## Coming Events - Term 4

### WEEK 5

**Monday, 3 November**
- NO CANTEEN
- COLA Assembly Years 3-6

**Tuesday, 4 November**
- Student Banking
- NO CANTEEN
- Whole School Special Assembly 1:50pm
  - “School Service and Electricians Awards

**Wednesday, 5 November**
- Uniform Shop Open 8:30 – 9:30am
- Enviro Working Bee 9:00am-11:00am
- 8:00-9:00am – BAND

**Thursday, 6 November**
- NO CANTEEN

**Friday, 7 November**
- No Newsletter
- 5:30pm Smart Start BBQ

### WEEK 6

**Monday, 10 November**
- NO CANTEEN

**Tuesday, 11 November**
- 9:15am Public Speaking Finals- Hall
- Student Banking
- NO CANTEEN
- NO Assembly

**Wednesday, 12 November**
- Uniform Shop Open 8:30 – 9:30am
- Enviro Working Bee 9:00am-11:00am
- 8:00-9:00am – BAND
- 6:30pm Fundraising Meeting
- 7:00pm P&C AGM Meeting

**Thursday, 13 November**
- Stage 2 Red Kite Poetry Excursion

**Friday, 14 November**
- Home Reading concludes
- Newsletter

### WEEK 7

**Stage 3 Camp**

**Monday, 17 November**
- NO CANTEEN
- COLA Assembly Years 3-4
- Stage 3 leave for Camp at 8:00am

**Tuesday, 18 November**
- Student Banking
- NO CANTEEN
- NO Assembly

**Wednesday, 19 November**
- Uniform Shop Open 8:30 – 9:30am
- Enviro Working Bee 9:00am-11:00am
- 8:00-9:00am – BAND

**Thursday, 20 November**
- NO Newsletter
- Stage 3 return from Camp app. 4:30pm
- Stage 2 PSSA Gala Day

### WEEK 8

**Swimming Scheme all week**

**Monday, 24 November**
- NO CANTEEN
- Swimming Scheme starts 9:15 – 10:00am
- COLA Assembly Years 3-6

**Tuesday, 25 November**
- Student Banking
- NO CANTEEN
- Whole School Special Assembly 1:50pm

### WEEK 9

**Monday, 1 December**
- NO CANTEEN
- COLA Assembly Years 3-4

**Tuesday, 2 December**
- Student Banking
- NO CANTEEN
- NO Assembly

**Wednesday, 3 December**
- Uniform Shop Open 8:30 – 9:30am
- Enviro Working Bee 9:00am-11:00am
- 8:00-9:00am – BAND
- 9:00am Fete Meeting

**Thursday, 4 December**
- 7pm Rise & Shine Awards
- 1:30pm Presentation Assembly

**Friday, 5 December**
- No Newsletter
- Swimming Scheme – last day
- Christmas Raffle Tickets due back today

### WEEK 10

**Monday, 8 December**
- NO CANTEEN

**Tuesday, 9 December**
- NO CANTEEN
- Student Banking
- Gold Awards Morning Tea
- 11-11:40am Thank You for parents

**Wednesday, 10 December**
- Uniform Shop Open 8:30 – 9:30am
- Enviro Working Bee 9:00am-11:00am
- 8:00-9:00am – BAND
- EST 1 & Stage 1 – Movie and BBQ
- Stage 2 & 3 – Bowling
- Year 6 Dinner

**Thursday, 11 December**
- 7pm P&C Dinner

**Friday, 12 December**
- Yr 6 Graduation in Library and BBQ
- Last Newsletter
- Reports go home today

### WEEK 11

**Monday, 15 December**
- NO CANTEEN

**Tuesday, 16 December**
- Student Banking
- NO CANTEEN
- No Assembly
- “M Factor”

**Wednesday, 17 December**
- Uniform Shop Open 8:30 – 9:30am
- Enviro Working Bee 9:00am-11:00am
- 8:00-9:00am – BAND
- End of Term 4 – last day for students
Thursday, 18 Dec  | STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY
Friday, 19 December  | STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

**PRINCIPAL’S WELCOME:**

**2014 WOLLONGONG COMBINED SCHOOLS INSTRUMENTAL FESTIVAL**

Congratulations to **Ivy** who was selected to perform as a Soloist (Classical Guitar), and as a member of the Mass Band at the 2014 Wollongong Combined Instrumental Festival held last night at the Wollongong Town Hall.

Congratulations also to **Reuben**, who also performed (Violin) as a member of the Mass Band and as a Member of the ISER Regional Band.

Both students’ performances were exceptional and demonstrated great passion, talent and commitment with their music studies.

Well done, we are very proud of you both.

**SCHOOL SPORT AUSTRALIA CHAMPIONSHIPS - MUFTI DAY FUNDRAISER**

Congratulations to Sailina and Brooke who were selected to represent **New South Wales Public Schools** in the **School Sport Australian Championships**. The students will travel to Tasmania to compete in December.

Sailina will represent **New South Wales Public Schools** in the 10 years Girls 100 metres and Brooke will represent **New South Wales Public Schools** in the Junior Girls High Jump.

The individual cost for each of the girls to represent our school and NSW, is $1,300 plus accommodation and travel costs.

As you are all aware, the school will be supporting the students with some fundraising activities. The SRC is running a “Melbourne Cup Mufti Day” and a sausage sizzle on Tuesday, 4 November.

For the Mufti Day, children have been asked to wear **sun safe mufti clothes, enclosed shoes, a hat or “Fascinator”** and bring along a **GOLD COIN** donation.

This extra financial support will be greatly appreciated by the girls and their families.

Well done Sailina and Brooke, we are very proud of you both and we know that you will represent our school, district and state, with great pride and skill.

**OPERATION ART - continued success**

Congratulations are extended to two of our 2014 Operation Art winners; Elke and Chloe for the surprise selection of their artwork, for further display opportunities.

Elke’s winning artwork will be displayed at the Commission For Children and Young People, and Chloe’s winning artwork will be displayed at ANSTO.

Congratulations girls, we are very proud of this amazing achievement.

**SKOOLBAG APP LAUNCH**

Don’t forget to download our new communication app **Skoolbag**.

**Skoolbag** is a school Mobile App that communicates directly with iPhone and Android devices. It provides schools with an easy way to tell parents/carers everything they need to know, and it provides parents with the most convenient way to receive school notifications.

School newsletters, school notices and alerts are communicated directly to parent’s smartphone through the **Skoolbag** App.

At first we will be adding the newsletter and attachments and as time goes on, we will have the facility to send reminders, permission notes and other useful features.

To download the app, simply search for **Mount St Thomas Public School** in your App/Play Store.

**SELECTIVE HIGH SCHOOLS, YEAR 7, 2016**

In 2014, students seeking placement for Year 7 at a Selective High School in 2016 are required to make an application while they are in Year 5. These can now be completed online (there are no printed paper application forms).

Parents must apply online at: [www.schools.nsw.edu.au/shsplacement](http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/shsplacement)

Online applications can be made between **14 October and 17 November 2014**. Applications will **not be accepted** for any reason, after 18 November 2014. The Selective Schools test will be held on Thursday, 12 March, 2015.

If you have any further enquiries please contact the school or simply request/pick up an **Information Booklet** using the Intention to Apply Letter, sent home recently.
KINDergarten Enrolments
Just a reminder that Kindergarten enrolments are still be taken for in area students for 2015. If you or anyone you know is intending to apply for Kindergarten in 2015, please do it, as soon as possible to avoid a last minute rush.

Application forms are available from the office.

Kinder Buddies for 2015
Our current Year 4 students have been trained as Kindergarten Buddies by Mrs Webster and they are all very excited about their very important job. This initiative plays a pivotal role in the success of our Smart Start Transition to School program. Our Year 4 Buddies are already doing a great job supporting the new Kindergarten children and helping them to transition to “big” school smoothly during the orientation activities.

Their job will continue through the remainder of the transition program with the Informal Visits and Smart Start BBQ scheduled for next week, and then in 2015, on the children’s first day of school.

We would like to thank our Year 4 students for their commitment to this valuable initiative.

Are you going to be on holidays in the first 3 weeks of Term 1, 2015?
Principal are required to submit enrolment numbers in Week 3 of Term 1. If you anticipate being away during the first three weeks of Term 1, please write the school a letter stating that your child / children will be returning before the conclusion of Term 1 2015.

This advice will help us in the allocation of teachers to our school.

Home Readers Returned
Our home reading scheme will conclude for the year on 14 November, 2014 (Week 6)

We would appreciate all home reading books being returned by this date, so we can record your child’s “finishing” level, so they are ready to start at the beginning of the 2015 school year.

We also need to conduct a stock take on these items, so if you could please do a search of your bookshelves for any misplaced readers, we would appreciate their return.

Thank you for your continued support of your child’s home reading during the year.

School Swimming Scheme
Mount St Thomas Public School will be participating again in the School Swimming Scheme (SSS). The SSS will run for 10 days in Weeks 8 and 9. This is a great opportunity for Year 2 students to learn and improve their swimming skills at a warmer time of the year.

It is open for all Year 2 students and some Year 3 students whether they are beginners or proficient swimmers, as the students will swim in groups at their skill level.

The swimming lessons and pool entry are FREE! It costs $40.00 for ten days of bus travel to and from the pool.

Please return permission notes and money to the school by Friday, 14 November 2014.

Mathematics Competition
Students from Mount St Thomas Public School performed very well when they competed in the Australasia Schools Mathematics Competition.

Students from Mount St Thomas were awarded:
- 3 Certificate of Distinction
- 19 Certificates of Credit
- 7 Certificates of Merit AND
- 26 Certificates of Participation

Certificates are awarded on the following basis:

HIGH DISTINCTION to the top 1% of entrants in each Year Level in the State.
DISTINCTION to the next 10% of entrants in each Year Level in the State.
CREDIT to the next 20% of entrants in each Year Level in the State.
MERIT to students who are placed within the top 20% of their school, but who have not qualified for a State certificate.
PARTICIPATION to all students who do not qualify for one of the above certificates.

Congratulations are extended to the following students for their fine achievement.

DISTINCTION CERTIFICATE:
Destiny, Ella, Samuel

CREDIT CERTIFICATES:
Tessa, Bryce, Alexa, Charlotte, Julian, Jamison, Jack, William, Flynn, Morgan, William, Lucy, Esther, Finlay, Guy, Jade, Jessica, Caitlyn, Arabelle

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT:
Harrison, Eggers, Macy, Hannah, Jasper, Georgie, Katherine, Imogen
CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION:
Macklin, Nicholas, Joseph, Evelyn, Sienna, Nikkita, Joel, Alex, Emily, Zara, Elia, Ivy, James, Jack, Jade, Stella, Hien, Bella, Brooke, Claire, Catherine, Dylan, Sang, Sasha, Thomas, Samuel

LIFE EDUCATION
Many thanks to all the parents for their ongoing support of the Life Education Program this year.

The curriculum-based lessons, empower our children to make safe and healthy lifestyle choices that could impact on their future lives.

Without your support, this program could not continue

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT DAYS IN TERM 4
Schools have the opportunity to have 2 additional school development days at the end of Term 4.

This means that the last day of school for children is Wednesday, 17 December 2014.

All teachers are required to attend on Thursday, 18 and Friday, 19 December, 2014.

2015 RETURN TO SCHOOL DATES
Next year, Term 1 commences on:
TUESDAY, 27 JANUARY, 2015 (for staff only)
WEDNESDAY, 28 JANUARY, 2015 (for Years 1 – 6)
MONDAY, 2 FEBRUARY, 2015 (new Kinders)

Have a great week.

Christine Schnebli
PRINCIPAL

FROM THE LIBRARY
The last week of borrowing for students will be on Friday, 14 November (Week 6). This will enable a complete stocktake of books to be done.

Parents, do a BIG HUNT under beds, on book shelves, inside other books or the car and through the house to find and return any outstanding library books.

Mrs Skarpona - LIBRARIAN

SPORTS NEWS:
SCHOOL SWIMMING SCHEME
Parents are requested to return their permission notes and money to school by Friday, 14 November.

Peter Davies – Coordinator

P&C NEWS:
UNIFORM SHOP
The school uniform shop is open every:

WEDNESDAY - 8:30am – 9:15am

New lunch wallets available NOW at the uniform shop.
Lunch Order Wallet - $8.00 each
All-round insulated lunch wallets for everyday - $12.00.
All colours currently available.
Please see flyer in the newsletter

CANTEEN NEWS:
CANTEEN CLOSED: Every Monday & Tuesday
TRADING HOURS: 8:30am to 2:00pm
Wednesday to Friday

NEW MENU ITEMS:
Chicken Salsa or Coleslaw burgers - $3.50
Meatball Subs - $2.50

RECESS ORDERS:
Fun bun tea cake and any drink - $3.00

PLEASE NOTE:
The Canteen will be CLOSED at RECESS only on Friday, 21 November due to Stage 2 and 3 away.
The Canteen will be CLOSED ALL DAY on Wednesday, 10 December due to all classes holding their end of year class parties.

FOR SALE - FREE RANGE EGGS
Now available at the Canteen - Free Range Eggs $5.00 per dozen. Each box (15 dozen) that is sold; a $5.00 donation will be given to the P&C Association.

Due to food ALLERGIES, it’s a MUST that only parents pick them up from the canteen.

Cheers,
Gail - Canteen Supervisor
**Wednesday 12 November, 2014**

1. **FUNDRAISING MEETING** 6.30PM
2. **P&C MEETING** 7.00PM

All welcome to attend one or both meetings.

**HOW TO RAISE AN AGENDA ITEM AT A P&C MEETING**

If you have an item that you would like to raise with the P&C at a meeting, then use the following procedure:

1. Put the item or concern in writing along with your name and contact details.
2. Leave at the front office with Denise. Similarly, you can email the written agenda item to mstpca@gmail.com.
   The written agenda item must be in 1 week prior to the next P&C meeting.
   **Please note:** Contact the P&C committee on the email above if you would like to discuss the agenda item or any other P&C matter.

Kind Regards
P&C Executive

**SOUTH COAST ENTERTAINMENT BOOK!!**

We are excited to be selling the NEW South Coast Entertainment book again! Not only is it filled with $15,000 worth of fabulous discounts and vouchers from businesses all up and down the coast, but with each book sold $11.00 goes towards fundraising for Mount St Thomas Public School.

Books are available now available from the school office.
Call Cindy 0407297081 for more information.

Cindy
On behalf of the Fundraising Committee

**ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS:**

Our Wednesday working bee volunteers have been working very hard this year and our beautiful environment is a testament to their hard work. Thank you to all of our wonderful workers, the gardens are looking great.

Mike Blake, one of our volunteer garden helpers, has been busy potting lots of healthy plants and they are available for sale at only $2.00 or $1.00 each.

Money raised from the sale of the plants will go towards further improving our school environment.

Thank you Rosemary

**RISE AND SHINE COMPETITION - IMPORTANT DATE**

The Rise and Shine Awards Night
Thursday, 4th December at the Salvation Army Function Centre, 13 Burelli St Wollongong. It usually starts about 7 pm and goes for approximately an hour with a free supper at the end.

You are welcome to come along to see if any of these clever students or even our school wins a prize.

_Mrs Davis – COORDINATOR_

**Is It Important to Look After the Environment?**

By Caitlyn Todoroski

Is it important to look after the environment?
If so, then why?
Is it to improve animal development, or to keep a fresh water supply?
Maybe we could stop pollution, and global warming too.
Could there be a solution, that everyone could help out to do?
All it takes is someone wise or few volunteers.
To open up the eyes Of all their peers.
Plant a seed in your backyard or possibly, walk to school.
Come on, it’s not that hard.
Maybe this could be cool!
Come on, lend a helping hand, It’s the least that you could do.
Our environment is in demand Be apart of too!

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All welcome to attend one or both meetings.
The Environment
By Alice Charlton, Nebo 1

Our environment is perfect for you and me,
So make sure you keep it pristine.
Don't drop that rubbish!
Please! Please! Please!
Or it will end up in the sea,
Or blow up into the air,
It's just not fair!
Think about all the animals,
Finding things on the forest floor.
They might choke,
On a can of coke!
If you find rubbish on the ground,
Pick it up!
You will feel PROUD!
Please remember,
All the rules,
Or YOU ARE FOOLS!

The Rainforest
By Arabelle White

Dew glides like a bird
Down a lush mountain of grass
The trees emphasise the bright, green rainforest
As the dirt adds the pale hint,
Making the rainforest the perfect place.
I am happy.

Smoke makes the birds cough and spatter
Like an engine running out of gas
The bulldozer screams with power
While the trees scream with fear.

Stumps already cover half the mountain
Dead animals lay along the logs
The killing sound of killing swords
 Sends negative energy around the half horrid mountain.
I am sad.

Dew glides like a bird
Down a stumped wasteland
It hits the bulldozer
And now it's breaking down
Turning its rust into orange rind.

The forest is safe
The forest is strong
I am relieved.
When it grows back
I will be happy.
Help Save Our Environment!

by Dakota Biermann

Scientists think that our world needs help. We need to save our environment by making better choices and having more respect for our world, for marine animals, as well as land animals.

How would you like living in a world of rubbish and waking up to plastic bags and bottles? Well, if the answer is NO, you had better start making some differences or that's what our future will be like.

Poor innocent animals are dying on our behalf, because we are too lazy to STOP and THINK before we litter.

Think of the poor animals, like turtles, who mistake plastic bags for jellyfish. They can end up dying from it.

As well as polar bears, who are now endangered, because of all the gases from making plastics. These gases have made a hole in our sun barrier (the ozone layer) and that is melting all the ice for the polar animals!

Litter is lazy, unhealthy and its affecting our world in many ways. Like killing animals and destroying nature. It is also making people sick.

If you want to HELP NATURE’S GIFT and the POOR ANIMALS, start making a difference now.

STOP IT! RIGHT NOW before the world turns into a big, disgusting, ugly pile of RUBBISH!

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LEAVERS IN 2014
As all families would be aware, applications for Kindergarten to Year 6 enrolment in 2015 are now being taken. In 4 weeks’ time the decision will be made as to how many of the non-local applications can be accepted.

To do this as accurately as possible, we need to determine how many Year 6 students will be leaving, as well as how many other families will be leaving the school and NOT RETURNING IN 2015.

Please help clarify next year’s numbers! If you know or expect you will be leaving our school before the commencement of the 2015 school year, except for the current Year 6 going to High School, please complete and return the form below, as soon as possible.

We would be very grateful of your prompt advice, so we can more accurately estimate our enrolments for 2015.

WHERE WILL YOU BE IN 2015??
[Please complete and return to the school office]
If you expect your child will not be attending our school in 2015 (except Year 6), please complete the form below and return as soon as possible.

CHILD’S NAME: ___________________ CLASS: __________
REASON: __________________________

______________________________________________________________________

CHILD’S NAME: ___________________ CLASS: __________
REASON: __________________________

______________________________________________________________________

CHILD’S NAME: ___________________ CLASS: __________
REASON: __________________________

______________________________________________________________________

COMMUNITY NEWS:

Illawarra Junior Representative Trials 2015
Saturday 22nd November &
Saturday 29th November
Under 12 Boys and Girls: 12:30pm – 2:00pm players born 2004 and after
Under 14 Boys and Girls 2:00pm – 3:30pm players born 2003 & 2002
Under 16 Boys and Girls 3:30pm – 5:00pm players born 2001 & 2000
Under 18 Boys and Girls 5:00pm – 6:30pm players born 1999 & 1998
Illawarra Basketball Stadium ‘Snakepit’
Players of all standards are encouraged to trial for the teams.
Selected players will receive coaching and development to improve their overall fitness, skills, ability and knowledge of all aspects of the game.
Contact Basketball Illawarra office on 4225 9999 if you have any further enquiries

TAKE HOME A BIG BROTHER OR BIG SISTER
Give your children the wonderful opportunity to have an international big brother or big sister by volunteering to host one of our exceptional international students arriving in Australia in February 2015 for their 3, 5, or 10 month programs. Our international students from France, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Japan and USA will live as a local, attend a local secondary school, arrive with their own spending money, and comprehensive insurance cover, all arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange. You choose the nationality, the gender, the duration and the interests of the student that you feel is the best match for your family. Visit us at www.scce.com.au, email scceaust@scce.com.au or call us toll free on 1800 500 501, request our international student profiles, and capture the spirit of family and friendship!