Welcome everyone to the 2017 school year. I hope you have all had a lovely Christmas and a relaxing break. I am really pleased to be part of the staff team at this wonderful school and look forward to working collaboratively with you all.

This year will bring many challenges and successes as usual. As we go about our day it is very important that we focus on building and maintaining positive relationships between all members of the school community. A respectful and inclusive school is critical to supporting student wellbeing, which in turn enables the achievement of high quality learning outcomes for our students. Strong relationships are essential for learning and every learner must be given opportunities to succeed in an environment that is safe, supportive and inclusive.

Just as important is a positive working environment for staff. Staff have a responsibility to model respectful behaviour, attitudes and values as they work with students, each other, and parents and carers, both in and out of the classroom. Working together to create a culture of respectful behaviour ensures everyone can be assured of certainty and consistency in our interactions.

We continue to welcome our families’ participation and genuinely consider them as integral members of our school community. Respectful interactions, effective communication, tolerance and acknowledging the partnership that exists between home and school, all require ongoing commitment and positively influence learner wellbeing and success.

Our school is known for our inclusivity, compassion, cooperation and positivity, let’s all recommit to these behaviours and be accountable, responsible and supportive in the important role we play in promoting quality teaching and learning at Mowbray Heights Primary School.

I would like to wish you all a very productive and rewarding 2017.

Sharon

Goodbye and Thank you

Mrs Tyson has announced her resignation from the Department of Education. She has been at Mowbray Heights Primary School since 1998. Mrs Tyson has been an outstanding Early Childhood Teacher and has dedicated 18 years to our school community. She is known for her genuine care for students and their family, exemplary teaching practice, and loyalty towards and support of our staff. Although Mrs Tyson has officially resigned, she has assured us that this does not mean retirement. She will continue her association with our school in a relief teaching capacity. Thank you Mrs Tyson from the bottom of our hearts for your commitment. We wish you all the best for a happy and healthy future.
Diary
Mon 13th Feb
Swimming & Water Safety Program begins @ Glen Dhu Pool

Thurs 16th Feb
Early Childhood Assembly 2.10 pm

Mon 20th Feb
Swimming & Water Safety Program continues @ Launceston Aquatic

Wed 22nd Feb
Launceston Cup Holiday

Thurs 23rd Feb
Whole School Assembly 2.00 pm featuring Amy Dickson Saxophonist

Fri 24th Feb
Last day of the Swimming & Water Safety Program

Thurs 2nd Mar
Early Childhood Assembly 2.10 pm

Term Dates for 2017
Term 1  Wednesday 8th February - Wednesday 12th April
Term 2  Monday 1st May - Friday 7th July
Term 3  Tuesday 25th July - Friday 29th September
Term 4  Monday 16th October - Thursday 21st December

2017 Student Free Days
The Minister for Education and Training, Jeremy Rockliff MP, has approved the following professional learning days for staff:
Term 1  Tuesday 7th February 2017
Term 2  Thursday 13th April 2017
Term 3  Monday 24th July 2017
Term 4  Friday 3rd November 2017

Easter
Friday 14th April - Tuesday 18th April

Student Assistance Scheme (STAS) 2017
Parents and guardians of students K – 10 attending a Tasmanian State School are eligible to apply for Student Assistance (STAS). To be eligible, you and your partner’s gross taxable income must be no more than the figures shown in the table. You must have a minimum 50% care of a child for them to be considered your dependent. Grandparents raising children are also eligible to apply for and receive STAS.

Income Table for 2015 - 2016 Taxable year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No of children</th>
<th>Income p/week</th>
<th>Annual Parental Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>$662</td>
<td>$33,424</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>$762</td>
<td>$39,624</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>$868</td>
<td>$45,136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>$981</td>
<td>$51,012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>$1,101</td>
<td>$57,252</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Teaching Staff 2017

Kindergarten A  Mrs Lara Boyden
Kindergarten B  Mrs Kelly Burden
Kindergarten C  Mrs Rebecca Saunders
Prep  Mrs Annette Wyley
Prep  Mrs Belinda Towns (M/F)
Prep  Mrs Kristie Fletcher (T/W/Th)
Prep/I  Miss Kelsey Adams
1/2  Mrs Nadine Holmes
1/2  Mrs Julia Ayers
1/2  Mrs Karyn Wood
1/2  Mrs Katrina Mahar
2/3  Mrs Shannon Atkins
3/4  Mrs Rose Leader
3/4  Mrs Sharon Rafferty
3/4  Miss Lauren Bingley (M)
3/4  Mrs Aimee Pridmore (T/W/Th/F)
3/4  Miss Claire Ashman
4/5  Miss Laine Paulsen (Terms 1 & 2)
5/6  Mrs Trish Boon-Smith (Terms 3 & 4)
5/6  Mrs Julie McKenzie
5/6  Mrs Marcella Glachan
5/6  Mrs Fiona Sheedy
5/6  Mrs Nicole Airey
Physical Education  Miss Ellen Parsons
Music  Mrs Jenny Johnston
ICT (Primary)  Mr Steve Smyth
ICT (Early Childhood)  Mrs Jenny Johnston
Literacy Support  Mrs Cindy Wright, Mrs Peta Kerrison, Mrs Rachel Etchells and Mrs Jill Merrington
Numeracy Support  Mrs Cindy Wright and Mrs Juanita Blades
Resource  Mrs Carmel Cox
EAL  Mrs Denise Coyne, Mrs Lisa King and Ms Sarah Thompson
Launching into Learning  Mrs Sarah Hallett and Mrs Lara Boyd
Library  Mrs Jill Merrington and Mrs Janaha Williams

Leadership Team 2017
Principal  Mrs Sharon Symes
Assistant Principals  Mr Steve Smyth and Mrs Cindy Wright
Advanced Skills Teachers  Miss Jasmine Bird and Mrs Lisa Probert

School Times
Our school is open and supervision provided from 8.30 am each day.
We start learning at 8.55 am.
Our recess time is from 11.00 to 11.25 am.
Lunch is from 12.55 to 1.55 pm.
School finishes at 3.00 pm.
Supervision concludes at 3.15 pm.
2017 Swimming & Water Safety Program

Our Swimming and Water Safety Program for all Year 3, 4 and 5 students (and identified Year 6 students) in 2017 begins on Monday February 13th. This program is an integral part of the Health and Physical Education curriculum requiring compulsory attendance. This program will conclude on Friday 24th February.

The first week of the program will be held at Glen Dhu Pool, the second week at the Launceston Aquatic Centre. Every child is required to bring their bathers (board shorts are strongly discouraged) and a towel in a separate swimming bag each day. On a specific day (to be notified) your child will also be required to bring extra clothes to be worn over their bathers to practice survival swimming.

Every child is provided with a swimming cap free of charge. If caps are lost there will be a $2.00 replacement cost.

Late last year Consent and Medical Information forms were sent home and completed by most of our families. If there are any changes to these details that occurred over the holidays, please phone the admin staff.

Forms will be sent home with this newsletter for families who did not return the form, and for students who are new to our school.

You are invited to take the opportunity to observe your child’s swimming progress at any time during the program, but need you to be aware that your presence is not required in the change rooms.

Swimming times are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Class</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.30–10.20</td>
<td>Year 3 students from 2/3 Atkins</td>
<td>3/4 Ashman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.20–11.20</td>
<td>3/4 Leader</td>
<td>3/4 Pridmore/Bingley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.20–12.20</td>
<td>Yr 5 students from 5/6 Airey + Yr 6 at risk students from 5/6 Airey</td>
<td>3/4 Rafferty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.40–1.40</td>
<td>Yr 5 students from 5/6 McKenzie + Yr 6 at risk students from 5/6 McKenzie</td>
<td>4/5 Paulsen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.40–2.40</td>
<td>Yr 5 students from 5/6 Glachan + Yr 6 at risk students from 5/6 Glachan</td>
<td>Yr 5 students from 5/6 Sheedy + Yr 6 at risk students from 5/6 Sheedy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

School Levies 2017

| Kindergarten | $160 | Grade 3 | $225 |
| Prep         | $175 | Grade 4 | $215 |
| Grade 1      | $185 | Grade 5 | $230 |
| Grade 2      | $175 | Grade 6 | $220 |

This composite levy does not cover the following - Specialised activities such as the Hobart trip, Leavers’ activities, cost of school photo (optional) or any other optional activity. School Levies are due by Friday 3rd March.

Library News

This year library bags have been allocated to all students. Books borrowed from the library travel to and from school in this bag. Please keep all library books in this bag when they are not being read.

Library bags will be collected at the end of Term 4.

Our Library Technicians are Mrs Susan Tolputt and Mrs Shirley Morgan and the Teachers in the library are Mrs Jill Merrington and Mrs Janaha Williams.

The library is open every day and students are welcome to exchange books any day of the week if they have finished reading them. They do not have to wait until their allocated class library day.

ECE Library Days for Term 1:

Monday  1/2 Holmes, 1/2 Wood
Tuesday  Prep Wyley, Kinder A Boyden, Kinder B Burden
Friday   2/3 Atkins, Prep/1 Adams, Prep Fletcher T Towns, 1/2 Ayers, 1/2 Mahar, Kinder C Saunders

Primary Library Days will be confirmed after our Swimming and Water Safety Program has finished.

Music

Amy Dickson, this year’s saxophone soloist for Symphony Under the Stars, will be visiting our school on Thursday 23rd February. She is a leading classical soloist and performs throughout the world with many great orchestras, including our own Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra. She has won several major international competitions.

Amy will be visiting with her new ‘Take a Breath’ program. The program is designed to teach children simple breathing techniques which are vital for playing many instruments as well as for promoting general well-being. She plays lots of pieces while delivering her program and is an absolute superstar. The performance is free and is such a great opportunity for us. Families are most welcome to come. The performance is at 2.00 pm.

Please be aware that Amy Dickson will come with a videographer to film the session. If you have any concerns please contact your child’s teacher.
We encourage students to take up the healthy practice of riding scooters or bikes to school if parents consider it a safe option. The law requires helmets to be worn when riding. When students enter school grounds, bikes and scooters cannot be ridden and need to be pushed, thus ensuring all people in our school yard are safe.

To ensure the safety of bikes a bike lock is essential. Bikes are stored in the bike shed located beside the primary toilets. Scooters are stored in the quadrangle.

Student Mobile Phones
Students are reminded that if they bring a mobile phone to school, it must be handed in to the Office Staff each morning. Phones will be returned to students at the end of the school day. The same applies to ipods and other mobile devices.

Student Medication
If children require any medication whilst at school, we require a signed form from the doctor stating dose and time of medication, plus a signed form from the parent authorising the medicine or tablets. These forms can be obtained from the school office.

CONTACT DETAILS
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