



TO GROW CLEVER, CREATIVE  
AND CARING CHILDREN

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18 March 2021

## From the Principal

*Our Statement of Purpose at Mount Cotton State School is:*

**Every Student Counts**

*Every Teacher Counts*

*Every Minute Counts*

*Mt Cotton Counts!*

## The National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence

Our Vision at Mount Cotton State School, is to grow Clever, Creative and Caring children. We have a zero tolerance to bullying. This Friday, we celebrate the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence. This day promoted the strong message that bullying and violence are not okay at any time.

At our school we aim to create a safe and supportive school community for everyone. Sometimes, it can be difficult for parents or carers to know what to do when their child talks to them about bullying. You are an important part of our work to prevent bullying and to respond effectively if it happens. Stopping bullying involves everyone.

### If your child talks to you about bullying:

**Listen** calmly and get the full story. Your calm response is important to allow your child to tell you all about the situation. After they've told you their story, ask questions to get more details if you need to: who, what, where, when. Although you may feel some strong emotions about your child's experience, try to keep calm to avoid more distress to your child.

**Reassure** your child they are not to blame. Many children blame themselves and this may make them feel even worse. You could say things like, 'That sounds really hard to deal with.

No one should have to put up with that.' or 'I'm so glad you told me. You should be able to feel safe at school; that's not fair at all'.

**Ask** your child what they want to do and what they want you to do. A critical part of your response is to avoid jumping in to solve the problem. While it is natural to want to protect your child, helping them to find their own solution is a better option. It helps them feel they have some power in the situation.

**Visit** the link below to find some strategies. The website has tips and ideas for different bullying situations. One idea is to practise strategies at home to help your child feel more confident.

<http://www.bullyingnoway.gov.au/>

**Contact** the school. Your child may be reluctant for you to do this, so discuss the idea and reassure them that the school would want to know and is able to help. Make an appointment to meet with your child's teacher and, if you need to, ask to talk with the principal. Contact the school immediately if you have a concern about your child's safety.

**Check in regularly** with your child. Keep the conversation going. It can take time to resolve issues, so check in regularly with your child about their experiences and their feelings. Your ongoing support is important.

### Resources:

*Attached are some resources* from The National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence website.

### Support Programs

Mount Cotton SS implements a number of programs to promote positive relationships among students, including the "Peer Support" Program and "Great Mates" lunchtime program.

The Peer Support Program is a whole school, peer led, experiential learning program that encourages students to

support each other. It develops skills and attitudes around our school's core values of Respect, Responsibility and Resilience. The program utilises a whole school approach to support positive relationships.

Great Mates is a lunchtime program that provides opportunities for students to participate in a wide range of structured activities to have fun and interact in a positive way with their peers.

Thanks for your support to make our school a great school for everyone.

## Our Decoding Strategies

Decoding is the process of converting printed word into its spoken form. Readers are strategic when they figure out unknown words by decoding, analysing and predicting. This leads to word recognition, where the reader connects the decoded word to its meaning. When the reader can automatically do this while reading a string of words in a passage, the result is comprehension of the entire text.

Good readers use decoding strategies when they come to a word they don't know.

Stuck on a word?

## Supporting Your Child In the Early Years of School

Attached to the newsletter are some ideas for supporting your child in the early years.

## Professional Learning for Teachers – Wednesday 3 pm to 4 pm.

A reminder that our teachers participate in professional learning every Wednesday from 3 pm. Due to this, they are not available during this time to meet with parents.

## Term 1 Parent Calendar

Attached to this newsletter is our Term 1 parent calendar. It lists all our important dates for Term 1.

## 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.

## 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 each of our classes Term 1 Weeks 6 & 7.

Class	Week 6	Week 7
Prep	96	93
PA	99	92

Class	Week 6	Week 7
PB	94	92
PC	96	92
PD	98	99
<b>Year 1</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>93</b>
1A	99	92
1B	94	91
1C	94	98
1D	98	92
<b>Year 2</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>95</b>
2/3A	97	96
2B	95	90
2C	95	97
2D	93	98
<b>Year 3</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>95</b>
3B	88	95
3C	99	98
3D	92	92
<b>Year 4</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>96</b>
4A	95	97
4B	99	99
4C	91	96
4D	98	95
<b>Year 5</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>95</b>
5A	94	97
5B	97	94
5C	93	94
5D	88	96
<b>Year 6</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>98</b>
SA	91	97
SB	97	99
SC	96	99

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

## From the Deputy Principals

### Parent/ Teacher Interviews

As you are aware, Prep – Year 6 interviews are on Wednesday 31 March.

The online booking system is now open, therefore, you may now book your interview time with your child/ren's teacher. Please remember the following:

- Parents can only book one interview time slot with the teacher
- Parents of students in Year 6 – you will meet with your child’s home room teacher.
- If you are unable to secure a meeting time, or unable to make this date, please contact the teacher directly to make an alternate time

The booking system is open until 11pm Wednesday 24th March for parents to make bookings. It will then be closed and no further bookings will be able to be made using this method.

Please refer to the letter distributed for further details.

## Learning Potential app

Learning Potential is a free app for parents, families, and carers packed with useful tips and inspiring ways parents can be more involved in their child's learning. It is designed to help parents be part of their child's learning and make the most of the time they spend together, from the high chair to high school.

**Kind regards,**  
**Sally Bedford & Stacey Dabelstein**  
**Deputy Principals**

## From the HOSES

### What is the NDIS?

There are around 4.3 million Australians who have a disability. Within the next five years, the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) will provide more than \$22 billion in funding a year to an estimated 500,000 Australians who have permanent and significant disability. For many people, it will be the first time they receive the disability support they need.

The NDIS can provide all people with disability with information and connections to services in their communities such as doctors, sporting clubs, support groups, libraries and schools, as well as information about what support is provided by each state and territory government.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qZOjPBjBPg>

The NDIS can fund the help you, or the person you care for, might need to live your life day-to-day. Things like getting out and about, help at home, help to get a job or access to therapies including speech therapy, occupational and physiotherapy, and special equipment. All Queenslanders with disability can apply now. Please click on the link below for further information.

### Supporting engagement for parents and families of students with disability

As part of our Partnering with Parents commitment under the Every student with disability succeeding plan, the Department of Education has engaged the Community Resource Unit (CRU) to provide support to parents and families of students with disability in Queensland state schools to build self-advocacy skills and work as respected and valued partners in your child’s education.

You can access the Families for Inclusive Education Project page directly from the CRU website for accessible information about:

- Date claimers and links to register for upcoming parent workshops,
- Inclusive education factsheets,
- Newsletters and resources, and
- Recording of CRU’s Planning successful transitions: Top tips for parents webinar.

## CRU workshops and events

CRU regularly holds events of varying sizes across Queensland. These are designed to strategically resource people and organisations as they strive to pursue better lives for people with disabilities. They range from small local gatherings to share local wisdom through to large conferences that attract people from around the country.

CRU is committed to giving an equal voice to people with disability and their family members so that their views can be heard alongside academics, professionals and service providers.

Their list of upcoming events calendar showcases our events. Where funding is available we offer our events at little or no cost. In addition families can contact CRU for information, individual consultations or to connect with peer support networks.

Families can request more information, receive updates on the project or speak with consultants at CRU by contacting them by telephone on (07) 3844 2211 or email [EducationProject@cru.org.au](mailto:EducationProject@cru.org.au).

**Annett Wellard**  
**Head of Special Education Services**  
**[awell39@eq.edu.au](mailto:awell39@eq.edu.au)**

## Library News

### Student Loans

All student loans from the Library are due to be returned Tuesday March 23rd (Week 9 of term). This date is a little earlier because we are changing our library system. Your assistance to return all loaned books promptly is greatly appreciated.

We have had some Redland City Council library books returned to our school library this term. As most often we are unable to identify who has returned the books we will return these on your behalf to the Redland City Council library.

### Classroom readers

Please check with your child(ren) to ensure that all books with a Mount Cotton barcode on the front cover are returned before the end of term.

### Reader’s Cup

The Year 5 and 6 students have been able to self-nominate to participate in the District Reader’s cup. We have had an intra

school competition to decide members of our school team. Teams will be finalised prior to the end of term.

## Peer Support

Peer Support is a wonderful whole school program where our students across all grades come together to learn, mentor and discuss social skills. Monday the 15th March was our second Peer Support session for 2021. Students continued to look at the Zones of Regulation and identify a time when they were in each of the zones. The next session will be after the Easter Holidays. During the next session students will explore tools for calming their mind and body.

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

## Altitude News

For STEM club last week we learnt a little about pneumatics and how a bulldozer works. We then used our STEM kits to create a replica of one, utilising two syringes to simulate the use of air force, or pneumatics. We created a working machine, and the students enjoyed lifting and lowering the 'bucket' of their machine by manipulating the plunger on one of the syringes.



**Rayoni Briskey**  
**Altitude Teacher**

## Student Council News

### National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence

On Friday the 19th of March 2021, we will have an out of uniform day, with a focus on wearing orange, to show the school's support of the National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence. Students must bring a gold coin donation and donations will be put toward the school mascot. Donations will be collected at 9am on Friday morning, along with entries to our competitions. The competitions are:

- A School Slogan about Anti-Bullying – presented as a poster (A4).
- A short story about anti-bullying (with an extra challenge of including a slogan).
- A colouring competition (Prep Year Only).

The Student Councillors and School Leaders will decide on the winners from each cohort. A \$2 Tuckshop Voucher will be awarded to each cohort winner.

On the day the Student Leaders will hold games around the school, during second break. These games will be for the students that play in each of the designated areas. Oliver and

Aden are running baton relays on the bottom oval. Zane and Olivia are doing games in the Hall. Ryley and Indiana are doing peg tag on the front oval and Coirrin and Farrah are doing skipping under C Block. Staff will take photos on the day.

By Oliver.

## Tuckshop News

On Tuesday 30 March the Cross Country is on and we will have sushi and a sausage sizzle available for **pre order only** via Flexischools.

The sushi and sausages will all be handed out for first break. Parents that are at school to support their children are invited to also have a sausage or some sushi (but please preorder).

A sausage on bread is \$1.50 and poppers, water and cans of soft drink (soft drink is for adults only) are all also \$1.50. No cash will be taken on the day.

The Tuckshop will be open for food service only on Wednesday of Week 10, with limited availabilities.

I would like to thank a rather large list of people who have been in and helped me

Week 6 Brenda & Kate and Mrs Cole  
Week 7 Ashleigh, Amy D & Bek

In Week 6 I had no volunteers for the second shift, so my wonderful colleagues rotated in and out to get the job done:

Mrs Fountain, Mrs Carr, Jody O'Dell, Mrs Williamson  
Ms Steward, Chappy, Mrs Bruce, Mrs Wellard, Mrs Bedford, Mrs Dabelstein & Mrs Wilkins

Thank you so much, love your work!!

**Kind regards**  
**Irene**  
**Tuckshop Convener**

## P and C News

### Colouring Competition

Thank you to everyone who submitted an entry into the Colouring Competition. We raised \$350 which is a great start to the year. The winners have been drawn and will be announced at parade this week. Congratulations to all the winners!

Thank you to Minister De Brenni for donating a \$50 Smiggle Voucher for the senior prize, Councillor Julie Talty for donating a \$50 Typo Voucher and Corinne Guterres from LJ Hooker Cleveland has also kindly donated icy cups for each class winner.

### Colour Explosion Run – 2 weeks to go!

Our major fundraiser for this year is the Colour Explosion Fun Run which will be held on **Thursday 1st of April** – the last day of Term 1. All fundraising for this event is online. We cannot accept any cash donations. A minimum of \$10 needs to be raised to be involved. To set up your child's fundraising profile go to the link below:

<https://myprofilepage.com.au/>

We have already raised an amazing \$5000 so far – we are excited to see how much we can raise in the next 2 weeks!

Thank you to everyone who has already volunteered to help out on the day – we are still looking for some more helpers, please send a message to the P and C Facebook page or email us at [pandc@mtcottons.eq.edu.au](mailto:pandc@mtcottons.eq.edu.au)

If you have a business or know of any businesses who could sponsor this event, please get in contact with us. This is a great opportunity to help our school community to raise some much-needed funds.

## March P and C Meeting and AGM

Thank you to everyone who attended our AGM and March meeting last week. A big thank you to the outgoing executive team, in particular Jess Zutt and Melanie Harbottle who have played a huge role within our school over the past 6+ years. We would like to welcome all our new members this year and introduce our 2021 executive team.

**Lauren Matheson – President**  
**Fiona Lawson – Vice President**  
**Jen Barnett – Secretary**  
**Lyndal Cranefield – Vice Secretary**  
**Kylie Stekiewicz – Treasurer**  
**Amy Cronk – Vice Treasurer**

Our next meeting will be held in early May (no April meeting due to school holidays). New members are always welcome.

## Helping Hands News

Helping Hands Outside School Hours Care is situated opposite the tennis court and behind C Block. Operation hours are from 6:30-8:45am and 2:50-6:00pm. Autumn Vacation Care is approaching fast and there are some exciting things planned for the coming holidays, so ensure you secure your spot now.

**Best Regards,**  
**Pippa Jankowski**  
**Coordinator**  
**Helping Hands Mount Cotton**  
**Mob: 0448 070 462**  
**E-mail: [mountcotton@helpinghandsnetwork.com.au](mailto:mountcotton@helpinghandsnetwork.com.au)**  
**Web: [www.helpinghandsnetwork.com.au](http://www.helpinghandsnetwork.com.au)**

## Policy Reminder

### Medical Conditions

Some medical conditions require exclusion from school or child care to prevent the spread of infectious diseases among staff and children. This poster (attached) provides information on the recommended minimum exclusion periods for infectious conditions and will assist medical practitioners, schools, pre-schools and child care centres to meet the requirements of the Public Health Act 2005.

## Money Due

### Events Money Due:

- **Student Resource Scheme \$50 per student due now**
- **Evergreen Puppet Show Yr 1 \$7 due Wed 24 March by BPoint**
- **Instrumental Music Levy & Instrument Hire \$165.00 due 1st April**
- **Instrumental Levy only \$65 due 1st April**

*Please send permission forms to the class teacher.*

### Important Notice:

*The BPoint invoice numbers are specific to each activity. Please do not use a single invoice number repeatedly for different activities. Transactions will not credit against your child/ren name/s as a result.*

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

## Student of the Week

**Congratulations to the following students on their achievement!**

Name	Class	Award Week 6
Poppy	PA	Resilience
Liam	PB	Clever
Tayden	PC	Resilience
Emily	PD	Resilience
Connor	1A	Respect
Riley	1B	Resilience
Ame	1C	Clever
Mackenzie	1D	Creative
Joey	2/3A	Respect
Emily	2B	Responsible
Oscar	2C	Clever
Sid	2D	Responsible
Cohen	3B	Resilience
Shaiden	3C	Responsible
Hudson	3D	Respect
Jordan	4A	Clever
Harper	4B	Responsible
Lylah	4C	Responsible
Tiaan	4/5D	Responsible
Iszac	5A	Respect
Jason	5B	Clever

Name	Class	Award Week 6
Addison	5C	Responsible
Summer	SNR A	Respect
Annika	SNR B	Resilience
Reilly	SNR C	Resilience

Name	Class	Award Week 7
Layla	PA	Caring
Liam	PB	Clever
Aksel	PC	Respect
Levi	PD	Respect
Evie	1A	Clever
Leo	1B	Clever
Angus	1D	Responsible
Luke	2/3A	Clever
Elias	2B	Creative
Olivia	2C	Respect
Blake	2D	Responsible
Flynn	3B	Clever
Shayden	3C	Responsible
Hudson	3D	Respect
Benji	4A	Responsible
Izaac	4B	Respect
Hayden	4C	Responsible
Tiaan	4/5D	Responsible
Isaac	5A	Responsible
Maddi	5B	Creative
Hayley	5C	Responsible

## Dates to Remember



Term 1, 2021	
Week 8	
Wed 17 March	Tuckshop CGen Massed Choir <b>2/3A COL 2.15pm</b>
Thurs 18 March	Mt Cotton Voices 7.45am Mini Melodies 8.15am Tuckshop

Term 1, 2021	
	<b>2B, 2C &amp; 2D COL 2.15pm</b>
Fri 19 March	Tuckshop <b>CGEN Rehearsal 7.45am</b> <b>National Day of Action Against Bullying &amp; Violence</b>
Week 9	
Mon 22 March	Instrumental – Strings Junior Assembly P to 3 Religious Instruction
Tues 23 March	Instrumental – Band Senior Assembly 4 to 5 <b>Year 5 COL 2.15pm</b> <b>Yr 4/5D COL 2.15pm</b>
Wed 24 March	Instrumental Band Tuckshop <b>PC &amp; PD COL 9.15am</b> <b>Yr 3 COL 2.15pm</b>
Thurs 25 March	Mt Cotton Voices 7.45am Mini Melodies 8.15am Tuckshop <b>Yr 4 COL 2.15pm</b>
Fri 26 March	Tuckshop CGen Rehearsal 7.45am <b>PA &amp; PB COL 9.15am</b> <b>Yr 1 COL 2.15pm</b>
Week 10	
Mon 29 March	Instrumental Strings Junior Assembly P to 3 <b>Bravehearts P to 3</b>
Tues 30 March	Instrumental Band Senior Assembly 4 to 6 <b>Sushi</b> <b>Cross Country</b> <b>Yr 6 COL 2.15pm</b>
Wed 31 March	Instrumental Band <b>Parent Interviews</b>
Thurs 1 April	<b>Yr 5 Street Science Incursion</b> <b>P &amp; C Colour Run</b> <b>Last day of Term 1</b>
Fri 2 April	<b>Public Holiday – Good Friday</b>