

WELCOME & VISION

I would like to welcome all parents and families to Mt Cotton SS in 2015. We have been back preparing for the start of the school year for many weeks now – yesterday it was great to finally add the last missing element – children. I would have to say that this was the smoothest transition into school I have experienced in many years. Students were settled and happy, ready for learning and organised for the year ahead. Thank you for the part you played in this. I was especially impressed with our uniform standard – many comments were made by new parents to our school about how well our kids wear the uniform. We welcomed 85 new Prep students to our school yesterday and besides a few tears here and there (mainly from parents) they settled in well and had a great day.

The BYOD Year 4 classes have started off really well - this learning environment that the teachers have created is nothing short of inspiring. It is all about the learning – children are engaged, focused and collaborative. Regardless of whether your child is in Year 4 or not – pop your head into the classes in the bottom of J Block and see what a flexible student centred learning environment looks like.

I would like to reiterate our vision to you for 2015 and beyond, as well as share our plans of how we intend to make the vision a reality. We have very simplified, focussed plans for this year that enable us to sharpen our approach to improving teaching, learning and the provision of excellent opportunities for all students.

Our Vision is: To Grow Clever, Creative and Caring Children

Our Statement of Purpose:

Every child counts, Every teacher counts, Every minute counts... Mount Cotton counts !

Our Guiding Principles:

*Is what we are doing in the best interests of children?
Is it sustainable?
Is it purposeful and compelling?*

School Annual Implementation Plan – 4 Strategic Drivers for 2014**THEME: A School That Learns is a High Quality School****High Quality Teaching** focusing on:

*Reading
Mathematics
Professional Learning Communities*

High Quality Learning focusing on:

*e:Learning
Differentiated & Personalised Learning
Curriculum that is Engaging, Challenging & Inquiry Based*

High Quality Environment focusing on:

*Support Programs Catering for Diverse Needs
Enrichment Program Catering for Individual Talents
Classroom Environments – Student Centred & Supportive of Learning*

High Quality Community focusing on:

*Service for our Families – Beyond Expectations
Partnerships in Learning – Engaged & Aware
Involvement - Decision Making & Collaboration*

Some of the key learning areas we focused on during the **Student Free Days** included:

Strategic Plans for 2015 – 4 Strategic Drivers, reflections on 2014.

School Culture

Professional Learning Communities at Work

Reflections on our Profession – Characteristics of a Good Teacher

School Organisation – Term 1 Expectations/ Timetabling
School Improvement Agenda – School Based & NAPLAN targets, based on 2014 results

Pedagogical Framework – focusing on the 7 Elements of the Mount Cotton Method

Inquiry Learning – focusing on inquiry based learning in History, Geography & Science

Your Class , Your Data – staff analysing existing data on their students, supporting program development and differentiation for Day 1

Team Building – focusing on what they have learnt the previous 2 days – “Great Race” style leading to lunch at Sirromet winery (have to look after our staff !)

Diabetes, Ashtma & Anaphylaxis Training – led by our school nurse Allison Gilroy

Team Planning – led by our Instructional Coach Sally Bedford

Code of Conduct & Student Protection Training – staff to complete online version of this training

E:Learning – 1 hour workshop with each team developing a draft plan for e:learning in 2015, also focusing on technical matters and timetabling of lessons

To say we were organised and ready is an understatement – we are a highly professional group of teachers, committed to providing the very best educational experiences for your child.

CHANGES TO STAFFING

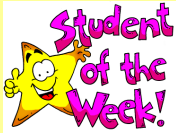
At the very end of 2014, we had a few last minute changes that were needed due to key staff taking up higher order duties at other locations for Term 1 . Mr Wiggins accepted an acting deputy principal position in Townsville and has been replaced by Mrs Turley. Mrs Vikki Kissalof on the second last day of school was offered an acting Head of Special Education position at a neighbouring school for Term 1. At this stage, we are waiting to finalise the Special education program staffing and have been working extensively with our regional office to ensure this is finalised as soon as possible. With the changes in teachers, the final staffing list for classroom teachers is as follows:

Prep A	Meagan Winton
Prep B	Shelley Brady
Prep C	Noni Thomas
Prep D	Vicki Crombie
1A	Kerri Tracy
1B	Silvana Balharry
1C	Cathy Bailey
1D	Carol Donhardt
2A	Emer Lyons
2B	Belinda Boland
2C	Dean Monaghan
2D	Ryanna Turley
3A	Heather Stubbs
3B	Sherryn Avis
3C	Lisa McInnes
4A	Bridget Elliott
4B	Malcolm Rossow
4C	Emma Trevor
4D	Rigo Shepherson
5A	Carolyn Jayawardhana
5B	Suzanne Weaven
5C	Kylie Ward
Senior A	Donna Wilkins/Lisa Pavey
Senior B	Carleen Tilbury
Senior C	Linda Wheeler

Principal's report cont'd on page 2 ...

Student Absence Line

3822 0460



Term 4 , 2014 Week 9 Congratulations to these students on their achievement!

Amelie	Prep A	Clever
Mila	Prep B	Clever
Thomas	Prep C	Clever
Leo	Prep D	Clever
Connor	1A	Caring
Kasey	1B	Caring
Harry	1C	Caring
Tyler	1D	Clever
Jasmine	2A	Caring
Cooper Jett	2B	Clever
Lucy	2C	Clever
Kittie	3A	Caring
Monet	3C	Caring
Ashton	3D	Clever
Lochlan	4A	Respect
Telea	4B	Caring
Isla	4C	Creative
Elke	5A	Clever
Emilie	5B	Creative
Abbey	5C	Caring
William	Senior A	Caring
Keely	Senior C	Respon- sibility

**We hope you
enjoyed your
Australia Day!**



Staff Car Park

Parents are strictly prohibited from using the staff car park, off Mt Cotton Road. This is for staff, service vehicles and emergency services only.

Parents are asked not to use this car park for dropping off and/or collecting students. Please drop off and collect students from the parent car parks provided off Sanctuary Drive.

Many thanks for your cooperation.

Sports News

Welcome back I hope everyone had an enjoyable break. Term 1 is already shaping up to be a busy one sporting wise.

DISTRICT SWIMMING

The first event on the calendar is the Bayside District Swimming Carnival. This carnival will be held on Monday 9th February 2015 at the Cleveland Aquatic Centre. The purpose of the carnival is to select a Bayside District Swimming team to participate at the Metropolitan East Carnival. Students Born 2005, 2004 & 2003 are eligible to participate. In order to be nominated by the school students must meet qualifying times.

To meet these times students would be participating in squad swimming a number of times a week.

Please contact Mrs Harris regarding the information needed.

CLUSTER SWIMMING CARNIVAL

The cluster swimming Carnival will be held at Cleveland State School on Friday 27th February 2015.

Students born 2005, 2004 & 2003 are eligible to participate.

Results from the 2014 Mt Cotton Senior Carnival have been reviewed to select the team.

Students will receive invitations to attend in the coming weeks.

Yours in Sport Sue Harris, PE Teacher

Cont'd from page 1...

LEARNING TIP –“ READING IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING YOU CAN DO WITH YOUR CHILD... Read 20 minutes a day... NO EXCUSES.”

* LEARNING TO READ PHASE - In the early years, either reading to your child or listening to your child reading for 20 minutes a day will encourage the habit and create an interest and excitement around reading for enjoyment.

*READING TO LEARN PHASE - In the middle to upper school, 20 – 30 quiet minutes a night reading – with the television off and either in a communal area or in a bedroom, is the ideal environment for further developing vocabulary and comprehension skills.

Ask yourself – **have you had your 20 minutes today?** If every household in our school committed to this – our literacy levels will improve dramatically.

From Deputy Principal School Leaders' Induction

Next Thursday 5 February, we will be holding a whole school assembly to induct our 2015 school and house captains. The assembly will commence at 9:00am and conclude at approximately 9:30am. Councillor Julie Talty is our special guest. Parents of school leaders will receive an invitation today via their child. We look forward to working closely with these outstanding students.

A Message From Kristy Beaumont (Teacher):

“As most of you know, my family and I were expecting a bundle of joy early this year. Our beautiful daughter Emerson arrived last Thursday 22 January. Sadly after an unexpected rough start to life, Emerson Dee was unable to hold on despite the best efforts of the staff at Redlands Hospital. The support shown to us by family, friends, MCSS staff, and strangers alike has been overwhelming and greatly appreciated. As you can imagine this is a most difficult time for our family, however I do look forward to seeing everyone at Mt Cotton when I return.”

Our thoughts are with Kristy and her family in this time of grief and I am sure the whole Mount Cotton community joins with the staff in supporting them. **Rest in peace Emerson.**

The funeral service is being held this Friday afternoon and a number of staff will be attending. This will cause some minor changes to class supervision on the day.

Glenice Cleary , Deputy Principal

From the Library

Welcome back to another busy year in the Library!

Library lessons

This week the Year 4, 5 and Senior classes have an orientation session in the Library in order to revise library and computer procedures.

3A, B & C will also have their first lesson this week as this is Non Contact time for their teachers.

The remaining classes will begin library lessons next week. All students in Prep to Yr 3 are required to have a bag to protect books they borrow from the Library. Most students use the maroon MCSS satchel available through the Uniform Shop – however, a sturdy plastic bag is just as suitable.

Access to the Library – before school

Senior students are permitted in the Library from 8 am in the morning to

access computers to work on school related tasks,
read or just chat quietly.

if they have completed an agreement relating to a
personal device use that device on school related
tasks

Students in the Year 4 BYOiPad program can access the Library from 8 am to

store their iPad before school (students are responsible
for collecting their iPad from the Library prior to
the 1st bell)

use their iPads for school related tasks

Students from other year levels are

permitted in the Library from 8.30. Students who do not
have access to computers at home, can, with
prior arrangement, come into the Library before
8.30 to complete any online tasks they have been
set by their teacher.

Parents are encouraged to ensure they understand their responsibilities with regard to using the Internet at school.

Access to the Library – lunchtime

all students are permitted to use the Library from 1.55 –
1.20. (Prep students from Week 5)

Prep students

Week 4 is our Prep Buddy Library Week - our Prep students (a different class each day) come to the Library with their buddies and are introduced to the lunchtime library routines.

Hats – from time to time we have had problems with children losing their hats when they come to the Library at lunchtime. To minimise these issues please ensure your child has a clearly named hat. Students are required to wear their hat to walk to and from the Library and they can either leave their hat in the basket labelled with their year level or keep their hat with them.

Student Librarians – students in Year 5 are invited to apply for a position of Student Librarian for Semester 1. Application forms need to be returned to me by next Wednesday February 4. Successful applicants will be presented with their badges at the Senior Assembly in Week 4.

ICT Matters

As our students are becoming more technologically aware, this year we are moving away from using generic logons for Prep – Year 3. The students in Years 1 – 3 will practise using their individual logons during their Library lessons in the 1st four weeks of this term. Prep students will be instructed in using their own logon later in the Semester (depending on their readiness) As part of using their own logon each student and their parents/ caregivers are required to read and sign an Internet Usage Agreement each year – this is an Education Queensland requirement and is an 'auditable' document. These will be sent home this week and a prompt return of the signed forms will be appreciated. As the terminology may be difficult for the younger students to understand it is important that parents have a discussion with their child/

Helen Plaschke, Teacher-Librarian / ICT Coordinator
library@mtcottons.eq.edu.au

Reminders, dates to remember ...

Week 1 Term 1 2015

- Tues 27 Jan First day of the school year
- Wed 28 Jan Cash Window Closed
Tuckshop Open
No Junior Assembly
- Thurs 29 Jan Cash Window Open 8.15-9.15am
Tuckshop Open
No Senior Assembly
Uniform Shop 2.15-3.15pm
- Fri 30 Jan Tuckshop Open
Uniform Shop Open 8.15-9.15am

Week 2

- Mon 2 Feb Uniform Shop 2.15-3.15pm
- Tues 3 Feb P & C Newsletter
- Wed 4 Feb Tuckshop open
Cash Window Open 8.15-9.15am
No Junior Assembly P to 3
- Thurs 5 Feb Tuckshop Open
Cash Window Open 8.15-9.15am

Whole School Assembly –

Leader's Induction

Uniform Shop 2.15-3.15pm

- Fri 6 Feb Tuckshop Open
Uniform Shop Open 8.15-9.15am

Week 3

- Mon 9 Feb Uniform Shop 2.15-3.15pm
- Tues 10 Feb School Newsletter
- Wed 11 Feb Tuckshop Open
Cash Window Open 8.15-9.15am
- Thurs 12 Feb Tuckshop Open
Cash Window Open 8.15-9.15am
Uniform Shop 2.15-3.15pm
- Fri 30 Jan Tuckshop Open
Uniform Shop Open 8.15-9.15am

UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

Price List & Order Form - 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. Can be returned to the P&C box in the school office.

EMAIL: mel-foster@live.com.au **PHONE:** 0418 438 747

Uniform shop hours:
Monday 2.15-3.15pm
Thurs 2.15-3.15pm
Friday 8.15-9am



Tuckshop News

www.ouronlinecanteen.com.au

Jo Wildermoth 0468 944 420

Tuckshop is open Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays for Morning Tea and Lunch.

We offer a convenient online ordering system – to register go to www.ouronlinecanteen.com.au

Bag orders are also accepted (please drop your bag order directly to the Tuckshop before school).



School Banking News

Student Bankers of the Week

02/12/14 Matilda 1A Class: 1D

Student Banking is done on Tuesdays

Welcome back to School Banking for 2015 YEAH!! . Our first day of Banking will be Tuesday 3rd Feb. Just to finish off from last year, we were not amongst the winners of Go-Pro cameras and slip and slides. The winners in our region were at Rochedale, Holland Park, Loganholme State Schools and Sheldon College. We hope they really slip on their slides. Little reminder that our tokens carry over from last year, so keep on banking and collecting. Keep a look out for this years reward info pack and also keep watch for upcoming dates for an account opening day. Happy Banking. **Anita Banking Guru!**



Music Notes :



2015 is going to be a very busy year on the Music and Performance Calendar. Instrumental Music and Strings will be kicking off in the next couple of weeks. Once our specialist Instrumental Teachers have visited, I will have more information around days and times for lessons.

Choirs will begin rehearsing in week 3. This year I'm going to trial running 3 choirs. Mini Melodies (Yr 1 and 2), Mt Cotton Voices (Yr 3-6) and a small auditioned vocal ensemble Mt Cotton Cantabile. Students will be asked to see Mrs Bath on Friday to collect notes if interested in being part of our Choral Program.

We didn't quite finish auditions for our school musical Pirates of the Curry Bean last year. So this is your last opportunity to put your hand up to be part of the Musical. If you have not yet auditioned or have thought about it over the holidays and want to be part of our production, please see Mrs Bath by Monday of Week 2. As soon as auditions are finished, roles will be announced!

Suzie Bath
Music Teacher

Chaplain News

Welcome back to 2015. I am excited about our year to come and looking forward to getting to know the new families.

If there is anyway I can assist you or your children, please make a time to come and talk to me and I will do what I can to assist.

Meaningful meals is continuing this year and it would be great to restock our freezer in the first few weeks. If anyone is able to provide either home cooked meals or you can purchase meals such as lasagne, chicken Kiev or cottage pie that would be greatly appreciated. Enjoy your first week back at school and keep smiling. Thanks, **Chappy Jo**

Bus Route Changes—Transdev Notification

Full route descriptions and information on timing points are available at <http://www.transdev.com.au/>

Contact 3248 6100

Important Notice

Smoking banned 5 metres around school grounds

Smoking any tobacco products or using an electronic cigarette within five metres of any state or private school grounds has been banned. This applies before, during and after school hours as well as over weekends and school holidays.

On the spot fines can be issued by environmental health officers, police or other officers authorised by the local government to anyone found in breach of this legislation. The ban does not extend to businesses or residences that share a property boundary with a school.

Smokers are asked to put out your cigarette and dispose of the litter thoughtfully well before you reach the school boundary.

www.health.qld.gov.au/public-health/topics/atod/tobacco-laws/schools/default.asp

