

Newsletter

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From the Principal's Desk

Basic Expectations

The staff and I have used all opportunities like assemblies, care groups and class time to outline my expectations for student behaviour. Really it boils down to the fact that students are here to learn and they must feel happy and safe while they do that. We therefore have talked about students' responsibilities to be ready to learn - that is, being on time, bringing equipment, trying their best and asking for help. Also the respect they should show the teacher and fellow students in the way they talk, their language, hands up, taking turns, lining up etc. We have also spoken about hands off, no put downs, bullying and fighting so students are safe. There will be lots more of this as we progress through the school year. The P & C reaffirmed to me their desire to see this occur. Parents do want their students learning and for them to feel safe and protected. They do support me with disciplinary measures that promote these desires.

Please discuss these **basic expectations** with your students so that they can have a successful and enjoyable year.

Homework – Guidelines for Parents

I have told teachers to set homework that reviews work, extends students or is assignment work. I have also asked them to break tasks down for students.

I would suggest **Yr 8** and **Yr 9** students would do on average **20-30 minutes per subject** per night or weekend. **Yr 10, 11** and **12** would do **30-40 minutes** per subject per night or weekend.

Sometimes a teacher will set a task in good faith and for a number of reasons students just can't complete it in a reasonable time as above. My suggestion then is that you stop your student and write in their note book or diary, a note for the teacher explaining that they tried and could not complete the task for whatever reason.

Also, if there are family reasons why homework was not done on a particular night, please write the teacher a note.

I am not saying they should drop their pens the moment 30 minutes is up but I don't want the stressful situation of a student staying up for hours

late at night if they experience difficulties. The key is for students to give their homework a reasonable effort.

Textbooks

All students should have been issued textbooks which they should bring home for homework and study. They may need help to organise themselves to bring the right books each day for the subjects they have.

Day 8 Census:- As of yesterday we had:-

Yr 8 – 48

Yr 9 – 42

Yr 10 – 30

Yr 11 – 33

Yr 12 - 39 which is a total of 192 students.

We do qualify for an extra teacher which is great.

I am now searching for a teacher which is difficult because there is a real shortage of secondary teachers.

Congratulations Rebecca

I have just been advised that Rebecca Elliott won the National Senior Category of AussieSpeak '08. The competition involved producing a thought provoking multimedia presentation. I saw Rebecca's presentation and it had a powerful impact on me. She wins a trip to Melbourne, tickets to *'Billy Elliott, the Musical'* and a laptop to be presented to the school. Congratulations and well done, Rebecca.

Congratulations Stevie

I would think many of you would have seen the photograph and article featuring Stevie Tucker on winning the Australia Day Junior Sportsperson Award. The article reflected highly on Stevie as a person and sportsperson. The way she looked in her uniform and the article reflected positively on the way the school promotes opportunities for students. Well done and congratulations Stevie.

Date Claimers

P & C 'Meet the Staff' afternoon 3.30pm Tuesday
17 February 2009

Swimming Carnival Friday 27 February 2009

P & C AGM followed by general meeting Thursday
6pm 5 March 2009

Leaders Badge Ceremony Friday 9.15am 6 March
2009

Alan Campbell – PRINCIPAL

Protecting against dengue fever

With recent outbreaks of dengue fever in Cairns and Townsville, parents in our northern regions are encouraged to apply insect repellent to their children on a daily basis. Dengue fever can be found in any tropical or subtropical area and is most prevalent during the warm and humid seasons.

As there is no vaccine available to prevent dengue fever, people in high risk areas are advised to avoid getting bitten by wearing clothing which protects the skin and by using insect repellents on exposed skin. It is also recommended to remove all potential breeding sites for mosquitoes such as still water found in containers, pots, and old tyres. Mosquitoes carrying dengue fever typically bite during the day, especially at dawn and dusk.

For more information visit the Queensland Health website:
http://www.health.qld.gov.au/dengue/dengue_fever/disease.asp

RUGBY LEAGUE

If your child is interested in playing rugby league for the school in the Rockhampton District Secondary Competition we invite you and your child to attend a meeting to discuss the 2009 season.

Date: Monday 16th February

Time: 7.00pm

Location: Moura SHS Common Room

Agenda:

- (1) Program Overview
- (2) Parent Involvement in Coaching
- (3) Training
- (4) Player and Parent Agreement
- (5) Travel, Costs and Fundraising

If you are unable to Attend, please contact Lacey Townsend through the High School office.



Swimming Carnival

Our swimming carnival is on Friday 27th February. Last week students nominated for the events they wish to participate in. The swimming carnival is part of Moura State High School's program and therefore it is a normal school day. Students are expected to attend school for the whole day and if absent are required to contact the school office. Students in Year 11 and 12 who normally leave at lunch time are required to stay for the whole day. We would ask that parents and guardians support us in this matter and encourage their child to attend the swimming carnival.

Students are to be dropped off at the Moura Memorial Pool by 8.45am. Bus students will be dropped at the pool by their usual bus driver. The carnival will finish at 3.00pm and students can leave from the pool.

Moura State High School has two Sport Houses, Bindaree (yellow) and Gibihi (green). Students will receive points towards their house and age champion for every event they participate in. There is also a Spirit Shield which is awarded to the house with the most spirit. Students are encouraged to dress up in their house colours for the day.

Parents and Guardians are more than welcome to attend. We would definitely have a spot for you in the parents, teachers and friends versus senior students relay! Assistance with timekeeping on the day would be greatly appreciated. If you are able to assist in any way, can you please contact Lacey Townsend at the High School.

Regards

Lacey Townsend



BILOELA NETBALL ASSOCIATION

SIGN-ON

Saturday 14 February 2007

**At Biloela Shoppingworld
9am – 12 noon**

Plenty of Divisions

Year 8 HPE Swimming

Thank you to parents and guardians who promptly returned permission forms for the Health and Physical Education swimming program. Your assistance has ensured that our program is running efficiently and effectively. Unfortunately a few swimming dates have been modified. Below are the changes to the program;

Year 8A

- No swimming on **Monday 23rd February** (week 5)

Year 8B

- No swimming in weeks 4 & 6 – **Thursday 19th** and **Friday 20th February** and Thursday 5th March but there will be an extra swimming lesson on **Friday 6th March** (week 6)

We apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Regards

Lacey Townsend

NEWS ABOUT THE WEBSITE:

The Moura State High School website was re-invented at the end of last year and is very accessible to everyone. It has taken some time to get the newsletter part working properly but now all newsletters will be able to be accessed on the day the paper copies are sent home usually every second Thursday afternoon. Sometimes last minute delays mean the hard copies do not get out until Friday, but the electronic copy should be available every second Thursday afternoon.

To access the newsletter go to www.mourashs.eq.edu.au click on newsletters in the main menu and then click on the date of whichever newsletter you wish to read. Electronic copies are in colour and hard copies are not but also the newsletters often have inserts that are not included on the website copy, so it is always a good idea to retrieve the paper newsletter from your student.

Happy reading!!

DATES TO REMEMBER

Tues 17 February	P&C Meet & Greet Staff
Thurs 26 February	NEXT NEWSLETTER DUE
Fri 27 February	Swimming Carnival
Thurs 5 March	P&C AGM at 6pm
Fri 6 March	Leaders Badge Ceremony

P & C NEWS

The P & C wishes to extend an invitation to all staff and parents to a 'Meet & Greet' afternoon tea on Tuesday 17 February at 3.30pm in the Common Room.

Our AGM is Thursday 5 March at 6.00pm followed by a general meeting. All Welcome!!

The P & C are also running a BBQ lunch at the swimming carnival. If students wish to have a burger, they are required to order this on the Wednesday before the carnival. Burgers are \$5 each and students are to pay on the day.

MATHS TUTORING



I will be offering tutoring to all Year 8 students for Maths on **Thursday afternoons** from **3.15am** to about **4pm** in **Room A5**.

If you would like to enquire about tutoring please ring the school office on 49975888.
Ms Anna Hogg



TENNIS COACHING

Expressions of Interest are called for all children aged between 6-16 years wanting professional coaching in 2009.

Please notify Kerri-Anne, Vice President, Moura Tennis Club Inc by 13 February on 49973905 – if no answer, please leave a message.

TOURNAMENT

Moura Junior Masters Tennis Tournament will be held the week-end of 28 February / 1 March. Age groups competing will be 10/u, 11/u, 13/u, 15/u and 17/u. If you are interested in entering, please contact Tournament Co-ordinator, **Donna Wheeler on 0407 745 177. Entries close on Monday 23 February.**

The following information is mainly for primary school children but could be useful to all parents.

Exploring numeracy with your child

While board games and puzzles may appear to be just fun activities, they can also help to improve your child's numeracy skills and encourage them to think logically.

To be numerate is to confidently and effectively use mathematics to meet the everyday demands of life.

Many opportunities to be numerate happen at home. Here are a few ways you can explore numeracy with your child:

- show your child how you use maths for different reasons, such as looking at timetables, calendars and clocks
- talk about the numbers and patterns your child comes across each day while playing games or sports
- encourage your child to count and sort objects into groups. You could use books, clothing or shoes and discuss how they sorted them into those groups
- explore ways to use and count money through budgets and shopping. Let your child calculate the cost of items and help

them add up how much change you will receive

- ask questions such as “does that make sense?” or “can this be done another way?” to help develop numerate thinking when they are solving problems
- talk positively about maths and show interest in the maths they learn at school.

If you would like to know more about exploring numeracy contact your child's teacher or visit www.education.qld.gov.au/parents/map/

How you can help your child with reading

As a parent, you are your child's first teacher and it is important to encourage your child to read outside of the classroom.

Our school is asking all parents to help their children to improve their reading skills. You can do this by:

- visiting the local library – this is an economical way to provide access to different kinds of books and learning materials and allows children to borrow from a wide range. Your library may also offer a reading program which makes reading an exciting experience and allows them to mix with other children
- asking ‘why’ questions as you read a book or story together to help your child understand and asking them to think about alternate endings to make much-loved books even more interesting
- reading to your child as often as you can and by trying to carry a book with you when away from home
- letting your child hold the book and turn the pages when you are reading together – this lets your child join in and allows you to talk about the pictures
- congratulating your child on their reading – this will encourage them to enjoy the reading experience
- pointing out words as you read them, especially long or interesting words – this will create a word bank or a spelling list which will help your child with their writing
- making a message board or space at home and encouraging your child to read and leave messages for other family members – this will also give them an important job in the household.

For more tips and online resources about literacy and numeracy visit www.education.qld.gov.au/parents/map/