.
Have a great week!
Rachelle

Uniform Shop News: **OPENING HOURS FOR TERM 1:**



Monday afternoons	2.00pm – 3.00pm
Wednesday afternoons	2.00pm – 3.00pm
Thursday mornings	8.00am – 9.00am

Price List & Order Form – These are found on the school website (www.mtcottonss.eq.edu.au under Support & Resources/Documents/P&C Assoc/Price List & Order Form), or the school office, or uniform shop. Forms can be returned to the P&C box in the school office or the uniform shop.

Hi everyone. Our new bucket hats are selling like hot cakes! If you haven't seen them come on in and take a look. They are reversible so the students can wear their house colours on sports day! And best of all, they are only \$17!! Uniform shop hours are back to normal this week.

Have a great week, Mel
EMAIL: mel-foster@live.com.au
PHONE: 0418 438 747



From the Principal **2016 Enrolments**

As our teaching staff and classes are dependent on enrolment numbers, all state schools in Queensland staffing is finalised on the 8th school day (5th of February), therefore, there may be changes to our current classes. By the 8th day, we will have a clear indication of the number of children in each class who has and hasn't returned to Mount Cotton State School. I will communicate any changes with the school community after Day 8 (5th of February).

Team IQ

In 2016, we will continue with Team IQ. Team IQ is when our teachers meet in small groups, to share expertise and work collaboratively to improve the academic performance of students. Each teacher has an explicit focus for 6 weeks (written below). Our students complete a pre-check (Week 2) and then after the intensive focus (6 weeks) they complete a post-check/test (Week 8). The teachers have additional staff meetings in Week 2 and 8 to discuss their explicit focus and their students. **Every student counts!**

Prep	Recognise letters and sounds from first 2 Jolly Phonics groups (13 letters)
Year 1	80 Tricky words
Year 2	Identifying main ideas from an inferential text
Year 3	Comprehension strategies
Year 4	Retell

Year 5	Comprehension strategies
Senior	Fundamental punctuation
PE	Year 3: Batting and accurate throwing
Music	Year 5: Line and Space Notes – extension above and below the staff

Voluntary Parent Contribution

Whilst the cost of providing instruction, administration and facilities for the education of students in state schools is funded by the State, parents / carers are directly responsible for providing other resources for their children while attending school. *Voluntary financial contributions are used by schools to provide an enhanced educational service and to enhance resources available for student learning, recreation and comfort.*

Each year we ask families to make a voluntary contribution for each student attending Mount Cotton State School. The contribution is \$40 per student or \$140 for families of four or more.

This money is attributed to our classes and will be spent on the following:

- Equipment and resources to support literacy and numeracy activities
- Reproduced class workbooks and worksheets and teacher prepared materials.
- Student resources where the core curriculum is extended through provision of practical learning experiences, classroom projects and materials, in excess of provided by school grants, e.g. art and craft supplies, Science and cooking materials.
- Athletics (normally \$99 for a single licence)
- Celebration of special days, e.g. Father's day, Mother's day and ANZAC day

Cash Window:

The cash window is open every week on Wednesday & Thursday from 8.15am to 9.15am and accepts cash, cheque and has EFTPOS facilities. Please note that class teachers are not permitted to accept payments or permission forms due to regulations.

Paying Online:

School bank Account	Mt Cotton State School
BSB Number	064 138
Account Number	00090406
Reference	Student name/ Class/Voluntary Contribution eg: TSmith4cVC

If you have any queries regarding the Voluntary Parent Contribution, please do not hesitate to contact me on mstew40@eq.edu.au or organise an appointment via the office. Thank you for supporting your child's education.

Term 1 Curriculum & Parent Interviews

In lieu of a parent information evening, this year we will be holding parent interviews on 23rd of March. We will also be sending home a curriculum letter discussing the curriculum that will be covered this term.

In 2016, we will report formally to parents by:

Term 1:	Parent Interviews – 23 rd of March
Term 2:	Report Cards
Term 3:	Parent Interviews
Term 4:	Report cards

Term 1 Parent Calendar

Please be reminded that our Term 1 Parent calendar was sent out last week. It lists all our important dates for Term 1. You

can access our Term 1 parent calendar on our school website and the dates on the Qschools App.

Celebrations of Learning – Term 1

Each class will be holding a Celebration of Learning at the end of Term 1 to showcase the fantastic work they have been doing during the term. Parents and family members are invited to attend the Celebrations of Learning to see first-hand just how hard our students have worked and what wonderful things they have achieved.

Prep	Friday 18 th of March at 9:00 a.m.
Year 1	Friday 18 th of March at 2:15 p.m.
Year 2	Thursday 17 th of March at 2:00 p.m.
Year 3	Monday 14 th of March at 2:00 p.m.
Year 4	Thursday 24 th of March at 10 a.m.
Year 5	Thursday 24 th of March at 11:15 a.m.
Senior	Thursday 24 th of March at 2:00 p.m.

Carpark

School Road Safety is an important issue in our community. I very much appreciate and acknowledge that the carpark is very busy, however, I am keen to ensure all of our school community is safe and in particular our children. By sending out the information about our carpark, this will hopefully allow parents to pick up their children quickly and safely. Attached to the newsletter is a letter about our carpark.

School Bus Travel:

This is a reminder to all parents that the 2016 school bus timetables have undergone some significant changes. If your child/children catch the bus to and/or from school, it is important that you visit the Transdev Queensland website (www.transdevqld.com.au) or the TransLink website (www.translink.com.au) to see if you are impacted by the changes.

Bus passes for eligible students are also currently being processed and they will be available for collection from the school during the first week back. There will be a fare amnesty until the passes have been delivered and distributed. If you have not yet submitted your pass application or renewal, please do so by downloading the relevant forms from the www.transdevqld.com.au website.

Should you require any further information, please contact Transdev Qld on 3248 6100.

Mount Cotton Cottonclub Playgroup:

We are looking for a parent volunteer to run our Cottonclub Playgroup. It runs each Friday from 9 am to 10:30 am. The volunteer would set up the activities at the beginning of the Cottonclub and then pack them away at 10:30 am. The Cottonclub Playgroup is for children 0 to 5. If you are interested in volunteering, please let me know (mstew40@eq.edu.au).

Statement of Purpose: Every Minute Counts!

At Mount Cotton State School, our attendance target is **95%**. To achieve this target, children must have less than 10 days absent. Below are the attendance rates for Week 1.

CLASS	Week 1
Prep	
PA	100%
PB	100%
PC	99%
PD	100%
Year 1	
1A	99%
1B	99%
1C	99%
1D	100%
Year 2	
2A	100%
2B	99%
2C	100%
2D	99%
Year 3	
3A	99%
3B	99%
3C	99%
3D	100%
Year 4	
4A	99%
4B	99%
4C	100%
Year 5	
5A	100%
5B	99%
5C	99%
Seniors	
SA	99%
SB	99%
SC	99%

We look forward to the continued partnership in learning between teachers, students and families.

Kind regards,
Meagan Steward
mstew40@eq.edu.au

From the Deputy Principal:

Assembly:

Assemblies will begin this week in the hall.

- **Prep to Year 3 assembly: Wednesdays at 9 am**
- **Years 4, 5 and 6 assembly: Thursdays at 9 am.**

On Thursday 11th of February at 9 am, we will have a P to 6 assembly to induct our 2016 School Leaders. During this week (Week 3), we will not have an assembly on Wednesday.

Sports Equipment:

Sports equipment has been given to each double teaching space. The sports equipment can be borrowed out by students to use at lunch time. Our teachers will be reinforcing with the students about being **responsible** for the sports equipment so it lasts and can be used by everybody.

Great Mates:

Great Mates is a lunchtime activity program for students and will be run in the hall at second break. Each year level has been designated a day they are able to come to the hall and participate in fun activities. Students may come and go from the hall, but only 50 students can be in the hall at a time.

Days for each year level are:

Monday:	Yr 2 & 3
Tuesday:	Yr 1
Wednesday:	Yr 4 & 5
Thursday:	Prep
Friday:	Yr 6

Week Number	Activity
2	Disco
3	School Yard Games
4	Camp Games (Monte Carlo etc)
5	Board Games/ Twister/ Celebrity Heads
6	Dress Up Relays
7	Obstacle Course
8	Construction
9	Disco

Sand Pit:

We have a new sand pit on the top oval! New sand has been delivered to our top oval sand pit and our prep sandpit. This is another great option at lunchtime.

Kind regards,

Glenice Cleary
Deputy Principal

Cash Window/Payments Due

The cash window is open every week on **Wednesday & from 8.15am to 9.15am and accepts cash, cheque and has EFTPOS facilities.** The school is often unable to accept late payments because of deadlines imposed by bus companies etc. **Please note that class teachers are not permitted to accept payments or permission forms due to regulations.**

Events Money Due:

- Forensic Science Day, Yrs 3,4,5 & 6. \$5 due Thurs 25th Feb. **Direct Debit payments due Monday 22nd Feb**
- Senior Camp Yr 6. \$135 (non-refundable deposit) due Thurs 18th Feb.
- Senior Shirts Yr 6. \$41 per shirt due Thursday 18th Feb to Cash Window only (no direct debiting)
- Voluntary Contribution Scheme \$40 per student or \$140 for families of four or more.

Please contact the school office, prior to the deadline, if you have difficulty meeting the deadlines, to make alternate arrangements.

Cash Window is closed in the last week of school

From the Library

Missing books

At the end of last year we had a significant number of classroom readers not returned – please keep an eye out for any books with a Mount Cotton State School barcode on the front cover that you may have at home. We would appreciate their prompt return.

Book Club

Scholastic Book Club catalogues for Issue 1, 2016 were distributed to children today. *This year the separate catalogues for each age group have been combined in one brochure – we would welcome feedback from parents as how they would like to receive the brochure – one /child or 1 / family.* The school is rewarded with a 20% commission on each issue – this enables us to add over \$4000 worth of books and teaching resources to our collection.

When ordering -

Option 1 – send your order form to school **(to the Library)** with either cash or cheque (cheques payable to Scholastic

Australia Book Club) payment making sure the details for student's name and class are filled in clearly.

Option 2 – LOOP (Linked Online Ordering and Payment system)

Order and pay directly to Scholastic via this link **scholastic.com.au/LOOP** or download the app. You will need to specify your child's class and fill in their first name and initial of their last name. Orders will still earn commission for the school. Order forms do not have to be returned to school as they are processed with the school order.

The due date for orders is Wednesday 10th Feb.

If you do not wish your child to collect the order - for orders through the school - please write 'HOLD' on the order and we will contact you. For orders made online please use the email address below to advise the Library of your contact details.

Bring Your Own Device Form

There is a note going home today for the senior students regarding bringing their own devices to school. There is no school requirement for students in Year 6 to use a personal device at school (such as a tablet, iPad, iPod etc). However, students may, with permission from parents/caregivers use a BYO device as part of their learning activities whilst at school providing the Senior BYOD form is completed and returned to their class teacher.

Helen Plaschke

Teacher-Librarian / ICT Coordinator
library@mtcottonss.eq.edu.au

Notes Sent Home Today

- Road Safety Agreement (Blue) – every student
- Road Safety Letter (White) – Youngest in the family.
- Internet Usage Agreement (Pink) – every student
- Student Participation iPad Agreement (yellow) – Years 4 & 5 students
- BYOD Agreement Form (Green) – Senior students

Please return all these notes, except the white, to the class teacher.

Fire & Bomb and Lockdown Sirens/Procedures

Today we sounded our sirens for our two drills so that students and staff could familiarise themselves with them.

The Fire & Bomb Evacuation siren is a continuous siren and the Lockdown is an intermittent siren.

The school practices these two drills every term so that staff and students are very familiar with them.

2016 School Leader Induction Ceremony

Thursday 11th February

School Hall gam

