



Parents & Citizens

Welcome to the first edition of the 2009 P&C Newsletter

NEW FACES & NEW IDEAS

Let me introduce you to the new faces of the Mittagong Public School P&C.

At the Annual General Meeting last month I was elected as the new President, resigning from my former position as Secretary. Melanie Ison was elected Secretary and Maree Bates is our new Treasurer.

The three of us have met a couple of times to discuss our roles and responsibilities, discovering just how much our predecessors did for the school.

Please be patient with us as we find our feet but don't hesitate to make contact if you are in need of advice about school matters or would like to play an active role in the P&C.

One thing we are agreed upon is the need to share information, encourage membership and consult with the school community about what we should be doing.

I see all volunteers at the school as members of the P&C and hope to provide some representation and support whether you've paid your 50 cent membership fee or not.

It is amazing how many people do volunteer at school. Did you know we have parents, grandparents, aunts and even people who have no connection to students at the school offering their services in reading groups, the library, Literacy Lions, gardening working bees, the canteen, at sausage sizzles ...

All of these people put the icing on the cake for the school. They make school much more

enjoyable for students and enhance the work of teachers, assisting our children to learn some really important lessons.

If you have a special area of interest or expertise I encourage you to contact the school or P&C to see what assistance you can provide. We have some talented families at our school, whether at sport, arts, crafts, cooking, gardening, languages etc... and we'd love to have them share their interests with us all.

First term has seen an increase in the number of volunteers in the Canteen which has hopefully lessened the load for some who were doing extraordinary hours last year. Thank you all for your commitment — please look at the last page of this newsletter for more information.

I was astounded to learn that our school has 275 families! At the recent working bee held to revamp the Yr 5/6 eating area an enormous amount of work was achieved by just 9 families and 3 teachers. Imagine what we could achieve if we all managed to spare an hour or two for school.

I'm looking forward to working with parents and all of the volunteers who make our school so great and I hope some of you will say hello early next term at our planned Coffee Morning.

More next month about what to P&C does.

Charmaine Cooper
President

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DATES TO REMEMBER

Fundraising Meeting
from 7pm, Tuesday 7 April @
Mittagong RSL - see page 2

Coffee Morning
Friday 8 May from 8.45am at
school near the Craft Room??

Next P&C Meeting
Tuesday 19 May at 7.30pm



A big thank you
to outgoing President,
Leanne Blackburn and
former Treasurer Sharon
Cox. We appreciate all of
your hard work and
commitment to the school!

**Hopefully by next month
we will have heard
confirmation about the
major funding proposed for
classroom and school ground
upgrades.**

**2009 will be an exciting year
and the new P&C Exec
look forward to working with
you all!**



Reviews

CLICK: A Technology Guide for Parents

If you want to keep up with your kids in the world of computers and digital technology then grab a copy of the magazine called CLICK.

Some copies are available in the school office or visit www.schools.nsw.edu.au/click.

We found information about staying safe online, homework and the internet, mobile safety, cyberbullying, stranger danger, games, buying a computer and connecting to the internet... plus lots more.

Online Safety

www.netsmartz.org
www.netalert.gov.au

Maths Online is an online maths tutoring program for Years 7 - 12 developed by experienced Australian teachers.

The program features hundreds of fully animated and narrated maths lessons with over 15,000 exam-style questions to test a student's mastery of maths.

Maths Online is provided free of charge to every secondary school student in Australia.

www.mathsonline.com.au/

If you come across a great resource for parents please send your review into the P&C for our next edition.

FUNDRAISING

We have scheduled a 'Fundraising Meeting' for Tuesday 7 April at the Mittagong RSL Club from 7pm. Everyone is welcome.

During the meeting we will discuss why we raise funds, how much we actually need to raise and consider ideas. So if you are keen to run or support a particular fundraiser please come along or if you can't make it contact one of the P&C Executive to outline your ideas.

Following this meeting we hope to announce a series of meeting dates about the Spring Fair and other activities which vary in time of day and day of week so more people can be involved.

Mobile phones

Please donate any old mobile phones lying around the house or office to the P&C. The P&C organised a mobile phone muster last year and was able to sell them at a profit as the components in phones can be recycled for a number of new uses. Just drop them into the school office and we will send them off when we gather a box full.

Stuck On You Labels

Our school receives a donation of 20% of any order made with Stuck On You. This business has a wide range of products which help you to ensure the safe return of belongings including iron-on clothing tags, plastic labels for lunchboxes and bag tags. Just remember to mention our school when ordering over the phone or internet to ensure we receive our commission. www.stuckonyou.biz or 1800 645 849. Orders can be made at any time of the year with delivery direct to your home.

Spring Fair

Mark your calendar and tell your friends and family that our 3rd Spring Fair will be held **on Saturday 26 September.**

If you have some new fun ideas or want to organise a traditional stall please contact Lisa Ellis on 4872 1662.

PARENT POWER

Participating in your child's school life will pay dividends.

Research shows time and again there are really important academic and social advantages for children whose parents play an active part in their learning.

KIDS ACTIVITIES

Ride2School NSW and ABC Local radio have launched an exciting new art competition open to all NSW students.

The competition invites students to send in their artwork for a new Ride2School helmet. The overall winner will have their helmet created and will be distributed state wide. A winner will also be selected from each region to win a bike, helmet and a cycle skill workshop for their school.

The competition aims to encourage students to wear a helmet when riding. Teachers tell us that students arrive at school with the helmet on the handlebars or even not present all.

To enter the competition students are required to complete their entry on the design sheet which can be downloaded from www.bicyclensw.org.au/content/ride2school and then send it to Ride2School and ABC Local Radio Art Competition, GPO Box 272, Sydney, NSW, 2001.

Competition closes 29 May 2009.

It's all about me...

Each edition we will feature an interview with a volunteer, staff member or student. To kick it all off we asked our new President, Charmaine Cooper, to tell us about herself.

What do you like about Mittagong Public School? I like the school grounds, the fabulous library and the staff. It's a great place for kids to be.

What's the best thing about being involved in P&C? The friends I have made. I deliberately started attending P&C meetings and activities when my son started Kindy because I didn't know anyone in Mittagong. I have made some lifelong friends who have become my back ups in times of need for which I'm truly grateful.

How old are your children? Aiden is 10 (year 5) and Grace is 6 (year 1).

What do you wish you could do? Remember people's names, stay on a diet and get fit.

What do you wish you had more time for? Aaah, I recall the days before I had kids when I got out of bed to silence, could make a cuppa and read a book over breakfast then get just myself ready for work. Bliss. But the children and hubby were away recently and I found it wasn't as good as I recalled. Something was missing.

What P&C activities are you passionate about? Things which make our school a community. I've been involved in things like the Spring Fair, trivia and bingo nights, garden working bees and cake stalls. They have all helped me see that working together can make you feel good as well as achieve great things for the school.

What are your most vivid memories of primary school? Swimming carnivals, doing projects which I loved, learning to tie my shoelaces, the rare day that my Mum worked in the canteen, art classes, missing my Mum on open days and all of my teachers.

What are you famous for? Cooking and cake decorating? I love making birthday or celebration cakes for friends and family.

What improvements would you like made at school? I'd love to see more parents involved in school activities. I believe parent participation makes a big difference in a child's school

experience. So whether it is a day here and there in the canteen or listening to reading groups on your day off work, the interest you show in the school shows your child that you value the place where they go each day. It shows you want to be involved and understand their school environment.

Are you a good parent? Probably not. I'm sure I have some good days but I definitely suffer the eternal guilt that comes with being a mother. And I wish I didn't work full time but I most definitely wouldn't be a happy parent at home. A balance of 4 days on and 3 days off would be nice but I also passionately believe it's whatever works for the individual and try very hard not to judge the choices of others.

What's your vice? Hmmm, it used to be chocolate after lunch but I find it keeps me awake now. White wine and cheese.

Favourite super-hero? Wonder Woman. I spent many hours re-enacting the tv show as a child and would now appreciate an invisible helicopter and magic lasso!

Do you have any goals for P&C this year? I'd like to organise some more activities which encourage families to come together. One idea I have discussed is having some non-fundraising events which are about fun for families in the school environment.

Your thoughts about P&C I consider all volunteers at the school to be P&C members. We all contribute as we can. Some choose to make regular canteen orders, others to do reading with students or play the piano for choir...

Meetings are not everyone's thing or something we can get away to. They're a necessary evil though to coordinate the P&C's affairs and make decisions so I urge parents to attend at least one each year.

If you support the school in any way and would like to encourage other parents to do the same we would love to hear from you. I'd like to feature a volunteer or P&C member in each edition to show the school community how we all do our bit.

www.schools.nsw.edu.au/learning/

Learning Areas

The Board of Studies develops a syllabus for each of the learning areas. Along with a defined aim, each syllabus has a set of objectives and outcomes, expressed in terms of knowledge and understandings, skills, values and attitudes.

Assessment & Reporting

Visit the website for information on what assessments your child will undergo as part of their course work for Kindergarten

to Year 6. There is also extra information on non-compulsory assessments such as [opportunity classes](#) and [selective high school placement](#). You can also learn more about how student reporting will work during this phase of your child's school life.

Focus Areas

Find out how students are prepared for life outside of school through a range of programs that put learning in context, make it relevant and part of the culture of everyday school life.

The *Education Act 1990* states that P&C Associations are established to:

- Promote the interest of the school by bringing parents, citizens, students and teaching staff into close co-operation;
- Assist in providing facilities and equipment for the school and promoting the recreation and welfare of the students at the school;
- Encourage parent and community participation in curriculum and other educational issues in schools;
- Report, when requested by the Minister, on the material requirements of the school and advise on the subject of maintenance of the school, alterations and additions to school facilities and the selection of new sites;
- Assist and co-operate with teaching staff at public functions associated with the school;
- Be responsible for the election of parent representatives to any school council constituted at the school in consultation with the principal of the school; and
- Assist in any other matters in which the Minister may seek the co-operation of the association.

CAN DO CANTEEN

When the P&C first took over the running of the canteen a few years ago, a Canteen Committee was formed but over time members left and we haven't had one for some time.

Luckily for the P&C, Toni Pike was able to coordinate the canteen as well as cover many of the things the committee had done but it's time to encourage the school community to be more involved.

The committee's role is to look at menu pricing, consider the items stocked, look at hygiene and safety practices, encourage volunteers and generally support the healthy canteens strategy.

Anyone interested in reviving the Canteen Committee should call Toni Pike (at school), Charmaine Cooper, Melanie Ison or Maree Bates .



WANTED

The P&C need a cheap laptop to manage finances & correspondence. If you have a pre-loved, end of lease etc laptop that you're willing to donate or if you know where we can get a great deal on a new one please contact one of the Executive members.

CASUAL WORK

Employment Guaranteed

WHERE: MPS Canteen

HOURS: To suit the applicant, any time between 9am and 2pm.

EXPERIENCE not necessary. Everything you need to know will be learnt in a short space of time.

SALARY: A nice fresh and healthy lunch for yourself.

BONUS: Your children are happy to see you at school and you get to spoil them, meet new people and become more familiar with school.

APPLICATIONS accepted at any time. Just send a note to the Canteen Coordinator outlining your available hours and whether you'd like to buddy up with a friend on the roster.

Toni Pike, our Canteen Coordinator, can be contacted via the school office.

NEXT EDITION

WE HOPE TO DISTRIBUTE A MONTHLY P&C NEWSLETTER AND PLAN TO FEATURE THE WORK OF VOLUNTEERS IN EACH EDITION.

IF YOU HAVE ANY PHOTOS OR WOULD LIKE TO WRITE ABOUT YOUR ESCAPADES AS A VOLUNTEER PLEASE CONTACT ONE OF THE P&C MEMBERS LISTED BELOW.

P&C EXECUTIVE

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QUESTIONS ? ? ? ?

Do you have a question for the P&C, Principal or school staff?

Send a question into the President and she will publish it in an upcoming newsletter with an answer.

Questions can be sent to Charmaine Cooper, care of the school office or email coopersmail@harboursat.com.au.



Mittagong Public School Parents & Citizens Association

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MEETINGS & MINUTES

P&C meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month in school term

Meeting minutes are added to the P&C webpage on the MPS website after each meeting. If you'd like to receive an alert about meetings or an emailed copy of meeting minutes please provide your email address to the Secretary.