

Newsletter

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GILLESPIE STREET,
PO Box 224, MOURA QLD 4718
PHONE (07) 4997 5888
FAX (07) 4997 5800
EMAIL admin@mourashs.eq.edu.au



From the Principal's Desk

Welcome to Term 2

Welcome back to term 2. This term is always a busy term. It is 10 weeks long and has three public holidays in that time, so time tends to be short for all the things we need to do.

The major events for this term are our school Anzac Day Ceremony, Parent Teacher interviews, NAPLAN testing for Year 9, elective subject choices for Semester 2 for year 8, 9 and 10, major end of Semester testing for all and whole school reporting.

I am also aware of five new enrolments to start the term, so for those families and students continuing and new families and students welcome to term 2.

Assisting Your Students with Organisation

As stated earlier, time tends to get away from some during this term. You can assist your student with their personal organisation in regards completing assignments and assessments. You can do this by keeping a check on due dates for drafts and final assignments and helping your student plan for these.

Teachers are always willing to help students who ask for help, so please encourage your student to access help.

Welcome to Kathryn Clancy

Kathryn has been appointed by the P&C to be our new Canteen Convenor. This is great news for the school and for the students in particular. Kathryn has excellent catering and cooking skills so I am confident she will do a great job in the canteen. I welcome Kathryn to our school and hope she finds her work here enjoyable and rewarding.

Thanks to the Canteen Volunteers

During Term 1 our canteen remained open due to the hard work by a small group of volunteers. The volunteers were lead by Maureen Clancy, the Canteen Co-ordinator. I know it was very difficult some days to open up as all the volunteers are busy people but they put the interests of our students first and ensured the canteen was always open.

I am also aware that there was a group of seniors who were always available to help at serving time as well.

Thank you to all volunteers, parents and students who worked so hard to keep our canteen open.

Behaviour of Some Students

I, along with the teachers and many parents have been concerned about the behaviour of some of our students. Please be advised that continued poor behaviours affecting the learning of others will be dealt with by teachers, HOD'S and myself. Continued poor behaviour, after interventions by others, brought to me will be viewed most seriously. I cannot allow some students to spoil it for teachers and others.

Mobile Phone Policy – CHANGES

Mobile phones and other electronic communication devices have the potential to get students into serious trouble. What may seem a harmless prank initially, can turn out to be a serious offence against other people. To complicate matters most phones come with a camera function which just increases the possibility of problems.

Some examples of serious offences are sending someone an offensive or threatening text, sending a photo of someone, taking a photo or video in the class, posting photos, films or derogatory remarks on Facebook or U-tube. Depending on the details, consequences for these actions can range from small suspensions to long suspensions, exclusion from school or police action.

Because of some recent incidents and the potential for problems, I have re-written the policy and detailed offences and consequences so the policy is clear to all. The major changes are that consequences are more severe in most instances.

I have had advice about banning these devices at school and have been advised not to. I know many parents do not want their students to have mobiles at school and I encourage parents to get their students to leave them at home.

Parents can get messages to students by ringing the office and I have never stopped a student from ringing home from the office phone when reasons are genuine.

The detailed policy will be sent to parents and will be discussed at school.

Start Date for new policy: Tuesday 5th May 2009

Bell Times – Trial Changes

Our job here at school is to maximise learning outcomes for students. I believe we must try all methods at our disposal to therefore promote learning.

I have decided to trial new bell times which means a new structure to our day.

Our day will now run with care group and two lessons in the morning, largest break, one lesson, smaller break and finish with one lesson.

Advantages and Reasons for the change:

- The morning is prime learning time – now two lessons in this time
- The larger first break is primarily for eating so less time for foolish behaviour
- Minimised learning time in the heat of the day (only two single lessons rather than three)
- The second break, in the hottest part of the day is reduced.

I also hope that by reorganising the day, most learning will take place in prime learning time and out of the heat of the day, so that this may help with the behaviour of some students. Students and teachers tire as the day goes on so indirectly I hope we can get better learning and better behaviour.

The major argument against this is for bus students who leave early. Some would say they would be excessively hungry by lunch time but this could be fixed by having a sandwich or piece of fruit before school which I am sure many families do now anyway.

PRESENT BELL TIMES

8.45	Warning Bell
8.50 – 9.05am	Care Group
9.05 – 10.15am	Lesson One
10.15 – 10.45am	Morning Tea
10.40	Warning Bell
10.45 – 11.55am	Lesson Two
11.55 – 1.05pm	Lesson Three
1.05 – 1.50pm	Lunch
1.45	Warning Bell
1.50 – 3.00pm	Lesson Four

NEW TRIAL BELL TIMES

8.45am	Warning Bell
8.50 – 9.05am	Care Group
9.05 – 10.15am	Lesson One
10.15 – 11.25am	Lesson Two
11.25 – 12.10pm	Morning Tea
12.05pm	Warning Bell
12.10 – 1.20pm	Lesson Three
1.20 – 1.50pm	Lunch
1.45pm	Warning Bell
1.50 – 3.00pm	Lesson Four

This is a trial that will run from:

Start Date: Tuesday 5th May 2009
Finish Date: Friday 26th June 2009

Towards the end of term after we have all experienced the change, students, staff and parents will be consulted. We could continue the trial, change back to old times or make a permanent change to the new times.

Alan Campbell – PRINCIPAL

Top ten tips – for healthy eating

1. Eat together as a family as often as you can.
2. Drink water and milk instead of sugary drinks.
3. Provide a jug of water on the table for the whole family to share during mealtimes.
4. Involve your kids in choosing and preparing a meal - shopping, peeling, chopping, cooking or serving.
5. Keep a variety of fresh vegetables and fruit on hand for quick healthy snacks.
6. Try and make fruit and vegetables a part of every meal.
7. Snacks don't need to come in packets - choose home-made, healthy foods. They can be tasty, low-cost and easy to prepare.
8. To encourage kids to eat more fruit and vegetables, try cutting and presenting them in different, easy-to-eat shapes. Also try different cooking methods.
9. Kids learn a lot from how their parents eat. Lead by example - make sure you eat and enjoy different vegetables as a regular part of your diet.
10. Try making meal times enjoyable and a happy time.

SPORTS SHIRTS

We now have a new supply of School Sports shirts. These range in size from XL to XS and the cost will be \$30-00 each



IMPORTANT NOTICE PAYMENT OF SCHOOL LEVIES

Statement for School Levies were once again sent out at the end of Term 1.

We urge parents to pay these fees as soon as possible. If you are unable to make a one-off payment, a payment plan can be arranged through the school office to make payments periodically during the year. An individual arrangement can also be made with the Principal.

Please be aware that until all school levies are completely paid, students will not be able to participate in any extra curricular activities or order items such as the senior jersey. Examples of extra curricular activities are as follows:- (*excursions not relating to a school activity, Yr 12 formal, senior jersey, camps at the end of the year, extra sporting activities*)

DO YOU WANT TO RECEIVE THE LINK TO THE NEWSLETTER ON THE MSHS WEBSITE?

If so, please send your email address to the school office via note or phone. The Moura State High School website was re-invented at the end of last year and is very accessible to everyone. 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 and 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

25 April	ANZAC Day
28 April	Parent/Teacher Interviews NEW
29 April	SNAGGED – PCAP Presentation
4 May	Public Holiday
6 May	R'ton District Cross Country Trials
12, 13 & 14 May	NAPLAN Testing – Yr 9
15 May	Biloela Show Holiday
18 May	NAPLAN Testing – Catchup day

The Moura State High School community would like to wish Rees Mackellar, Audrey Tovera and Stevie Tucker the best of luck at the Queensland Secondary Schools State Titles this week.



CROSS COUNTRY NEWS

Our annual school Cross Country competition was held on Thursday 9th April. Students either chose to compete seriously by running the course or earn points for their respective houses by walking. The participation and effort from all students was admirable; however Bindaree was the overall house winners with 457 points and Gibihi coming in with 332 points. The Spirit Shield was awarded to Gibihi, mostly due to some very-well dressed 'Easter bunnies'.

Age Champions are as follows:

13 years boys: Tim Meyers

13 years girls: Shanice Short

14 years boys: Hamish Davidson

14 years girls: Kate Redshaw

15 years boys: Izakk Dowden

15 years girls: Holly Tucker

16 years boys: Mathew Keene

16 years girls: Natasha Feltham and Shaye Price

17 years and over boys: Jake Hafner

17 years and over girls: Stevie Tucker

AWD Male: Ben Lorimer

AWD Female: Kayla Richardson

Thank you to Moura Golf Club for their use of their lush-green course, Moura Bus Service for transporting students and Moura SHS ground staff for setting up the course in the early hours of the morning.

From this event some students have been selected to trial for the Rockhampton District Team. These students have been given a permission form for the trials. This form needs to be returned to the office no later than **Tuesday 28th April**. Selection is based on placing and times. The Trials are being held at St Brendan's Yeppoon on **Wednesday 6th May**.

MOURA SHS TRACK & FIELD CARNIVAL

DATES TO REMEMBER	
12 June	300m
19 June	1500m
25 June (Sess 3 & 4)	Discus & Javelin
26 June	Track & Field