

MOSSTON MESSENGER

Term 1 No 2 – 15/2/2010

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Text: 027 428 7967, www.mosston.school.nz



Dare to be Wise

Our Vision: To develop the whole person.

*Our Mission: To engage learners
through QUALITY education*

(Kia ako nga tamariki te taonga o te kura)

Absent or Late Arrival at School

If your child is going to be absent from school, or late to school, please let the school office know by text 027 428 7967, email office@mosston.school.nz, or phone message 345 5432 and choose the absentee option. If we don't hear from you by about 9.15am we will ring you. If we can not get hold of the primary caregiver we then try to contact all other contacts.

Board of Trustee Elections

Board of Trustees elections are being held this year. Nominations close on 23rd April. If you want to be involved in the Governance of the school please consider putting your name forward. If you would like a nomination form see Robyn Christiansen who is the Returning Officer.

Parents Group meeting

A reminder that we are holding a meeting tonight from 7 – 8pm in the staffroom to start the Parents Group off for the year. It would be great to have as many as possible along. Everyone is invited.

Parent help – Computer skills

We are looking for a parent(s) to help write songs onto computer in Powerpoint form for us to use in our school assemblies and class singing programmes.
If you can help please contact the school.

Teacher Professional Development Days

There are two half days we will be taking this term. The first has been called by the NZEI teachers Union to enable members to vote on the proposed claims for the renewal of the Primary teachers Collective Agreement. It is being held on **Tuesday 9**

March from 1:30 – 3:30pm. While the school is officially open all teachers will be absent for this time to attend the meeting.

The second is a West Cluster Schools initiative to help us develop the Inquiry Learning model in our schools. For Mosston this is a major Professional Development focus this year. It will be held on **Thursday 1st April from 1:30 – 3:30pm** (last day of term).

National Standards

At the end of last year the Government introduced a system called National Standards to be implemented into schools beginning this year. In itself the thinking behind the system is sound in as much as it provides a tool for measuring where students should be at different stages of their education. It is based on the concept that by the time a student reaches NCEA level 2, if they have met the requirements then they will succeed at this level and be prepared in terms of literacy and mathematics to move on to higher learning or at least be prepared for the workforce. The standards were introduced because the Government has data which indicates one in five students is failing in our current education system and one third of our teachers are not teaching effectively. Unfortunately data can be very subjective and skewed to meet a purpose. The National Standards are a politically based initiative. There are many educationalists who have been involved in improving learning for students who openly disapprove of and present sound reasoning for not following this path which has been tried and failed miserably in other Western Countries. New Zealand has a very good record in education in relation to these other countries. One of the things we pride ourselves in is our creative drive (the old kiwi No.8 wire approach). We already have in place good tools for measuring student progress. As a school we are continually striving to achieve best possible learning outcomes for our students. If the National Standards are going to assist us we support them wholeheartedly.

However:

- The standards are untried and untested
- They impose a 'one-size-fits-all' approach
- They could label children as failures
- They are not the solution to under-achievement

We are asking the Government for time to trial them to assess their value. We don't want your children to be part of a flawed system.

We have an appeal form we want to send into the Government asking that they consider this. We would appreciate your signature on the form so the Government will reconsider their stance. It is available in the school foyer.

Jewellery & Hair Styles

We would prefer children don't wear jewellery to school. Pierced ears should have studs only, for safety reasons. Please do not send your children to school with Mohawk styles or dyed hair. This affects their social attitudes while at school to the point where they can become disruptive and show disrespect for others. It also reflects on our school as a quality learning environment. We would appreciate it if you would restrict these hairstyles to out of school times.

New Car Park

It's all go! We are getting a new car park. The Ministry of Education has given final approval for the funding, tenders have been let and Inframix has gained the tender rights to construct the car park. Everything will get underway at the beginning of March. There will be disruption to traffic and we ask for your patience during this time. At the end of it all we will have another neat facility to complement our hall.

Parenting tips - Keeping your cool when it counts

Whether it's battles over homework, whose turn it is to empty the dishwasher, or who gets to choose the movie, every family has their regular hotspots that threaten to set everyone at odds.

It's when these moments flare up that a Parent Coach can make a difference by using the following tips to defuse the tension:

- Breathe deeply and slowly
- Maintain your speaking volume and pitch at normal levels
- Keep the sparkle in your eye – set an example by trying to solve differences with good humour, respect, and a positive outlook.

Healthy Lunchboxes

Remember we are a water only school. We promote healthy lunchboxes which include fruit, sandwiches and a treat – if necessary. The preference is that children have recyclable containers to store food in. Any plastic wrappers and yoghurt containers go home with the children.

Lunchbox Idea

Fruit pottles or chopped fruit, potato cakes, nuts and seeds (if no allergies), sandwich with yummy filling.



Friday Volleyball – Time for a break

Due to a change in circumstances, there will be no Friday Primary School volleyball this term. It is hoped that the competition can re-start in term 4. Sport Wanganui have been contacted and they are looking at having the competition up and running again.

Thank you to all of the teachers and parents who have supported volleyball over the years.



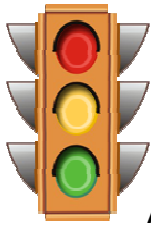
Opportunity for Wisdom and Learning

Perez Parkes and Keisha Campbell in Rm 1; Sharnie Tepu-Caudwell and Karmen Johnston in Rm 2.

Congratulations

FOR SALE

WORM WEE. A natural garden fertilizer. \$2 for one litre - \$4 for 2 litres.



How The Traffic Light System Works

The traffic light is a behaviour management system that is used consistently throughout all classrooms at Mosston School. While rewarding positive behaviours is our focus, there are times when it is necessary to place children on the traffic light so that inappropriate behaviours are discouraged.

All children begin each new day on *green*.

All classes have a positive visual system that rewards good choices and promotes good behaviour. If children do not receive three points within a five week period (yellow = 1 point, Orange = 2 and red = 3) they are invited to take part in a celebration of behaviour.

Behaviours that may cause children to go on the traffic light might include bad manners, poor listening, talking back to the teacher, saying unkind things to other children, hitting or touching others, breaking of class rules or school property, bad language, throwing things across the room, playing inappropriately or disrespecting property or people within the school.

The traffic light system is three tiered.

Warning -Child asked to stop the behaviour.

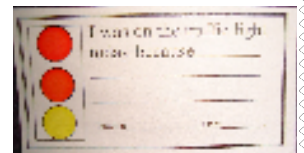
Yellow – Child moves to yellow if they continue

Orange – Child moves up to orange if they continue to do what they were asked not to do or display another inappropriate behaviour.

Red – Child continues to display original behaviour or does a third inappropriate behaviour. The child is then removed from the classroom and has a detention during the next lunchtime.

If a child does something serious then teachers have the discretion to ‘fast track’ a child to red.

If a child is placed on the traffic light then a note is sent home to the parent that day explaining why. Parents are welcome to come and discuss this with the class teacher. They must also sign the card and send it back.



This system is also used in the playground. In the playground children are ‘red benched’ for making bad choices. They are placed on the ‘yellow’ of the ‘traffic’ light and a note is sent home.

Please feel welcome to come in and discuss this process with us at any time.

Coming Events

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|---------------------------|---|
| 15 Feb. - tonight | Parents Group @7pm |
| 22 Feb. | Consultation Hui – 2:30pm |
| 5 th Mar | Meet the teacher evening / Family fun night |
| Thurs 1 st Apr | End of Term 1 |