Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to 2014. The year started off as a busy one at Mary Brooksbank School. We welcome back our existing parents and children and would also like to welcome our new families to MBS.

This year we have enrolled new students this year into Kindergarten, Year 1, Year 7 and Year 12. Our kindergarten students have completed their transition to school period and have all settled well into their new classes and routines. This term is a busy time for all classes with assessments, as teachers attempt to determine what each student knows and what important areas to target for their learning in the upcoming year.

Meetings to discuss your child’s Individual Learning Plan will help in determining their goals and is a great opportunity for you to have input into your child’s learning.

During the last holiday break, 2 new demountable classrooms were added to the school to take the number of classes to 13 and the number of students to 80.

New staff: It is with great pleasure that I advise our school community we have new Permanent Teachers and School Learning Support Officers on our staff this year. Welcome to Emma Skoczylas, Bianca Provenzale and Freda Christmas (Teachers) and Sharmaine Lloyd and Stacey Secker (SLSO’s). Each of these people bring a variety of skills and abilities to our school that will enhance our capacity to provide a quality education for the students at Mary Brooksbank School.

Our classes and staff this year are:
Assistant Principal (Infants): Ewa Ciszewska
Assistant Principal (Primary): Sandi Sutherland
Assistant Principal (High School): Christine Hunter
Infants: Wallaby (Ewa and Chris/Sharisse), Echidna (Bianca and Megan), Koala (Freda and Kathy), Kookaburra (Danielle and Myriam)
Primary: Kangaroo (Sandi and Stacey), Possum (Emma and Jacquie), Bilby (Naomi and Sandra/Sharisse), Emu (Alana and Sharmaine)
High School: Waratah (Christine and Marlene), Grevillea (Holly and Aleksandra/Shaz), Banksia (Al and Pat/Cindy), Wattle (Roger and Lesa), Wombat (Mandy and Dot)

While we said goodbye to several staff members last year, we have gained some incredible casual and temporary staff that are dedicated and enthusiastic and I would like to thank them personally for their effort in supporting our students. Thank you to our existing staff for making them feel welcome and assisting them.
School Counsellors
Our new School Counsellors are Anne Frahm who is at school every Wednesday and every second Thursday and Ann Mills who is at school every second Thursday.

Late morning arrivals
Just a reminder that school starts at 8:50am and students who arrive after this time will need to be taken to the office to sign in late and they will be collected by a staff member from class. It is important for the safety of our students that we lock the foyer doors in the morning and keep them locked during the day. For this reason, I ask all parents and caregivers not to proceed directly into the school at any time through these doors but go to the office first.

Communication Books
Please ensure that you make daily use of your child’s Communication Book to let class staff know things about your child and also to ask any questions you may have. If you need to speak to your child’s teacher please make an appointment by writing in the Communication book or by calling the office. Mel and Kylie in the office will be able to assist you with any general queries you may have about the school.

Staff car park
Because of the increase in staff numbers, the Department has agreed to construct 7 more staff parking spaces in the existing car park at no cost to the school and we expect this to be completed very soon.

Northcott Disability Services
Northcott Campbelltown offer Teen After School and Vacation Care here at MBS. The service provides after school and vacation care for teenagers 12 to 17 years of age with disabilities in the Macarthur area. If you would like an application form please contact the school and we can arrange to send one home for you. For more information please find attached Northcott flyer.

I wish all families and students a wonderful and happy year at Mary Brooksbank.

Regards,
Jennifer Neradovsky
Acting Principal

Dear Parents and Carers

Another busy year has already started and we would like to welcome all new parents to the school. We held our first P&C Meetings in Week 4. It was great to see some of our new parents attend and we hope that you continue to be a part of the P&C. The P&C meets twice a Term in Weeks 4 & 8 at 9.30am in the school library. We warmly welcome any new person to our meetings. It’s a great way to meet other parents and carers and see what’s involved in helping support the children at MBS.

Our next meeting will take place on Tuesday 18th March 2014.
Easter Eggs Needed
Our first function for this year is the Easter Hat Parade which will be on Friday 11th April. If you have any spare time we are always on the look out for volunteers for the day.

More details will be sent home shortly so make sure you keep an eye out and mark this date in your diaries.

We are also asking for donations of Easter Eggs and prizes for our Easter Egg Raffles. If you are able to donate please either drop off to the office or you can send them in with your child.

Uniform Shop Opening Times
We are open every second Monday during the Term if you are after school uniforms.

10th March  9am till 10am
24th March  9am till 10am
7th April    9am till 10am

Don’t forget that we also offer a layby service for 6 weeks only. If you are unable to get to the shop during this time uniforms orders can be sent in with your child. Price list is attached.

We are happy to take uniform donations for our second hand pool. These uniforms will be used to help support families that may require student assistance. Please only send in good quality second hand uniforms. We can not accept any uniform that is damaged.

Mt Annan Challenge Walk
We had 13 of our P&C members along with their children complete the Mt Annan Challenge Walk on Sunday 9th March 2014. We are happy to announce that we won Top Team Winner 6km Secondary Schools.

Variety Club of Australia
We are very excited to announce the arrival of our new school bus. The P&C provided a significant donation of $50,000 towards the purchase of the bus in conjunction with The Variety Club and Toyota. Please find attached some pictures of our new bus.

Regards
P&C Committee
Diary Dates

21.3.14  Harmony Day – please wear orange
11.4.13  Easter Hat Parade
01.4.13  Year 7 & 9 Injections
11.4.13  Last Day of Term 1
28.4.13  Staff Development Day – no students on this day
**29.4.13**  Students return for start of Term 2

Library Donations

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the following families for their kind donations of resources for the children to utilise in the library.

Sam King - donation of library books
Matt Golding - donation of books, toys and games.

Newsletter Mailing List

At Mary Brooksbank School we are always trying to improve the way we communicate with parents. If you would like your newsletter emailed please fill in the slip below and it return to school. For your reference the newsletter is completed twice a term.

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| STUDENT NAME: ______________________________ | CLASS: ____________ |
| PARENTS NAME: ______________________________ |
| I would like to have the school newsletter emailed to the following address: |
| ____________________________________________ |

Signed: ________________________________ (parent / carer)  Date: __________________

Please note that due to system restrictions we are not able to send emails to Hotmail accounts.