



## ***Our mission is to provide children with...***

- a love of learning
  - a pride in achievement
  - a respect for themselves and others
- ...in a safe and happy environment*

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## **2013 Calendar**

<b>Tuesday 19 March</b>	<b>Good Food Cooking Class</b>
<b>Wednesday 20 March</b>	<b>Kinder Photos in Mercury</b>
	<b>Gardening Club</b>
<b>Thursday 21 March</b>	<b>Harmony Day</b>
	<b>Book Club orders to Library</b>
<b>Friday 22 March</b>	<b>Earth Hour</b>
<b>Thursday 28 March</b>	<b>Easter Hat Parade: Pre-School – Year 2</b>
<b>Wednesday 3 April</b>	<b>L3 Parent Information Session – 2pm</b>

### **Attendance**

It is important that children attend school so that they learn effectively and are able to make and maintain positive relationships within their peer groups. School attendance is also a requirement by law.

We understand that from time to time this may prove difficult and parents and caregivers may require some support to ensure their children attend school. It is our regular practice, in line with the Department of Education and Communities Attendance Policy, to contact parents and caregivers after two consecutive days of absence from school. This is an important child protection measure and also enables us to provide support to parents if required. We also send letters home to follow up on unexplained absences and follow up with parents and caregivers whose children have significant absences.

In the next few weeks we are going to be focusing on making contact with families whose children have attendance rates at less than or equal to 85% after the first 8 weeks of the school year. We will be requesting families to attend a learning support team meeting to discuss attendance and how we can support them to improve the attendance rates of their children.

If we have difficulty gaining the support of parents and caregivers to develop an individual education plan to support improved attendance for their children we may

make the decision to apply for additional support of a home school liaison officer. If a student has an attendance rate of less than 85% over the whole school year they will have missed a total of 6 weeks of school. This is a lot of learning and social time they have missed out on and something we all need to support our children to avoid.

### **Coles & Woolworths Vouchers**

We have finally received our sporting equipment from Coles and our educational equipment from Woolworths from last year's collection of vouchers and stickers. We received approximately \$9000 worth of equipment from your great effort. Thank you to everyone who helped us to receive these wonderful resources for our students.



### **Message for Parents of Stage 1 Students**

This term, as part of our Accelerated Literacy program, Year One students have been studying *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by author Eric Carle. On Wednesday, 20th March it is *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* day and we are celebrating this by having an Eric Carle day.

Students will spend the first hour of the day participating in group activities and reading a variety of Eric Carle books, including *The Very Busy Spider*, *Brown Bear* and of course *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. This is a terrific opportunity for students to engage in a variety of texts by a wonderful author and illustrator.

Parents are invited to join us for group activities from 9:15-10:15am. Following group activities, as part of fruit break, students will taste some of the healthy foods that *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* has eaten, including

watermelon, strawberries, oranges, pears, apples and Swiss cheese.

Please notify your child's teacher if your child cannot eat any of these foods.

For more information about Eric Carle and The Very Hungry Caterpillar go to [www.eric-carle.com](http://www.eric-carle.com)

### **Preschool News:**

#### **Evacuation and Lockdown**

All children in preschool practised their evacuation plan last week and they will practise their lockdown procedure this week. These drills are done on a regular basis to keep our children safe as well as to comply with regulations.

#### **Harmony Day Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at Preschool**

Preschool will celebrate Harmony Day by inviting all 2012 preschool students back to preschool for an evening picnic with their friends and parents. Please bring your dinner and a rug to sit on. This is a very special event and we hope to see many of you there.

### **School News:**

#### **Cooking Class with Amorelle**

This new initiative starts tonight at 5.30pm. We will be making and tasting a number of yummy dishes using beef, lamb and chicken mince as the base.

#### **Gardening Club**

Gardening Club is on tomorrow and will now finish at 4.30pm. We will be working mostly in the garden outside the Early Intervention Unit, weeding and planting some herbs.

#### **Easter Hat Parade and Raffle**

Our Easter Hat Parade will be on next Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup> starting at 10.30am. All children from Kinder to Year 2 will be making hats in class but may wear hats created at home if they so choose. Preschool children will wear hats made in preschool. Thank you to all families who have made donations to our Easter raffle which will be drawn at the end of the parade. We hope to have lots of prizes, so keep selling those tickets. Ticket money and donations should be left at the office. Thank you very much for your support.

#### **Maitland Mercury Kinder Edition**

Photographs of our Kindergarten classes will be published in the Maitland Mercury on Wednesday. Parents who ordered copies at the special price will

receive their papers from their classroom teachers on Wednesday afternoon.

#### **L3 Parent Information Session**

All Kinder parents are invited to an information session with Wendy Moss who is our L3 Regional Trainer. The session will be held in the Old Library on Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April from 2pm, finishing before the end of the school day.

#### **Harmony Day**

Just a reminder that we will be celebrating Harmony Day on Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> March with an out-of-uniform day for students. The colour to wear is orange for a gold coin donation and there is a food tasting for a 50 cent minimum. All proceeds from the day will be donated to World Vision.



#### **Earth Hour**


Earth Hour will be held on Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 8.30pm. As a school, we will be supporting this initiative on Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> 2013. Classrooms will be turning off power and as many appliances as possible for one hour and discussing the importance of conserving our natural resources.

#### **Book Club**

Don't forget - Book Club orders need to be in by Thursday, 21 March at the latest. No orders can be taken after this date. Please put orders and money in an envelope and hand to Mrs Bateup in the Library. Thank you

#### **School Photo Day – Monday, 8 April 2013**

Photo envelopes will be handed out tomorrow, Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> March. Please check your child's bag and return to school on Photo Day, Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> April.




## say cheese

School Photo Day is  
**8 April 2013**

*Have your child's school memories captured forever*

Please take time to read the relevant information on the MSP Photography payment envelopes and remember these helpful points:



- Don't seal envelopes inside each other. You can pay for all children in one envelope however each child needs to have their own envelope on photo day
- Family envelopes are available at the school office upon request
- Please enclose correct money as no change is given. Cash, cheques and money orders only (sorry no credit card accepted)

For any enquiries, please feel free to contact us

e [admin@maitlandmercury.com.au](mailto:admin@maitlandmercury.com.au)  
 p (02) 4966 8797  
 f (02) 4966 8293  
[www.msp.com.au](http://www.msp.com.au)

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	Monday	Tuesday
Maitland Park (Church Hall)	6 – 7:30pm	6 – 7:30pm
Maitland Grossman High School		4 – 5pm

	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Thornton Public School	6 – 7:30pm	6 – 7:30pm	
Telarah Public School			4 – 5pm

**Hip Hop – Cheerleading**  
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**PLEASE ADVISE THE SCHOOL OFFICE IF THERE HAS BEEN ANY CHANGE IN CONTACT DETAILS SO THAT OUR RECORDS MAY BE UPDATED. THANK YOU.**

### CHANGE OF CONTACT DETAILS:

CHILD'S NAME: .....

CLASS: .....

DETAILS:

.....

PARENT/CARER NAME: .....

SIGNATURE: .....

DATE: .....