End of Year procedures
To ensure correct staffing and class allocations for 2014 it is vital that you inform us if you are either not returning next year or returning late from holidays. Schools are staffed on students who have attended school during the first eight days of the new year. If you are not returning until after Thursday 6 February it is vital that we know to secure accurate staffing for 2014. To simplify this process we have included a section in this newsletter. Please complete the information and return it to either office as a matter of urgency.

P&C
Last week we had our last P&C meeting for the year. I would like to thank the small group of parents who have attended meetings and helped organise events and celebrations this year. A special thank you goes to the executive. Our students and staff greatly appreciate all of the hard work that all members of the P&C put into making our school “Logan’s best school.”

Attendance
A reminder that attendance each and every day up until the last day of school is vital. We have added extra incentive this year. A chance to win a scooter and helmet will be offered to all students who attend school on time every day for the whole day in Week 10 of this term.

If your child is away for any reason, please remember to let us know either via phone call (3386 5333), note or email (absence@mabelparkss.eq.edu.au.)

Academic Report Cards
All report cards will be sent home on Wednesday 11 December. With the report cards will be details for the student resource scheme for 2014. Please return the signed forms in the first week next year.

Back to school in 2014
Parents and carers are reminded that the first day of school for all state school students is Tuesday 28 January 2014. We look forward to seeing you all ready for another fantastic year.

Keep a watch on our school these holidays
With the holidays fast approaching, we need you to look out for after-hours crime in our school. If you see anything suspicious, please remember to call the School Watch number – 13 17 88. Call the School Watch number and let the local police or State Government Protective Security Service deal with the matter. Keep the number handy – 13 17 88 – and let’s work together to help create a safer school community!

Farewell to our departing staff
We would like to thank and farewell those staff members who are leaving us at the end of 2013. Their dedication to our students is very much appreciated by students, parents and staff. We wish them all the very best in their future endeavours. Farewell, Mrs Symons, Mrs McEachern, Mr Caldwell, Miss Horrigan and Miss Gacka.
This is our final newsletter for 2013. This year has been challenging and rewarding for our entire school community. The holidays provide an opportunity to spend time with family and to rejuvenate ready for the year ahead in 2014. Please be safe and enjoy the holidays (for those lucky enough to have holidays). Best of luck to our departing Year 7 students. Hope to see everyone else back ready to learn in 2014!

2 December Principal’s Morning Tea
10 December Year 7 Celebration
11 December Academic Parade
13 December Last day of school year

Literacy and Numeracy Targets
This term has seen an astounding number of students reach their Literacy and Numeracy Targets. These targets are set in conjunction with students and their classroom teacher. It is fantastic to see that, even as we approach the end of the year, our students are still striving to achieve their academic goals. Have a conversation with your child/ren to see what Literacy and Numeracy targets they are currently working towards and what you may be able to assist them over the holidays.

Year 7 Celebration
The Year 7 Celebration is being held on Tuesday 10 December at the Salvation Army Hall. This is a school uniform event. Invites to parents were sent home with students last week. If you did not receive this invite please let Mrs Hawkins in the Middle Campus office know.

2014 Student Leaders
The process for student leader election has begun. Student voting has occurred and those students nominated by their peers sat in a panel interview consisting of school staff members. Following these interviews a shortlist of students has been chosen to present a speech to their peers and the Middle Campus Staff. From here our 2014 Student Leaders will be determined. Elected leaders and their parents will be notified and will be required to attend our Year 7 Celebration for the passing of the Student Leader badges.

Holiday Message
Have a wonderful break and enjoy the summer holidays. For our Year 7’s, this will be the last summer break before entering into High School. Congratulations and best wishes for your future schooling. To our returning students and families – enjoy your break and we look forward to seeing you all again in the New Year.

Uniform
I would like to thank all the parents who continue to ensure their children are in the correct uniform each and every day. It is such a pleasure to see our students taking pride in how they look and represent our great school. If you need assistance at this time of year with regards to sending your child in the correct uniform, please contact us to help you. When all of our students consistently wear the correct school uniform, we ensure that we stay the ‘best school in Logan!’
Tips for Early Literacy Development – things to do over the coming holidays!

Every time you read a book, write a note, sort the laundry, check the TV listings, or recount the day’s happenings, you are using skills young children need to have to be ready to learn to read and write. Here are some simple activities you and your child can do together.

Learning New Words

- **Name Games:** Play simple naming games with your child. You can ask, ‘What is this?’ or ‘Where is he/she going?’ when you go to the grocery store, go on a walk, or sit and look out the window.
- **Everyday Words:** Talk to your child as you do everyday tasks such as sorting the laundry or thinking about what to cook. Explain the piles of laundry, for example, ‘Here are the dark clothes and here are the white clothes’. Show your child the ingredients you have for making a meal and name them together.
- **Read:** Read and reread books about topics your child is interested in. Learn the names of animals, vehicles, plants, and games together.
- **Field Trips:** Take your child on short trips to new places, such as a florist shop or a park. Talk about what you see along the way and what you see when you get there. When you get home, have your child draw a picture of something he or she saw. Write a caption for the picture.
- **Job Talk:** Go to a familiar place and look for the people who work there. What jobs do they do? What tools do they use?

Listening for Letters and Sounds

- **Nursery Rhymes:** Read, sing, or say nursery rhymes from your childhood. Help your child learn them. Point out the parts that rhyme or have words you like to say or hear.
- **Beginning Sounds:** Point out ways words begin or end. Compare words that start with the same sound, for example, tomato and taco. Ask: ‘Tomatoes and tacos begin in the same way. Can you hear the t in tomatoes and tacos?’
- **Rhyming Books:** Read books with rhyming words, such as those by Dr. Seuss. Let your child fill in the words as you read them again and again.
- **Rhyming Riddles:** Make up riddles and guessing games using words that rhyme or words that start with the same sounds. For example, ‘What kind of cake would a snake make? He might make a lake cake’. The rhymes can be silly and fun and will get your child thinking about words and listening for rhymes.

Beginning Reading and Writing

- **Letter Search:** Point out words on signs and in stores. Begin a search for the letter that begins your child’s name. Read the stop signs and the other traffic signs aloud when you are driving with your child. Find letters on products, on signs, and on television. Match the letters with the child’s first or last name. Play ‘letter of the day’, in which you decide on a letter and go on a hunt for it.
- **Labels:** Label a few belongings with your child’s name, for example, a cup or a favourite book. Read the labels together.
- **Notes:** Write simple notes to your child. For example, write ‘I love you’ or ‘Let’s take a walk’. Your child can ‘write’ notes back to you using words or pictures. Take turns reading the notes to each other.
- **Shopping Lists:** Write shopping lists and to-do lists while sitting next to your child. Provide paper and pencil so the child can make his or her own list. Then, take the list to the grocery store and use it as you shop to show the words on your list have meaning.
- **Make Words:** Make magnetic letters available and play with them on a surface such as the refrigerator. Spell simple words for your child and have him or her repeat them.
- **Picture Menus:** With your child, cut out pictures of food and paste them on sheets of paper to make a menu. You might make pages for breakfast, lunch, and foods. Have your child ‘read’ the menu.
- **Alphabet Books:** Make a book that has a page for each letter of the alphabet. The child can draw or find a picture for each letter and paste it on the page. Write the letter on the page for the child or let him or her do it. Staple the pages together to make a book. Read the book from time to time.
• Book Time: Read with your child every day. Start by setting aside 5 or 10 minutes each day. Then gradually increase the time to 30 minutes. Go to the library together. Choose books that go along with the seasons, family holidays, or subjects your child is interested in.
• Dramatizing: Help your child make cut-outs of favourite storybook characters. Your child can use them to dramatize the story as you read and reread it.
• Sharing: Share what you read with your child. Read aloud a portion of the newspaper or a book you are reading. Talk about why reading interests you.

Farewell & Thank you
I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Symons for all of her work and dedication to our students. We have been lucky to have such a great Special Education Teacher at Mabel Park State School. Mrs Symons will be greatly missed and we wish her all the best at her new school.

Individual Support Plan (ISP) Reporting
Students who are part of the Special Education program will be receiving their Year Level Report Card along with their ISP Report. We will be conducting ISP Meetings at the beginning of 2014 for their new ISPs.

4KQ Christmas Party
The 4KQ Christmas Party invitations will be sent home this week with the students. All students that requested an invitation received one. We hope you all have a fantastic time.

2014 Teachers – Class Swap
In the last week of school all students from year P-6 will be moving to their new classroom to meet their new Classroom Teacher and Special Education Teacher. We will continue to work on transitioning students to their new class and teachers in the final week.

More Support for Students With Disabilities – Assistive Technology Expo
A number of our special education staff attended the Assistive Technology Expo Monday and Tuesday. Congratulations and thankyou to Mrs Bennett and Mrs Williams for presenting at the expo. They did an amazing job in imparting their knowledge on how to use iPads to differentiate the curriculum for students.

Holidays
Wishing you all a safe and enjoyable break. Encourage your child/children to continue to read and write over the holidays to keep up all the great skills they have acquired this year. Students and their teachers have worked incredibly hard this year to achieve some great results.
Mabel Park State School Leads the Way

At Mabel Park we always strive to provide the best possible teaching and learning experiences for every child, every day. We are constantly looking for new research and education trends to ensure we are providing students with the best possible education. It is confirmed we are doing an amazing job when we have numerous schools asking to see the great things that we are doing in our classrooms. We recently hosted the Head of Curriculum and teachers from local school, Woodridge North State School, who were impressed with the rigorous work students and teachers were doing in reading and writing. They loved the way the students were able to articulate their targets and tell them what they were working towards. In the near future we will also be hosting visits from Coolangatta State School, who would like to see the work we are doing around targets and data walls, and Morayfield State School, who are interested in our iPad implementation. Congratulations go to all students and staff for the wonderful effort they put into making Mabel Park State School ‘Logan’s Best School’.

Academic Award Parade

Wednesday 11 December, 9.00am is when the 2013 Academic Award Parade will be held. Teachers are busily collating data, assessments and observations and moderating to determine students who will be receiving these awards. We will also recognise those students who have attended school every single day this year. All parents, carers and family are welcome to attend. There will be a morning tea for all award recipients and their parents following the parade. Hope to see you there!

Holiday Fun

There are lots of activities happening in and around Logan City these school holidays. Keep your kids active and engaged by going to some of the activities listed on the following sites.


School Wide Positive Behaviour Support

Students who receive Gotchas throughout the term are presented with a Gotcha Certificate for excellent behaviour in the playground.

Gold Gotcha (20): Charlotte B, Maddy G, Summyr-Lilly M
Silver Gotcha (15): Hailee B, Radrisse I, Onga T, Brooke B
**AUSLAN Sign of the Week**

Merry Christmas
Clap hands together twice without making a sound. Then using dominant hand, create a beard from your chin.

**Auslan Language Model**

Holidays
Flat palms facing outwards and moving in circular motion. Both hands moving in opposite directions.

**Weekly Awards**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep</td>
<td>Charli E, Mason O, Alayna U, Caitlin S, Jaxson KP, Brock W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Unique P, Tyrell D, Joshua MT, Eden E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Sam C, Patrice W, Joness I, Kiani R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Tulelei T, Maryjane P, Gabrisha C, Nakiah W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>Vicky W, Daniel B, Brandon MW, Brock S, Zac P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5/6</td>
<td>Samuel A, Kane R, Abbie-Rose S, Synethia P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td>Peron W, Jannali W, Moses P, Alexis O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extension</td>
<td>Jeshianna T, Shyaz M, Phebe G, Alex Z, Temania P, Casey S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music</td>
<td>Cloey I, Phebe G, Justice T</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**School Disco**
What a great night the disco was. Thank you to all the students who supported us with this fundraiser and a big thank you to all the parents and staff that came along and helped out.

Throughout this year P&C have organised several fundraising events. All the money we raise goes back into the school. Some of the things we have purchased this year are the Apple TV’s for each class room and we are in the process of having bubblers installed near the music room. Without your support these things wouldn’t be possible, so we would like to say thank you to everyone that supports the P&C. Meetings have finished for 2013 and we would love more parents to be involved next year, so please consider coming along to our meetings on the 3rd Thursday of each month, starting February 2014.

Remember, to be in the running to win a new scooter & helmet you need to be at school, on time, for the whole day, every day of the last week. Good luck to everyone.
Tuckshop News
The tuckshop will be closed on the last day of Term 4, 13 December 2013.

Helping Out Families – support when you need it most

Have you ever found yourself in the middle of a difficult time and thinking “it would be nice if I could get some help”.

UnitingCare Community’s Helping Out Families Program can provide that little extra help you may need to work through challenges that can feel overwhelming. Helping Out Families is a voluntary family support program that works with you and your family to build on the strengths you already have – the strengths that often you don’t see but we do. The Helping Out Families Team will listen to your family, talk with you in ways you understand and support you with what you need.

You and your family can expect support and tailored plans to help you reach your own goals.

So if you have a child, unborn to 18 years of age living in your home and you sometimes feel overwhelmed with parenting, household management, your child’s needs, relationships, feelings of isolation or loneliness and would like some support to work on these, then give the Helping Out Families Team a call or send them an email.

P: 3270 6400
E: hof.intake@uccommunity.org.au

Library News
All childrens’ books are due back to the library by 29 November. There is no borrowing in the last two weeks of school.

2014 Student enrolments and staffing
At this time of year we are busily planning for next year. This planning includes knowing how many students will be enrolled and attending our school in 2014. I ask for your cooperation in communicating with us your intentions for your child/ren for next year. If your child/ren will remain with us in 2014 and will start school on day 1, you need not take any action. If your child/ren will be still be on holidays and miss the start of school next year, please complete the box immediately below and return to the office. If your child/ren will be attending another school next year, please complete the second box below and return to the school office.
STUDENTS LEAVING AT END OF 2013

FAMILY NAME: ___________________________

We wish to advise that our child/ren will be transferring to another school for 2014 and will not be returning after the Christmas vacation.

New school: ___________________________

Parent Name: ___________________________

Parent Signature: ___________________________ Date: ____________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child’s/Children’s Name/s:</th>
<th>2013 Class</th>
<th>Child’s/Children’s Name/s:</th>
<th>2013 Class</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>