**Principal’s Message**

**Welcome back everyone.** It was really lovely to see all your children’s smiling faces, ready for a new year of learning. I hope you had a really happy holiday and enjoyed the time with your children.

We are back in full swing and have already commenced our teaching and learning programs. It promises to be another busy term with Swimming carnivals, Harmony Day, a Responsible Pet Program, a NRL clinic and of course, the Camden Show.

While I acknowledge that in last year’s Parent survey, it was requested that we reduce the number of extra curricular activities, we always try to reduce the cost to parents and apply for grants to fund various programs. As such, the NRL program will be funded by a Sporting Schools grant.

**Welcome Kindergarten**

We have 5 lovely new kinder students at this stage: Ben, Mark, Penny, Mylz and Ryan, and they commenced full days from day one. I know they went home extremely tired for the first week or so but may I commend them on the excellent way that they have settled into school life at Mount Hunter. Thank you to all the parents who supported us by bringing happy children to school each day! Mrs Gray has already completed their Best Start Assessments and information will be forthcoming.

**Textbooks**

Last week you child received a letter detailing the increased costs associated with text-books and the benefit of using them in a multi-age classroom. As discussed with Mrs Fenning (my money manager) we are able to supplement the associated costs from our global budget but cannot carry the total amount anymore. (Some schools charge parents the total amount!) We intend to start using these textbooks in two weeks and unfortunately, we cannot distribute books unless payment is received upfront. Children get very upset when their classmates have a book and they don’t so please support the teachers in this matter.

**Mrs Melissa Fenning and Mrs Helen Fenning will continue to work in the front Office this year. Thank you for everything you do to support our school!**

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**OFFICE TIMES:** Mrs Fenning will be in the office during the following times;
- **Monday:** 9:00am - 3:30pm
- **Tuesday:** 9:00am - 3:30pm
- **Wednesday:** CLOSED
  (Please avoid any office inquiries on this day)
- **Thursday:** 9:00am - 12:00pm
- **Friday:** 9:00 – 3:30pm

**School Uniform**

All students arrived the first week of school dressed beautifully in their school uniform, including the wearing of school hats. I wish I could say the same for Week 2, as we have already seen the wearing of hats dropping off (literally!!). Perhaps a spare hat could be kept in the student’s tote trays or lockers, for the times when they forget their hats. We are enforcing a strict ‘No hat - Play undercover’ policy this year, which will be further discussed at an upcoming P & C meeting. This is in line with parent requests at the end of last year to uphold our Uniform policy. Thank you for your support in this matter!

**Thank you to Mr Traynor** who came in during the holidays and carried out some maintenance repairs for us, including fixing the drain covers and the Basketball hoop. We thank you for your time and effort!

**Here’s to a great term, everyone!**

Mrs Doris Herrmann  Principal/R

**Dates to Remember**


<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.2.2016</td>
<td>P &amp; C Annual General Meeting followed by the General Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.2.16</td>
<td>Kids Club starts at St Pauls Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.2.16-</td>
<td>SCHOOL ASSEMBLY</td>
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<td>3:00pm</td>
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<td>17.2.16</td>
<td>NRL Carnival Assembly 1/2hr visit by NRL Tigers members</td>
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<td>18.2.16</td>
<td>Year 6 Fundraising - Fruit kebab and cake day</td>
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<tr>
<td>19.2.16</td>
<td>Harmony Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>24.2.16</td>
<td>NRL Clinic commences</td>
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<tr>
<td>25.2-26.2.16</td>
<td>ZONE Swimming Carnival</td>
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<td>Picton Pool</td>
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Our school website has an electronic calendar that we continually update with the latest happenings and information.

P&C News
The Annual General Meeting will be held tonight at 6:30pm, followed by the general meeting. All financial members ($1 paid on the night) shall be able to fill an executive position and have a voting right in the affairs of the P & C. This is the forum for you to voice your opinions and get involved with supporting your children at school. Please come along in 2016 and support your children by being involved with this hard working group of volunteers.
P&C meetings will generally be held on the second Monday of the month. Please check the Newsletter and the school website calendar for upcoming dates.

Student News
Congratulations the 14 students who qualified for the Razorback Zone Swimming Carnival to be held on THURSDAY 25th and FRIDAY 26th February at Picton Pool. It was a wonderful day and everyone tried their hardest. Even the weather behaved itself! There will be additional notes coming home this week for the 14 qualifiers. Well done to everyone who had a go!

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<tr>
<th>THURSDAY 25th</th>
<th>Freestyle and Relays</th>
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<tr>
<td>FRIDAY 26th February</td>
<td>IM, Breaststroke, Backstroke &amp; Butterfly</td>
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Congratulations also to all the students who sat for the school photos this year. We were once again commended for our excellent behaviour and the photographers were very pleased with our smiles. It is not too late to purchase photo packages, as all students had their photo taken. The company is called ‘The School Photographer’. Go to their website: http://www.theschoolphotographer.com.au and select ‘click here for online payments’.

I managed to sneak in a photo of our well-behaved kids during our whole school photograph. I hope the parents will be pleased when they receive this photo in their package!!!!

Absent notes
Last year we had approximately 60% of our absences unexplained. This is a very poor statistic as it is a legal requirement that all absences be explained promptly in writing as soon as the child returns to school. Otherwise, absences will be recorded as an unjustified/unexplained absence after seven days. Too many unexplained absences will draw the attention of the Home School Liaison Officer. Parents, you will shortly be receiving a note booklet helping you to justify absences in a prompt manner.

Year 6 Fundraising
The first fundraising event for Year 6 will be a Kebab Fruit stick and Cake day. The price for each item will be $1.00. Please bring in your money to help support the Year 6 children raise money for their end of year activities. Some of the money raised this year, will also go to support a community in Africa to purchase equipment for their school.

Ambassador’s Column
Welcome back everyone. It has been enjoyable to watch the new kindergartens and I hope that they are all settled in and are enjoying themselves at Mount Hunter Public School. We have just had our swimming carnival and it was great to see all our swimmers trying their best and congratulations to everyone who participated and those who are now heading off to zone. The Zone carnival will be held in the up-coming weeks. This term will be an 11 week term and we are already in week 3! I can’t believe it! Monique W
Community News

Village Markets Cobbitty. The markets are held on the first Saturday of each month except for January and February. The next Market Day will be SATURDAY 7th March, 8:00am - 1:00pm. The markets provide quality unique crafts and produce, drawing large crowds from local and wider NSW areas. We warmly welcome all visitors to our market, and encourage anyone interested in joining our volunteer market committee to contact us. Ph: 0438 512728

CONGRATULATIONS to the following students:

T1 Week 2

T1 Week 3
Traveller: Mylz O, Lincoln C, Alex F, Dylan J, Addison H.
Westbrook: James A, Jackson Q, Lachlan D, Dylan O, Eve M, Cameron M.

Assembly Merit Certificates

CONGRATULATIONS to the following students:

T1 Week 3 Assembly

Watch this space!