STAFFING NEWS

With the start of a new year comes news of staffing changes and this year is no exception. I am delighted to welcome back Mr and Mrs Tonkin, Miss Goodfield and Mrs Radalj, all who return from leave last year. In addition to returning staff members, we also welcome the following new members of staff to the school.

Mrs Liz Klinger has joined the staff as PE teacher and Mrs Hannah Charlton has rejoined the staff as the Yr 1 Room 1 teacher on Fridays. Mrs Bindi Jones returns to school in the brand new position of Visual Arts Specialist while Miss Sally Boud will take up the position of tandem Yr 5 Teacher with Mr Tonkin in Room 10 for 2 days per week.

Unfortunately Ibu King has had to take 6 months sick leave and so we wish her all the best for her recovery. During Ibu King’s absence, Mrs Emma Krause will pick up the role of LOTE teacher. We are also delighted to welcome Mrs Cassie Nicholas to the staff as Special Needs Education Assistant.

CLASS MEETINGS

As in previous years, classroom teachers will be holding information sessions after school in Weeks 2 & 3 (refer back page). All parents and caregivers are invited to come down and find out what the teachers have planned for the year and ask general questions about the class.

Please be aware that this would not a suitable time to engage the teacher in a long discussion about your child. Teachers are more than happy to arrange a meeting at another time to address any specific concerns or questions you might have regarding your own child. During the meetings, children will be supervised in the library.

ENROLMENTS AND CLASS STRUCTURE

Enrolments at the school currently stand at 318 which is less than the 345 we closed with in 2016 due to reduced numbers of Kindy and Pre-Primary enrolments. The following class structure has been developed with consideration to the spread of students across the year levels and the school’s need to reduce the number of spaces in each class as much as possible.

ECE
Room 20 - Mrs Bruse

Rm 7 - Mrs Pruyn & Mrs Bruse

Rm 8 - Mrs Rhine-Davis & Mrs Charlton

Rm 9 - Mrs Radaj & Mrs Rigg

Rm 3 - Year 1/2 - Mrs Tonkin

Rm 4 - Year 2/3 - Mrs Mittal

Rm 5 - Year 3 - Ms Bowlay & Mrs Bruse

Rm 6 - Year 3/4 - Mr Tonkin

Rm 7 - Year 4 - Mrs Taylor

Rm 8 - Year 5/6 - Ms Goodfield

Rm 9 - Year 5/6 - Dr Ellis

Rm 10 - Year 5 - Mr Tonkin & Miss Boud

O’Connor Block

Rm 14 - Year 5/6 - Mrs Johansson

Rm 15 - Year 5/6 - Mr Tonkin & Miss Boud

Specialist Staff

LOTE (Indonesian) - Mrs Krause

Music - Mrs Reif-Eaves

Music - Mrs Jones

Visual Arts - Ms Klinger

PP & Primary - Mrs Charlton

PP & Primary - Mrs Radalj

PP & Primary - Mrs Tonkin

PP & Primary - Mrs Boud

PP & Primary - Mrs Radalj

PP & Primary - Mrs Tonkin

PP & Primary - Miss Goodfield
VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS
As all parents will know, State Schools in WA do not charge school fees as such but do request parents to pay a one-off voluntary contribution of $50 per student which is used to provide much-needed additional resources for your children.

Over recent years the rate of voluntary contributions received has fallen to less than 60%, which is starting to have a negative impact on the level of resources and support we are able to offer students. Put into dollar terms, this 35% shortfall equates to approximately $6,000 which we spend on Literacy and Numeracy resources each year.

I sincerely request that all parents to pay this contribution as early as possible to ensure the continuation of key programs such as the SAER Support, ICT Program and the maintenance of key teaching and learning resources at the school.

Online banking details for Mundaring Primary
Bandiyo Bank-IBAN # 633 000-100/A/C # 155 735616
Please use your child’s surname and Room No as the reference. Thank you.

PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION
Parents will have noticed from the term planner the HEC Public Speaking Competition is running in Week 6 of this term, giving us a very short time to run our own competition to select our own representatives.

Next week, interested students from Year 1 to Year 6 will be provided with a brochure outlining the competition, including the expectations and judging criteria. From Monday 6th Feb, I will be working with interested students to refine their poems (Yr 1-3) and speeches (Yr 4-6) ready for our own competition in Week 5.

BUFSIZE SAFETY
As parents are aware, Mundaring PS is in a bushfire prone area and as such we have a range of strategies and actions in place to reduce the risk of catastrophic loss of life and property in the event of a bushfire.

Included with this newsletter parents will find a copy of our Bushfire Safety Information brochure and we encourage all parents to read the document and become familiar with the processes and procedures we employ in the event of a bushfire.

A copy of this brochure is also available from the school’s website.

PARENT COMMUNICATIONS
This year, the school will be continuing to improve our parent communications strategies to ensure we get our messages out to as many people as possible and in a timely manner as possible. Improvements include:

Newsletter - The paper based newsletter will now be produced only once per term and made available at end of each term for the upcoming term. A term planner will also be included with this newsletter.

Website/App - As mentioned in newsletters last year, we will be expanding the move into the digital communications world with more regular updates on our school website and weekly push notifications via the school’s App.

All weekly news articles will be published on the front page of the website under ‘Recent News’ heading. The school App will also be used on a regular basis to send reminders to parents of special events and urgent news items.

Updates to our term planner dates will also be placed on the front page of our website in the Calendar and Event Quick View section.

New Flash - Where the school needs to communicate urgent news updates/date changes etc. we will back up the Website and App notifications with a paper based News Flash sent home to all families.

Emergency Messaging System (EMS) - In the case of urgent messages related to emergencies (e.g. bushfire), the school will continue to use our EMS which will send text messages to all parents via their telephone. These messages will also be sent via our App, updated on the school’s website and in a News Flash.

It is recommended that parents access to the school’s website on a regular basis (weekly?) and take a minute to download the school App which is called ‘Updat-ed’ and is available from the App Store (Apple only) or Google Play Store (Android).

MAJOR SCHOOL EVENTS
In previous years, the school has held major school events (carnivals, open days, concerts etc) at various times throughout the year. While these events have generally been successful, the timing of some whole school events has led to issues for students, staff and parents and while the old adage ‘you can’t please everybody’ is still relevant we are looking at revising our events calendar to ensure that we please as many people as possible.

Planned changes include:

School Assemblies - Each class will once again present an assembly throughout 2017 but as per the term planner, these will be held in weeks 3, 6 & 9 of each term. There will be no block assemblies this year.

Non-class assemblies (Easter, ANZAC Day, Remembrance Day etc) will be held in other weeks as per the term planner.

Concerts - This year we are looking at holding the annual school concert at the end of Term 3, a Mid-Year Concert held during the day as per the Edo-Dance Concert at the end of Term 3.

School Athletics Carnivals - Weather permitting, these events will be moved to later in Term 3 to allow us more time between our school carnivals and the HEC interschool competitions in Term 4.

All major school events will be advertised via the School Website, the Term Newsletter/Planner and reminders will be sent via App and News Flash.

SCHOOL P&C
If you are interested in being part of the P&C, in order to either volunteer or provide support as a representative then I encourage you to attend one of the upcoming meetings.

Next Friday’s School P&C meeting is just one example of the terrific work the P&C do to make MPS a better place but they can only do this if parents put their hands up to take on roles in the organisation.

You are always welcome to attend with the next meeting being held on Tuesday 7th February.

Mr Paul Larkin (Principal)