**DATES TO REMEMBER**

**Monday 4th February**  
P&C Meeting - 7pm in the Staffroom

**Friday 8th February**  
School Assembly - 2.10pm

**Monday 11th February**  
AAS Tae Kwon Do starts

**Wednesday 13th February**  
AAS Netball starts

**Tuesday 19th February**  
Swimming Carnival - Maitland Pool

**Thursday 21st February**  
School Photos  
Drumming & Guitar Lessons start

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**Notes sent home today**

Family Invoices  
*(Please deduct payments made since Thursday 31.1.13)*

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**UNIFORM SHOP**

Uniform items are available for purchase from the School Office. The P&C Uniform Co-ordinator will be available for fitting and uniform purchases each Friday morning from 8.45am.

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**PRINCIPAL’S NEWS AND VIEWS**

**Kindergarten 2013**

On Friday our newest school members, our 2013 Kinder students, joined us for their first full day at school. We were all extremely impressed with how grown up and sensible the students were and I know our Early Stage 1 teachers, Mrs Hanks and Miss Stevens were very happy with the day. Thank you to the parents of our Kinder students for your fantastic support and cooperation during our orientation program and our recent Best Start assessments—your commitment to our school and to your child is most appreciated. Thank you.

**Parent / Teacher Meetings**

On Wednesday afternoon of week 3 (next week) we would like to invite our parents to meet our classroom teachers. The parent / teacher meetings will be held over two sessions in your child’s classroom. The meetings will allow teachers to provide an outline of routines, procedures, classroom requirements and upcoming term events. The sessions will commence at 3:30pm and will be repeated at 4:00pm and will cater for parents with more than one child. Please be aware that the sessions will provide general class information and are not interviews regarding student achievement. If you are unable to attend the meetings, please contact your child’s teacher to organise an alternate arrangement. Please note that Mr Scanlan, will be holding a session at 3:30pm and another at 6:30pm that will focus primarily on technology use in his room. He will not be holding a 4:00pm session.

**Information Workshops**

In the coming weeks our school will be providing parent workshops to provide information about Mathletics and our latest addition, Reading Eggs. Both programs provide excellent learning opportunities and are very engaging for students. All students will be able to access the programs from school and home.

**Wireless**

Morpeth PS is now officially a wireless school. Basically, this will enable all electronic devices and laptops to be connected to the school’s Internet from one log in. In a learning environment that increasingly involves technology and its range of applications, the addition of our wireless network will be essential and a great addition to student learning. Mr Scanlan, who is conducting an i-device trial in his room, is extremely happy with the speed of the network and the range of coverage. Our school is committed to providing cutting edge technology practices for our students and our wireless network will definitely assist in this area.

Mr Scanlan—Technology Information Session

As previously mentioned, Mr Scanlan, our Assistant Principal 3-6 and year 5 teacher, is running an ongoing trial of technology in his room. He is asking students in his class to bring i devices (iPads, iPods touches, Android tablets and Netbooks etc) from home with the view of using the devices as learning tools. It makes sense that students, who use this form of technology confidently and willingly for communication and entertainment purposes, also use the device to support learning. Some of the applications available are simply outstanding and the results speak for themselves; students are deeply engaged in quality learning activities. I would like to thank our parents of students in year 5 (and those who were in Mr Scanlan’s class last year) for their support in buying the devices for their children. To assist with the trial, Mr Scanlan will be holding an information session for parents regarding the effective and acceptable use of the technology in our school. I urge all interested parents to attend the session at 6:30pm next Wednesday evening.

**PSSA Zone Trials**

PSSA Trials are held for the sports listed below. Dates for trials will be listed in the calendar on the front of the newsletter. These trials are open to students in Years 5 and 6 who have a competent skill base in the relevant sport. It is anticipated that students trialling for a given sport would have been affiliated with a local sporting club in the past 2 years (as a minimum) to ensure they possess adequate understanding of rules and skills involved. If your child fits the criteria listed above and wishes to trial for a PSSA team please contact the School Office to obtain the relevant forms.

- AFL, Rugby League, Soccer (Boys and Girls), Netball, Hockey, Rugby Union, Softball, Touch Football and Cricket (Boys and Girls)

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**Direct Depositing school payments**

In order to make things simpler for parents we have organised for families to have to ability to direct deposit payments directly into the schools bank account. We ask that you include your child’s name in the reference panel to enable us to “marry up” your payment to the relevant student invoice.
Canteen News

**Week 2 - Term 1, 2013**
Monday 4.2.13  Sally Godwin, Gaby Whelan  
Tuesday 5.2.13  Lainie Hopkins, Helen Sinclair  
Wed 6.2.13  Natalie Hutton, Jodi Lovell  
Thurs 7.2.13  Sallyann Rumbel, Sam Cook  
Friday 8.2.13  Nicole Greedy, Kath Formosa

**Week 3 - Term 1, 2013**
Monday 11.2.13  Jo Kennedy, Sharyn Watson  
Tuesday 12.2.13  Kelly Mate, Belinda Duffey  
Wed 13.02.13  Prue Wolfe, Aileen Robb  
Thurs 14.2.13  Tracey Baker, Natalie Carpenter  
Friday 15.2.13  Liz Roffey, Diana McGough

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**HOME READING PROGRAM**
Commencing Week 4, Term 1, the children from K-6 will be participating in a Home Reading Program.  
The school is seeking donations of books new or old (as long as they are in good order). Books can be left with your classroom teacher.  
We also require parent volunteers to help ensure this scheme is an ongoing success. Please complete the note below and return to your class teacher to indicate your interest in assisting in this program. Once I can finalise all details including rosters etc I will forward the relevant information back to you.  
Thanks in anticipation.  
Anne Coyle : Learning and Support Teacher (L.A.S.T)  

**HOME READING PROGRAM**
I am interested in assisting in the Home Reading Program being run at the school.  
Name: __________________________  
Child’s Name: __________________________  
Child’s Class: __________________________  
Contact No: __________________________  
I am available on the following day/s: Mon Tues Wed Thurs {Please Circle}  
The following times best suit me: 9am to 11.20am Noon to 2pm 2pm to 3pm
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7 nights
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wed – sun
Dinner:
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