Dear Parents and Caregivers,

**PARENT SURVEY**

Last week, a special parent survey was sent home to parents to assist us with the completion of our Data collection in preparation for our National Partnership in 2012. A HUGE THANK YOU to all the families that completed and returned the surveys. At the moment, we have had 110 out of 167 surveys returned. If you have not returned your survey yet, please do so, so that we can include your views in our data collection. Some parent and student focus groups will be organised next week to gather further information about some of the responses collected in the survey, so if you would like to be involved, please contact the school.

**STUDENT HOMEWORK**

The staff are currently reviewing the homework policy here at MPE, and the way in which we issue homework to students. At MPE we strive to develop in students a ‘love of learning’ so that they enjoy the learning process and develop an independent approach to learning. As a father of three children myself (two of whom are currently attending my local public school), I understand the demands placed upon parents to help their children with their homework, and I live through the ‘battles’ that are often fought between parents and children when completing homework tasks. Homework is supposed to provide students with revision, so that they practice skills that they have already learnt at school. Homework is a tool, that when used correctly, arms students with the appropriate skills to achieve greater success in their learning. Homework is NOT activities completed simply to have students doing school work. Homework is NOT activities designed to teach students new concepts, and therefore requiring parental assistance in order to complete these tasks. With this in mind, the staff are trialing a homework system this term that is largely focused on Home reading and building students’ knowledge of number facts. With a focus on reading and number facts, students will enhance their basic reading and number knowledge, which will have a MASSIVE effect on their performance in class. The formula is simple - the more students read - the better their ability to decode and comprehend. The faster students can recall number facts - the more effectively they can solve more complicated maths problems.

The added bonus with this plan is twofold: 1. Students will be able to take a more independent approach to their homework; and 2. Parents will have less ‘battles ‘ with their children to complete homework task. I wish my kids school would trial this program!!

Mark Greentree
Principal
Also a special Thank You to the Towle Family, The Pastuovic Family and the Momin Family – they bought, and donated, extra books for the Library as well.

Again THANK YOU to everyone who enjoyed Book Fair. It will be on over two days again in Education Week 2012 so save your money to buy some more books for you to read!

Mrs Osborne

**Footy Fun Day**

Footy fun day is taking place this term in Week 10. There are lots of fun and exciting things happening on that day. The footy Raffle tickets will be going home this week. There are four prizes to be won.

First prize is:
**A Parramatta Eels jersey signed by two players (Jarryd Hayne and Nathan Hindmarsh)**.

The incentive prize for most tickets sold is a Bulldogs and Parramatta Eels prize pack.

Once you have sold a book of raffle tickets, have your name marked off at the office and ask for another book. Stay tuned for more information.

Mrs Gavan

**Library News**

Thank You! Thank You! Altogether I sold $960 worth of books at Book Fair. That means we now have $288 worth of new books for the Library!

Congratulations to our PSSA Award Winners!

Girls Oztag
Geena and Mikayla

Boys Soccer
Mike and Bill

**Newsflash**

Everyone can help get resources for our school. It's easy – just shop at Woolworths or Coles.

**Woolworths – Earn and Learn**

Please collect your dockets (you only need the bottom part of the docket where the points are written). Ask neighbours and friends to collect their dockets as well. Bring the docket into the office and place it in the green box. The points earned over the next few weeks can be redeemed for educational resources for mathematics, literacy, science, creative arts and books.

The MORE points we have the MORE we can buy.

**Coles – Sports for Schools**

Please ask for your Sports for Schools vouchers when you shop at Coles. Bring the vouchers into the office and place it in the Coles box. The vouchers collected over the next few weeks can be redeemed for sporting equipment for our school.

The MORE vouchers we have the MORE we can buy.

**We can do it – yes we can.**

**Assembly**

*Term 3*

**Week 5 – Hosted by 3/4P**

**Week 6 – Hosted by 2/3H**

**Week 8 – Hosted by MPE Prefects**

**Week 10 – Hosted by 1/2G**

**Jump Rope for Heart**

Jump Rope for Heart raised $714.25 this year. Good Job MPE! Cody from KI was the highest money raiser! Congratulations Cody!
I would like to extend a big congratulations to all the students in 1/2G for doing a great job of completing and returning their homework and home reading regularly. Well done and keep up the great learning. This term has certainly been very busy and exciting already. It was excellent to see all the students participating, trying their best and having fun during the different events of the athletics carnival this week.

In reading the students have been identifying nouns and verbs in the texts. We are currently learning about pronouns and adjectives. We will be using pronouns and adjectives in our description writing and observing how they change the text.

This term we are preparing for the Public Speaking Competition and practising our talking and listening in class. Each week we have been building on our topics and sharing this with the class. The students have chosen a worker in the community and they will be researching them at school and preparing a speech to present at the end of the term.

In HSIE we have been studying ‘Workers in the Community’ and we will be visiting Bonnyrigg Library soon to observe a librarian and go on a tour of the library. We have learnt about needs and wants and what they are. Furthermore we have learnt who helps us to meet our needs and wants and the important role that workers in our community are responsible for.

The Science unit we are learning about this term is ‘Let’s Communicate’ and 1/2G has been thinking about how people communicate in many different ways. We are currently designing signs for our school environment.

In Mathematics the students have been learning to divide and share numbers into groups. We are currently learning about number patterns and we will be creating forward and backward number patterns.

The students have been working towards improving their handwriting and bookwork. We are practising forming letters correctly and spacing out our words. The student’s handwriting has improved as they are able to use lines correctly and set out their work neatly. We are learning to edit our work and to check for mistakes.

In Creative Arts we have been learning songs with actions and dances. The students have enjoyed participating in music lessons and we look forward to presenting our assembly item in Week 10.

Thank you to all the families that have sent soap, tissues, newspaper and egg cartons.

Mrs Gavan
6G were working closely with me last term and as a result they have composed ‘Senses Poetry’. They were required to identify their 5 senses: sight, smell, taste, hearing and touch and to use these to build a visual image around what they had learnt about ‘Rainforests’. The class did a fantastic job composing these poems and I would like to share some with you all over the next few weeks. I know you will enjoy these as much as I have. Congratulations 6G!! Mrs Foord

The Rainforest - A Senses Poem
I can feel dead leaves falling on top of me.
I can feel the moist air around me.
I can feel raindrops sprinkling on me.
I can feel leaves and plants brushing against me as I walk past them.
I can see fierce animals stalking their prey.
I can see the beautiful flowers blooming.
I can taste the morning dew in my mouth when I bump the wet leaves.
I can taste my drink getting warmer from the hot humid climate.
I can hear woodpeckers pecking away on trees.
I can hear animals joyfully chatting to each other in their unique ways.
I can hear the vicious animals arguing over their territory.
I can smell the dead animals rotting away on the ground.
I can smell the stench coming from me walking far distances through the rainforest.
By Geena Nguyen

The Rainforest – A Senses Poem
I can feel the soft cold breeze blowing against me.
I can feel the icy raindrops pouring down on me from up above.
I can feel my hear thumping fast inside me.
I can see the different kinds of rare plants and animals.
I can see the long saggy grass reaching up to my stomach.
I can smell the fresh moist air.
I can hear a woodpecker pecking its way through a tree.
I can hear a vicious predator eating its way through a struggling prey.
I can taste the cold dew in my mouth as I rush through the bushes.
I can taste my sweat dripping down on me from my forehead.
By Olivia Bui

P&C FATHERS’ DAY STALL
The P&C will be holding a Fathers Day stall on August 26. Below are some products that children can purchase ranging from $5 to $10. Donations will also be greatly appreciated, as all money raised will help the P&C purchase items for the school.