



**RESPECT**



**RESPONSIBILITY**



**PERSONAL BEST**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**16 Dec:** Last day of Term 4 for students

**31 Jan:** First day of Term 1 for Years 1-6 students

**1 Feb:** First day of Term 1 for Kindergarten students

**7 Feb:** Parent Information Evening

**13 Feb:** Beginning of Year Smoking Ceremony

**24 Feb:** Years 3 to 6 Swimming Carnival

**22 Mar:** School Photo Day

**6 Apr:** Last day of Term 1 for students

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

As the year draws to a close I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to everyone: students, staff, parents, the P&C, community members and Kids Cottage staff for the part you have played in making this year so incredible. One of the many strengths of Middle Harbour Public School is its community and the volunteers within it who generously give of their time to support our students and teachers. It has been wonderful to see the coming together of this community in 2022.

To our teachers, thank you so much for all the hard work, enthusiasm, dedication and energy that you put into your profession every day. When visitors walk through our school, they see children learning, working, smiling and laughing. I feel extremely proud to be the principal of this wonderful school.

Thank you to Diana Ferguson, our P&C Executive and Sub Committees for their work and support throughout the year, as well as all the families who have helped. Your efforts to pull together so many events for students and parents this year was mammoth, and so well achieved! Thank you for your time and generous financial commitment towards improving the learning and wellbeing outcomes of our students. The Bands, String Ensembles, Uniform Shop, OOSH, small events and class parent initiatives work because of your involvement – so thank you all so much.

It is always difficult to say goodbye to people who have become an important part of our school community, and we wish all our student leavers the best for the future. It is especially hard to say goodbye to some of our wonderful teachers who will be taking leave from us in 2023. We farewell Mr Josh Price and Mr Kieran Le Jeune who have both gained permanent positions at other local public schools as part of the Department's graduate recruitment program. Middle Harbour has been blessed to have you and know that your new schools are extremely lucky to be receiving two exemplary beginning teachers. We also wish Mrs Valerie Southey and Ms Paula Hurley all the best as they make plans to travel and explore new horizons! We look forward to both these wonderful teachers working temporarily and part-time with us throughout the year.

Students in Years 1 to 6 will resume school on Tuesday 31 January. Kindergarten begins Wednesday 1 February. Teacher placement and the announcement of classes and any further staffing changes will be communicated when school resumes in 2023.

Wishing all our families a safe, restful and wonderful holiday and happy festive season.

*Laura Barry*  
Principal

## DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

### Stewart House Giving Tree



Stewart House would like to give a big THANK YOU to all teachers, parents and students who helped collect Christmas gifts for our children from Broken Hill and Moree.

Every year up to 1600 children from public schools across the state will come to Stewart House, located on Sydney's Northern Beaches, to participate in a 12-day health and wellbeing program.

These gifts will help put a great big smile on the children's faces and will ensure that they have a special Christmas.



### NOT RETURNING TO MHPS IN 2023?

As we are in the process of planning for next year, we would ask that you please advise us if you know that your child /children (excluding Year 6) will be leaving us at the end of the year. This will assist us in not only securing staff for the whole school and being able to formulate 2023 classes, but also allow us to be able to offer placement to those on our waitlist. Kindly click on this link to notify us: <https://forms.gle/iKUUiGsNc7xQYpsa7>

Wishing all our families a fun-filled holiday season and best wishes for a safe and happy New Year.

*Carole Jaye*

Deputy Principal

## PRINCIPAL & LEADERS FOR THE DAY



We were delighted to welcome Mr Oliver as Principal for the Day and Mr Ruben as Deputy Principal for the Day recently.

Mr Oliver and Mr Ruben had a full day of visiting classes, doing jobs with Mrs Barry, helping Mrs Jaye with the Colour Run course and trip hazards and as time keepers at the spelling bees.

The MHPS Helpers for the Day helped in classes and with sports; teachers report they were terrific helpers.

Thank you to all the students for their help and enthusiasm, and to parents who bought these auction items at Sparkle to support our school.

## 2022 SPELLING BEE FINALS

Throughout the term, students in Years 3 to 6 have been working on their spelling strategies to prepare themselves for the Middle Harbour Public School Spelling Bee Stage Finals. To determine two finalists from each class, students competed in class spelling bee competitions during Week 8.

In Week 9, all finalists took part in the Spelling Bee Stage Finals in the hall. Despite unavoidable nerves, all competing students met the challenges of the event and remained calm as they spelt increasingly difficult words in front of their supportive peers.

Certificates have been awarded to the winners and runners up of each stage, as well as all stage finalists.

Stage 2 Winner: Emma H (3T)

Stage 2 Runner Up: Arthur M (4M)

Stage 2 Finalists: Charlie C (3D), Tyler C (3D), Keira K (3T), Isabella L (3/4G), Charlotte R (3/4G), Lauren C (4M), Daymon L (4R), Indiana O (4R)

Stage 3 Winner: James A (5/6M)

Stage 3 Runner Up: Evie P (5B)

Stage 3 Finalists: Jake C (5B), Amelie C (5K), Hamish W (5K), Miles W (5/6M), Hayato N (6I), Lisette M (6I), Monty D (6S), Isobel S (6S)

All students deserve high praise for their ability to spell some very tricky words! Congratulations everyone!

Ms Jill Morrison  
(Spelling Bee Co-ordinator)



Stage 2 winners



Stage 3 winners

## OUT AND ABOUT AT MHPS

### Manors Christmas Carols

Last week Kindergarten students and members of the choir attended the Manors to sing carols and decorate the Christmas tree.

This is a long-standing tradition and it was wonderful - after a couple of years absence - to be invited back. The children enjoyed meeting the residents and entertaining them with their singing and dance moves. We thank the Manors for hosting us and we look forward to visiting again soon.







## MHPS STUDENT BLOG

Please check out what our students have been 'out and about' doing at our **NEW** Middle Harbour PS Student Blog!

[MHPS STUDENT BLOG LINK](#)

### PERSONAL BEST



On Friday 25 November, Harriette B (2D) met with the Prime Minister of Australia, Anthony Albanese, at the Lodge in Canberra as part of the work she and her family does with the Juvenile Arthritis Foundation Australia (JAFA).

Harriette was one of thirteen children and teenagers invited from Australia to spend an afternoon with the PM and his partner Jodie Hayden. Congratulations Harriette for your involvement in this event. We are very proud of you!

Congratulations also to Luis PJ (5/6M) and Miles W (5/6M) who represented MHPS at the E.T.D.T.A School Boys and Girls Tennis Tournament (Northwest Sydney Tennis) which they won. Congratulations on a great achievement boys!



Congratulations to Arthur M (4M) and Hugo S (3/4G) who represented MHPS in the Tennis Primary School Challenge recently. Arthur and Hugo played as a doubles team and won First Place for Orange Ball. Congratulations on your team work, your commitment to developing your skills and a great result!

## LIBRARY NEWS

What a fantastic year we have had in the Library developing our research skills and delving into quality literature! This year we have celebrated National Simultaneous Storytime, Book Week, as well as the opening of our new reading area fondly referred to as 'The Nook'.



Our Library hosted two very successful Book Fairs this year, with our November sales totalling \$9836.29 giving the school a commission of \$3459.90! These funds will be shared between the four stages as well as the Library to purchase new resources for our students. This would not have been possible without all the families who supported the fair both as generous consumers and/or as volunteers. Your time and generosity are greatly appreciated.

We have had another successful year participating in the Premiers' Reading Challenge and congratulate all the students who completed the challenge. A special mention to those who received the Gold and Platinum certificates meaning they have completed the challenge for either four or seven years, this is a wonderful achievement.

Thank you to all the volunteers who have assisted in packing the library to make way for new carpet. It has been a big job, but it has been made a lot easier having your company!

**If you are free for an hour or two to assist in the unpacking of the library from Sun 22 Jan – Wed 1 Feb 2023, we would love your help – you can register at <https://signup.com/go/uGonQKc>**

Have a very safe summer break and we look forward to seeing our MHPS reading superstar students in 2023!

Sarah Rosenberg and Sarah Vaughan  
Teacher Librarians



## STATIONERY PACKS 2023

Just in case you missed it, details on ordering stationery packs for 2023 were emailed in early December. You can still order at [www.booklists.com.au/humphreys](http://www.booklists.com.au/humphreys) Code: MHPS2023

## KIDS COTTAGE NEWS

### Kids Cottage December vacation care bookings are now open

Kids Cottage Christmas shut down is from Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December at 6pm, reopening on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 8am. Our January vacation care program is now out. Please send us an email to book in. We wish all Kids Cottage and MHPS families and staff a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

## P&C NEWS

On behalf of the P&C I would like to congratulate all our students on a wonderful year of learning and growth and well-done parents and carers for getting them to this point.

As I reflect on my first year as President, I am amazed and grateful for all that the P&C has achieved this year. A year in which we crept out of the Covid bubble and once again enjoyed events and experiences. A year where we were still cautious but overwhelmingly optimistic.

P&C Events and fundraising activities are enjoyed by many and I'm proud of the events the P&C has run this year. And we have some exciting events to come in 2023.

If you made a cake, or turned a sausage on the BBQ, or sent money in a bag for a Mother's Day gift or bought a Yearbook or got Grandpa to sponsor your child for the colour explosion fun run or you shopped for a uniform or bid on a Sparkle auction item or purchased a scholastic book, you have helped us raise over \$150,000 this year and that is an outstanding amount!

And with that money, the P&C will be able to help fund the following in 2023:

- Home Readers & Book purchases
- House point boxes
- Garden Tools for Students
- Installation of a Friendship Bench
- iPads for kindergarten
- 4 new interactive whiteboards
- Outdoor learning and play equipment including a Tree House

The P&C would like to thank Mrs Barry and Mrs Jaye, teachers, staff, support staff, students, parents and grandparents within our Middle Harbour school community. I would also like to acknowledge the unsung office staff heroes who help the school and office tick over and who have helped me immensely this year. And my thanks to the P&C Executive, the P&C committee and the sub-committees for their tireless work.

Finally, I would like to ask any parents that if you have considered joining the P&C or volunteering in some capacity, then join us in 2023. Being involved is a great way to show our children that what we know matters but that what we do for others is also important.

Enjoy the holidays.  
Best wishes,  
Diana

## 2023 SCHOOL TRAVEL PASSES

### **2023 school travel applications are now open**

A new application will need to be submitted if they are applying for the first time, or if they are requesting an additional travel entitlement as a result of a new shared parental responsibility situation (e.g. joint custody). You can apply [here](#)

## BAND NEWS

Merry Christmas from the band program! 🎄🎵🎅

We are wrapping up band for 2022 with a huge congratulations to our students for their achievements this year.

Training band has progressed from a wildly enthusiastic group, albeit one that could barely play a note, to an accomplished junior band ensemble. Their transformation over the course of a year is truly remarkable. Senior band has progressed in consolidating their skills to play more advanced pieces in preparation for the move to concert band. Concert band have shown us time and again what an ensemble of their calibre can achieve, and they never fail to impress us.



This term, with the benefit of camp behind us, the band performed at 3 school events, culminating in the celebration of learning this week, and an end of year concert for our family and friends last weekend.

We have also undertaken the formation of 2023 training band process this term. This is a significant undertaking to organise the ear test, instrument selection day, letters of offer and parent liaison. We look forward to welcoming them next year! We are so grateful to Elissa and Clem for leading this process this year - thank you!

To celebrate their hard work, band students recently enjoyed an end of year outing with their friends from Strings.

Year 3 and 4 students enjoyed a Twilight Safari at Taronga Zoo. They had an amazing time seeing the animals after dark and getting up close with the likes of lizards and snakes. Our thanks to Mrs Southey and Mrs Hirst for accompanying the students, to Fiona and Dawn our Organising Committee, and to parents Trent, Finn, Ben and Ros for helping out on the night.

Our Year 5 and 6 students enjoyed an afternoon at Luna Park earlier this month, having a blast with their friends on the rides. Many thanks to Ana, Sarah and the Strings Committee who organised this event for the music students.

We would like to thank the many parents that have worked to make the band program so successful this year - you all know who you are! A special thanks to the school and Mrs Southey for their ongoing support of the program.

Finally, thanks go to our conductors Mr Hampton, Ms Clain and Mr Madrid for everything they bring to the program, developing our young musicians and instilling in them an enjoyment for music making.



Catherine and Kate - P&C band committee