PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Reports – modified for Semester 1, 2020
We all recognise that learning has been very different for our students this semester. In line with advice from the NSW Department of Education, our school report for Term 1 and 2, 2020 will be modified to reflect that students have been learning from school and from home.

Students have not all covered the same syllabus content during this period. Teachers will be making an English, Mathematics and general comment which will provide information about student learning, attendance, as well as identifying next steps in learning. The modified report will not grade achievement with the A-E scale.

The Semester 1 modified report will be coming home in Term 3 Week 2, on Friday 31 July.

We do not have formal half yearly interviews, however, if you need clarification after the report, you can contact your child’s teacher via email and they will respond or make a time to call you to answer questions.

In 2019, the MPS staff worked on changes to the reporting template to comply with Department of Education policy. At this time, we are planning to go back to ‘normal’ reporting, including an A-E scale in Semester 2 2020. This return is dependent of advice from the Department of Education.

Awards
The handing out of weekly Blue Awards has resumed. At this time to comply with NSW Health and Department of Education advice, we are not scheduling assemblies. If your child has collected 5 Blue Awards they can be handed into the school office ‘post box’ and a Gold Award will be presented to your child in-class.

For those students who have achieved Banners, they will be handed out in-class by myself. Alternatively, on request, they can be held in the Office until assemblies resume.

If assemblies are unable to resume in 2020, all saved Banners will need to be presented in-class.

Garden Project
As discussed in previous newsletters, we will be using a 2019 grant from the Australian Government’s Local Schools Community Fund, and school funding towards re-purposing the old cricket net area into an interactive play area.

Today, our Semester 1 SRC will be participating in an online workshop to contribute their design ideas to the new space. Once the SRC design has been collated, we will be working with a company to redevelop the area.
Opportunity Class Placement for 2021 Year 5 – changes to process
Changes to the opportunity class placement process for 2020 Year 4 students.

The 2021 Year 5 opportunity class placement process was put on hold in April 2020 due to the COVID-19 situation.

We now have a revised and simplified timeline for the OC placement process to ensure that students and families can have certainty about their placement as soon as possible.

The changes include:

- A new date for online applications. Parents must apply between 9 June 2020 and 26 June 2020. Late applications cannot be accepted.

- A new test date - Wednesday 16 September 2020.

To ensure fair and consistent assessment of students across New South Wales, students will be offered places based only on their test results this year – there will be no school assessment scores.

There will also be no opportunity for appeals given the tight timeframes.

For further detailed information I encourage you to visit (https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/ selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-5)

An ‘intention to apply’ form was sent home last week to all Year 4 students. Returning this form is not an application, it just signals to the school your intention to apply. There is another intention to apply form in this newsletter.

CAROLINE ALFORD
PRINCIPAL
**CONGRATULATIONS** to the following students who will receive the following Awards:

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OFFICE NEWS

**Laptops to be Returned** – We are still waiting for a number of laptops to be returned to school. If your child borrowed a school laptop to carry out their online learning from home, please can they return their laptop and charging cord to the office asap.

**Borrowed Clothes** – If your child has had an accident and has borrowed uniform items from the Office, please could they be washed and returned as soon as possible.

**Contacting the School** – Parents often have different surnames to their children so when contacting the school by email about your child please include your **child’s full name and class**.

**Office Hours** – The School Office remains open during this time. You may contact us between 8.30am and 3.30pm. Please adhere to the new sign – **One Family in the Office at any one time**.

**SUE LEECE**  
**ADMIN MANAGER**

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**Get the family Knitting or Crocheting for Wrap with Love**

We are hoping you’ve been busy knitting or crocheting for the Wrap with Love Foundation.

Squares need to be 25cm x 25cm. They can be knitted or crocheted with either wool or acrylic.

A 25cm (10 inch) square uses approximately 50g of 8 ply wool.

Finished squares can be returned to the Office or to Mrs Appleby who will sew the squares together before sending them off to the Wrap with Love foundation.
Science & Technology – Stage 3

In Science & Technology, Stage 3 has been studying space and satellites. One of their projects was to construct a model satellite using any materials around the house - it could be non-edible or edible. The model had to include a container, antennae for communication, power source, scientific instruments and orientation finder. Students learned how engineers use origami when building satellites and other structures. Many students gave origami a try and were thrilled with the result which took some persistence!

This photo shows some of the students’ creations. Ashill H (5T) and his dad involved themselves during remote learning and came up with this magnificent motorised, flashing model satellite!
SCHOOL NEWS

Kindergarten Learning
National Sorry Day and Reconciliation Week

During Week 5 and 6 Kindergarten celebrated National Sorry Day (Tuesday May 26) and National Reconciliation Week (May 27 - June 3).

We learnt about why Sorry Day and Reconciliation Week are important events in our national calendar and completed activities that celebrated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture.

In Art we learnt about the significance of the Aboriginal flag and made our own representations.

In English this term our unit is centred around Aboriginal Dreamtime stories. Last week we read ‘How the Birds Got Their Colours’ by Mary Albert and Pamela Lofts.

In the story the birds were kind to the dove who injured its foot. We thought about times others have been kind to us and shared our ideas through writing.
SCHOOL NEWS

This story reminds me of when my brother helped me to find my art class. This story reminds me of when you and helped me make my homework.

This sunny day was a great day with my friends. It was fun and happy.

This story reminds me of when I was ill. I was in a lot of pain. I hope you help me.
Please return any library books that you borrowed pre remote learning time (ie-Term 1).

Late loans notices will be sent home shortly to remind you of titles that need to be returned.

We now have to quarantine all books upon return so it would be appreciated if all loaned books are returned on time.

**NSW PRC Update...**

It is fantastic that there are so many 3-6 students choosing to participate in this year’s reading challenge. Great job to the students who are updating their reading records regularly.

Congratulations to Georgia D, Jason B, Kayto Y and Isha N for already completing the challenge! What a super achievement to have already read 20 books since March!

**Happy Reading Adventures, MPS**

Mrs Dana Duveck-Steele, Mrs Shelley Kapp, Mrs Jennie Neil-Smith - Library Team
LEARNING AND SUPPORT NEWS

**Introducing the Learning and Support Team at Mowbray**

At Mowbray PS there is a team of professionals who are able to assist students and their families as they navigate the complex world of learning.

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*Learning and Support Teacher (LaST) – Liz Raynor*

*School Counsellor – John Peel*

*School Learning Support Officers (SLSO) – Nissrine Taouk, Symone Miller, Jo Thoms, Donna Carroll, Gayle Wright, Julianne Clune*

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To discuss your child’s needs please contact your class teacher in the first instance. A referral will be made to the Learning and Support team if necessary.

Through the newsletter we would like to share some resources with you that you may like to try at home.

This week we would like to introduce **The BRAVE Program.**

Several of our SLSOs completed The BRAVE Program recently. They reported that they learnt many useful techniques to use at school and also with their own children at home!

The BRAVE-ONLINE program was developed by a team of researchers who have over 17 years experience working in the field of child anxiety. The program is completely free. More info below.
LEARNING AND SUPPORT NEWS

FREE ONLINE SELF-HELP PROGRAM AVAILABLE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH ANXIETY!

Anxiety is an extremely common problem that affects people of all ages. Although anxiety is completely normal at times, it becomes a problem when it starts to interfere with a young person’s happiness, stops them from doing things, or interferes with social, emotional and behavioural development.

The BRAVE Program is an online program for the prevention and treatment of anxiety in young people and was developed by a team of researchers from the University of Queensland, Griffith University and The University of Southern Queensland. The BRAVE Program is based on cognitive-behavioural therapy and has been running for over 14 years in Australia.

The BRAVE team have now teamed up with beyondblue to offer BRAVE as a self-directed therapy program (BRAVE Self-Help), which has been available to all Australian young people and parents since 2014.

There are several different types of anxiety, all of which have distinct signs in young people. For example, some young people with anxiety may worry about meeting new people, being away from home, performing in front of others or even about current global events. Other children and teenagers worry about very specific situations (such as schoolwork, getting injections or flying on planes) and others just seem to be worrying about something all the time. BRAVE Self-Help is suitable for children and teenagers with any of these types of anxiety or worries.

BRAVE is an innovative program that allows young people, and parents of young people, to be proactive and seek assistance through the comfort of their own home. **All you need is access to a computer and the internet.** The results of previous trials show that many people completing the online program show significant improvements in their anxiety and are able to overcome many of their worries.

For children and teenagers, the program includes up to 10, online sessions (that take between 30-60 minutes to complete), and 2 additional booster sessions which individuals can access if they need a refresher.

Parents can complete the program together with, or independently of, their child and this program includes up to 6 sessions plus 2 booster sessions if needed. Not everyone will need to do all sessions and participants can come back at any time for refreshers. The program is fun, interactive and can be completed at your own pace.

If you would like to access this innovative program, you can do so by visiting www.brave4you psy.uq.edu.au or registering through the beyondblue website www.beyondblue.com.au

For more information please visit our Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/braveforanxiety).
Intention to apply for Year 5 entry to an opportunity class in 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Opportunity classes can provide intellectual stimulation by grouping together high potential and gifted students who may otherwise be isolated from a suitable peer group. Successful students will usually have to leave their current school to enrol in a school with an opportunity class for Years 5 and 6.

New for 2021 entry
A Year 5 virtual opportunity class has been established at Aurora College for students in rural and remote NSW. Further information is available at http://www.aurora.nsw.edu.au/

Testing and assessment
Applications for opportunity class placement are considered on the results of the Opportunity Class Placement Test. Students who wish to be considered for opportunity class placement will sit the Opportunity Class Placement Test on Wednesday 16 September 2020.

How to apply
If you would like to have your child considered for Year 5 opportunity class entry in 2021, you need to apply between Tuesday 9 June 2020 and Friday 26 June 2020. You will need to access the online application at https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-5. You must not use the child’s email address.

If you do not have internet access, you could apply at a public library. If you have a disability that prevents you from using a computer, you can contact the High Performing Students Team for assistance after 9 June 2020. Contact details can be found on the web site shown below.

You must submit only ONE application for each student.

Important – the school cannot apply on your behalf.

Yours sincerely
Caroline Alford

Principal

THIS IS NOT AN APPLICATION FOR ENTRY TO AN OPPORTUNITY CLASS
You will need to register and then apply through the Department’s website:

Cut along the dotted line and return the completed slip below by Friday 6 June.

Student’s name: ________________________________ Class: ______

I intend to apply for opportunity class placement in 2021........................................Yes □ No □

If Yes
I have internet access and will be applying online ........................................... □

OR
I do not have internet access and will use the public library to complete the application.... □

I understand that I need to register and then apply through the Department’s website.

Signature of parent/carer: ________________________________ Date: __________________
27 May 2020

School Principal
Mowbray Public School
635 Mowbray Road
Lane Cove NSW 2066

Dear Principal

Re: Lane Cove Library – Reopening with Restrictions

The NSW Government has announced libraries are permitted to open from 1 June 2020.

Initially Lane Cove Library’s opening hours will be:

Monday - Friday from 9:30am - 3:00pm.

For the safety of staff, borrowers and the community, there will be restrictions in place including a requirement to book 30 minute visits.

Council requests your assistance in communicating this important information to parents/carers to ensure that parents do not send their children to the Library after school.

The health and safety of the local community is Council’s priority and we appreciate everyone’s cooperation. For updates, please visit Council’s website and Facebook.

If you have any queries in relation to the above please do not hesitate to contact the Library on 9911 3634.

Yours faithfully

[Signature]

Jennifer Bice
Manager Library Services
Live Life Well @ School

ACTION: BUILDING WELLBEING

“Start Where You Are. Use What You Have. Do What You Can” ~ Arthur Ashe

MONDAY
4 Focus on what you can do rather than what you can’t do
11 What are your most important values? Use them today

TUESDAY
5 Send friends a photo of a time you all enjoyed together
12 Be grateful for the little things, even in difficult times

WEDNESDAY
6 Take a step towards one of your life goals, however small
13 Today do something to care for the natural world

THURSDAY
7 Let someone you love know how much they mean to you
14 Show your gratitude to people who are helping to make things better

Are you looking for ways to build happiness, mindfulness, purpose, kindness and self-care into your everyday practice at home?

Download the action for happiness calendars today. They provide simple and practical tips for the family to do together to help build a culture of wellbeing.

Check out: www.actionforhappiness.org/calendars

Live Life Well @ School

DO A FAMILY SCAVENGER HUNT

Be active as a family unit and do the Bicycle NSW Scavenger Hunt activity.

Try doing the hunt by bike, scooter, or skateboard!

1. Long grass
2. Park bench
3. Water
4. Play equipment
5. Bridge
6. Dog

Download the Scavenger Hunt, and other bicycle activities and information at: bicycleNSW bit.ly/BNSWCOVID