Kick Off With Reading Returns To Moss Vale

Year 8 student, Lachlan Smith, created this beautiful Wordle in response to our Kick Off With Reading Book for 2016, ‘Wonder’.

Moss Vale High School website : www.mossvale-h.schools.nsw.edu.au
Kick off with Reading
I am very proud of the way our students have taken to reading their gift of Wonder by R.J. Palacio. This fiction novel explores the very real issue of feeling different because of the way one may look to others. The main character, August Pullman, suffers from Treacher Collins Syndrome which presents with significant facial deformity, amongst other ailments. The book conveys the message that we should all choose to be kind to others and not to judge on superficial appearances. The Positive Behaviour for Success (PBS) team has connected our core values to the ‘Kick off with Reading’ program through initiating the Moss Vale High School Kindness Project. We will launch the project this week during a whole school PBS lesson where we will all reflect on what it actually means to show kindness. Throughout the year we are encouraging students and staff to perform a ‘random act of kindness’ across our school community, and to nominate someone who they have witnessed being kind to others. The combined initiatives allow our students to strengthen their literacy skills while they continue to build on our positive school culture.

Merit System and Vivo Online Rewards
Our Year 7 students have embraced our Merit System and Vivo rewards, and are already accumulating significant Vivo points towards their first merit award. I would like to congratulate the following Year 7 students who are leading the Vivo league table: Thomas Simpson on 163 Vivos, Rachael Behan - 139, Nathan Miller - 135, Tyler Doughty - 123, Hayden Muffett - 113, Joshua Paananen - 103, Ori Schwegler - 103, Thomas Gillis - 102, Blake Stutchbury - 93 and Cassidy Brown - 92.

A reminder to all students to make sure that they are reporting when they reach a new level in the Merit System at the front office. Students will automatically receive a bonus 10 Vivos for reporting the achievement of a new merit.

Safety
It is very important that all students understand their personal responsibility for keeping our school safe. Students should be aware, as Mr O’Brien mentions in his report, that we are a ‘contact free’ school to ensure the safety of everyone in our school community. We have put multiple measures in place to keep our students safe, such as student wellbeing programs, peer mediation, proactive intervention at Year meetings and assemblies, Chaplaincy programs and our Positive Behaviour for Success initiative. We simply ask that all students observe our core values of respectful, safe and responsible behaviour. It is also important that students don’t become bystanders when they see another student acting in an aggressive or dangerous manner. We don’t expect anyone to place their personal safety at risk, but we do expect that students report any incident they witness of bullying, dangerous, aggressive or violent behaviour.

Patricia Holmes
Acting Principal
Relieving Deputy Principal’s Report

Dear Parents, Caregivers and wonderful students of MOSS VALE HIGH SCHOOL,

The year is moving so very fast, a third of the way through term one already. A university lecturer made a comment to me once that schools are quiet at the start of the year and again at the end of the year. I'm still trying to work out what planet he was on! I can tell all our community, that Moss Vale High School does not have a down time; the staff commit so much to your students learning and to the school. This is supported by the fact that staff work right to the very last day with our envied “Activity Week” – when some schools are slowing down! They all deserve your support and appreciation for what they put in every single day. I personally applaud our wonderful, caring and professional staff (both teaching and support).

A couple of key issues.

**UNIFORM**  The new school jackets that give our students suitable protection against Moss Vale changeable weather are still a week or two away. We will notify you through our app and via notices when they do arrive. **REMEMBER:** Moss Vale High is a designated uniform school.

**AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOUR**  We have had a spate of unfortunate incidents of late in relation to students failing to follow the “Hands off policy”. Thankfully all parents of students involved have been very supportive of the schools approach: Students using the line of “we are only mucking around” need to know that it is not an excuse and will be punished according to Department of Education policy.

**McDONALDS MOSS VALE**  It is a bonus to the community that McDonald’s has opened in Moss Vale. It will enable part time employment opportunities for our students and allow for traineeships for our students at school and after they have left. However, the magnetic power of McDonalds cannot impact on the school. **THE SCHOOL MUST FOLLOW THE “HEALTHY SCHOOLS POLICY”** of the Department and hence students cannot consume these meals at school. This includes parents or friends delivering meals to students. **OBVIOUSLY,** students leaving the school grounds will be treated as truants and will be punished accordingly. We will be having talks with our local McDonalds, with hope that they will the support the schools requirements.

I continue to enjoy my role as Relieving Deputy Principal of this great school!

Mr Craig O’Brien
Relieving Deputy Principal

It is highly advisable for parents, caregivers and students to download the Moss Vale High School app to keep abreast of all things happening at Moss Vale High School.
NEWS FROM THE PBS TEAM

PBS LAUNCHES THE MVHS KINDNESS PROJECT

In association with the wonderful Kick Off With Reading, PBS is out to change the world in 2016 with The Kindness Project.

The idea was inspired by a precept from Wonder: “When given the choice between being right and being kind, choose kind.”

Here at MVHS, we’ve made it our own, launching The Kindness Project to celebrate random acts of kindness, along with our ongoing commitment to social justice issues.

The project has already gained a following, being picked up by local radio station 2ST: there’s no stopping us!

Get involved on Facebook or Instagram by celebrating your random act of kindness with the hashtag #mvhskindnessproject

MUFTI TERM 1: YOUR KINDNESS CHARACTER

Mufti day is back for 2016 with a special Kindness Project event.

On Friday 4th March, teachers and students alike will be dressing as their Kindness Character and donate a gold coin to raise money for The School of St Jude (see following page for information).

Whether you choose to join Captain Kindness by saving the world one (contact-free) hug at a time, or develop your own character.

“Nothing can make our life, or the lives of other people, more beautiful than perpetual kindness.”

- Leo Tolstoy
A VISIT FROM THE SCHOOL OF ST JUDE

On Thursday March 31, Moss Vale High School will host two very special visitors: Gemma Sisia and Dorice Livingstone Abel from the School of St Jude in Tanzania.

The school was opened in 2002, with three students and some passionate volunteers. By the following year, the school had grown to 120 students, employing 23 local staff.

14 years later, The School of St Jude educated over 2,000 bright students from the poorest homes in the local area. With three campuses and boarding houses for all students over Year 3, the school’s achievements are enormous.

In 2015, the first cohort of St Jude’s students graduated from Year 12—a landmark event! Dorice Livingstone Abel is one of those graduates, and joins school founder Gemma Sisia in a speaking tour of Australia in March and April.

Space will be limited, but family members are welcome to join us for this very special assembly, on Thursday March 31, from 2.30 pm. Please contact the school prior to the day if you wish to come along.

In addition to our assembly, a fundraising dinner is running at Centennial Vineyards on the evening of March 31. Again, contact the school if you are interested in attending, or see the ad below.

MORE NEWS FROM THE PBS TEAM
Kick Off with Reading 2016

Kick Off with Reading is well under way again for 2016, with our book for this year—Wonder, by R. J. Palacio. Staff and students alike have been responding warmly to the text, which introduces us to a wonderful cast of characters and, through them, an interesting array of ideas.

As in previous years, our reading of the book is being enhanced with lessons targeting the Sensational 7 literacy strategies. These lessons deepen our understanding of Wonder. More importantly, however, the Sensational 7 equip our students with skills to approach texts throughout life, in and out of the classroom.

Reading will continue until the end of Term 1, with a long list of related novels and non-fiction texts available in the Library for those students who finish Wonder before then. We encourage families to join us in reading Wonder and discussing it with friends and family. It’s a beautiful story, with something for everybody.

Staff got stuck straight into reading their copy of Wonder.

As the youngest (honorary) member of staff, Edison O’Brien was keen to unwrap his book!
ATTENDANCE MATTERS

2016: On Time, Every Day
The start of a new school year is a great time to get on the right foot when it comes to school attendance. Our mantra at Moss Vale High School is: “On Time, Every Day”. There are three key goals which we are highlighting when it comes to student attendance at school:
1. Be on time
2. Limit days away
3. If you are away, bring a note!

To help achieve these goals, we will:
- Reward students for excellent attendance within the PBS Vivo system
- Maintain clear communication with students and their families about attendance expectations and consequences
- Enforce and monitor a “Late Gate” roll call group, with each three instances of unjustified lateness incurring a B5 detention
- Help for students to find alternative pathways if that is appropriate for them.

Where to get help
School can be a stressful environment at times, and some students may resist attending for a variety of reasons. If your child is resisting coming to school, please contact us so that we can talk to him/her and ensure that school-based concerns are being addressed. We can also discuss taking responsibility for morning routines such as setting alarms and packing a school bag. Students in high school should be capable of managing these duties. Above all, act sooner rather than later. It is distressingly easy for students to fall out of the habit of school. Please contact us at the first sign of trouble, as interventions are significantly more effective at this point.

Why do we care so much?
Poor attendance can have far-reaching effects! Research shows that students with low school attendance will:
- Have significantly worse academic outcomes
- Record higher levels of social isolation
- Be less likely to complete high school or other formal schooling
- Be more likely to become involved in anti-social or criminal behaviours.

Poor attendance can have far-reaching effects!
Swimming Carnival

G’day athletes and WELCOME to 2016!! 2015 was the biggest year yet for sport at Moss Vale High school and 2016 is on track to be even bigger. We have already had a massive swimming carnival and have students lining up to compete for their school.

On February 4, Moss Vale High school headed for the first time to Mittagong’s newly refurbished pool to compete for their houses in the MVHS swimming carnival. It wasn’t the nicest of weather and the students got smashed with a little bit of silver sunshine but that didn’t dampen their spirits as we had over 500 students in attendance for one of the biggest carnivals in MVHS’s history. It was also the scene for the revamped house competitions first big events for the year and the colours were flying and the houses cheering on their team mates all day. See Mr Vandenbergh’s house championship report for the house winners on the day. On Friday 19, of February the best swimmers from MVHS head to Queanbeyan Aquatic centre to compete against the zone’s best to try and advance to the South Coast Championships.

The swimming age champions of 2016 are

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Girls</th>
<th>Boys</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Maizy Evans/Ella Eyding</td>
<td>Oscar Goulder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Kaila O’Maley</td>
<td>Liam Hinchcliffe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Meg Schweers</td>
<td>Ryan Emmerick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Jessica Elliot</td>
<td>Joel Hinchcliffe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Briganza McConnell</td>
<td>Cameron Maclean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Dominique Palmer</td>
<td>Blake Emmerick</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tuesday school sport is running well for years 9, 10 and 11. Again we have a range of different sports activities that are taking place and the students are having a great time. Please make sure you check in with your sport teachers about the running of your activities and make sure to get your bus money in.

Moss Vale High needs your help! We are part of the A-Mart allsports community kick back program. For every dollar spent at Amart, in Mittagong, the school will receive 5% of money spent, kicked back to the school. That might not sound like much but if everybody nominates our school as their kick back recipient then we will build a big fund for us to spend on improving the school.

There is a heap of sport coming up including cricket and basketball knockouts and trials so make sure you listen to all announcements in coming weeks so you don’t miss out.

That’s all the highlights from the sports reel this term and remember good things come to those who sweat.

Mr. DB’s fun, fit, fact: The Philippines has competed in the most summer Olympics (20) without winning a gold medal.

Mr Adam Dubois
PDHPE Teacher and Sports Coordinator
House Championship

The House Championship is a new and exciting whole school initiative to motivate and engage all students and staff members within their rebranded houses and will consist of the tallied points over the year in:

- Participation points in the 3 SPORTS carnivals (swimming, athletics, cross country)
- Points accumulated in FACULTY challenges
- Points accumulated through VIVO rewards where at the end of each term, data will be collected and points awarded based upon the house standings.
- Gundungurra Shield

Each of these events is worth 4 points for 1st place, 3 points for 2nd, 2 points for 3rd and 1 point for 4th

Following our swimming carnival, Morton the mighty green machine finished 1st place and is awarded 4 points towards the house championship, Gibraltar finished 2nd and will be awarded 3, Belmore finished in 3rd and will be awarded 2 and Carrington finished 4th receiving one point towards the championship.

Winning House Captains will be presented the House Cup at the MVHS Presentation Night. The House Cup will be displayed in the foyer/hall for the next year and the winning house will win bragging rights and a whole house BBQ among other things for their efforts throughout the year.
NRL Tiger’s Visit

On Wednesday February 17, Moss Vale High were visited by two of Tigers Rugby League players, Joel Edwards and Lamar Liolevave. They visited schools in the area to discuss the NRL’s "DREAM, BELIEVE, ACHIEVE" program. Dream, Believe, Achieve has been designed by teachers to educate students about the importance of having a dream. It uses the profile of the NRL, the players and the game of Rugby League to inspire students to achieve in their chosen fields. Dream, Believe, Achieve, is comprised of an educational short film featuring 18 of the game’s elite players as well as visits in schools where the players discuss the role their dreams in their rise to the NRL and also their dreams for life beyond football. Our students found the presentation informative.
We are very excited to announce that 4 Moss Vale High students were successful in their audition to join the 2016 ISER Performing Ensemble (the purple shirt group!).

While auditions were held at the end of last year, the group came together for the first time last Friday. The Ensemble, which is comprised of a stage band, vocal ensemble and dance troupe, spent 3 days learning the seventeen songs that are part of this year's show.

Congratulations goes to:

- Javiera Diaz (vocals)
- Matthew Johnston (trumpet)
- Jamie Lee (alto saxophone)
- Lucy McDonald (tenor saxophone)

A special thank you also goes to Gabrielle Middleton who came to the camp as a tutor. She worked with the saxophones and also designed the stage band's choreography.

We look forward to seeing the show at Moss Vale High in Term 2!
Dear Parents/ Caregivers,

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ORDERING YOUR STUDENT PHOTOGRAPHS

School photographs are scheduled to be taken by Advancedlife Photography on Friday 18 March 2016.

Whilst an envelope and flyer will be distributed shortly, if possible it is Advancedlife’s preference that ordering be completed online to reduce administration and potential security issues related to the return of cash and envelopes on photo day to the photographers.

Orders for packages and sibling photographs can be placed securely online at www.advancedlife.com.au using our school’s unique 9 digit Online Order Code (PFX DNF FTL). Online portrait and group package orders are due by photography day.

All students are photographed in their group (unless, not for publication ticked, on enrolment form) and portrait photographs regardless of whether or not they are purchasing photographs.

Should you wish to purchase a sibling photograph online, the order must be placed no later than the day before photography day. Sibling photographs will only be taken if an order has been placed.

Important Information from Advancedlife:

- Late fees/additional charges will be applied for purchases after photo day
- School photos purchased online DO NOT require envelopes returned to school*
- Don’t forget to order your sibling photos now
- Photos will be returned to your school for distribution approximately six weeks after photos are taken

Past years’ photographs including sports, co-curricular and representative groups available at school’s advancedlife & your advancedyou photo sites (follow the link above).

*Sibling photographs must be ordered either online or by order envelope prior to the day of photography. A photograph will not be taken without an order. Sibling photographs only apply to children enrolled at the school.

Should you have any queries concerning school photographs or online ordering, please contact advancedlife via email to enquiries@advancedlife.com.au

Important Information to students:

- Students are expected to be dressed neatly and in full correct school uniform (please refer to student handbook or this newsletter re uniform). No tracksuit pants or sport uniform.
- The wearing of jewellery (including piercing), neck chains and leather cords, bracelets etc is discouraged. If worn must not be visible. Facial piercings, large sleepers and studs, excessive makeup, headbands and bandanas are not part of the uniform code, therefore are not to be worn.
Moss Vale High School Uniform

Moss Vale High School is a proud uniform wearing school. This is in accordance with the Department of Education policy and the collaboration of the whole school community, that is, students, parents and families (represented by the P & C) and staff.

Wearing school uniform presents a positive public image to the community of our school. School uniform also fosters a safer school environment by enabling students to be easily identified. All students are expected to wear full school uniform every day.

The uniform (clothing) supplier is Daylight Sportswear Pty Ltd.
Please do not purchase substitute clothing

A uniform shop is located on our school grounds near the Canteen.
Hours of operation are: Tuesday 8.30am - 11.30am and Thursday 1.00pm - 4.00pm during school terms.

FOR ALL STUDENTS : Approved Moss Vale High School Uniform

- Mid blue shirt
- Navy blue woollen jumper with school logo
- Navy blue jacket with school logo (not sport jacket except during sport)
- Winter jacket with logo

GIRLS
- 2-pleated tartan skirt (modest length)
- Tartan shorts (no plain blue sh
- Plain navy blue slacks (no track pants)
- White socks

BOYS
- Plain grey pants or shorts
- Grey or white socks

N.B: Straight tartan and plain navy blue skirt is NO longer part of Moss Vale High School uniform for any year group.
Year 10, 11 and 12 Year Jerseys are to be worn for the students’ Year Group only.

SPORTS UNIFORM Note: Not to be worn during student photo sessions

- Moss Vale High School red / navy blue sports polo shirt
- Moss Vale High School navy blue with red piping shorts
- Moss Vale High School navy blue with red piping track pants
- Moss Vale High School navy blue red piping tracksuit jacket
- Suitable sports shoes or joggers (no Rabens or canvas lace-ups)
- Girls white socks - Boys white or grey socks
SHOES
The Work, Health and Safety requirement of the Department of Education, for all areas of the school, is that students wear fully enclosed firm leather school shoes with a leather tongue.
- This includes solid leather top and tongue (this is requirement even on mufti days).
- The school colour for shoes is black, no coloured trims or logos.
- Leather shoes have to be brought to school on sports days.

JEWELLERY
The wearing of jewellery (including piercing), neck chains and leather cords, bracelets etc is discouraged. If worn, it must be unobtrusive.
For safety reasons, earrings must be either small studs or small sleepers. Large ear jewellery, nose rings and other body studs are unacceptable.
Note, facial piercing of any kind is NOT part of the uniform code.

MAKEUP
Makeup is to be unobtrusive. There is to be no excessive use of bright lipstick, heavy eyeliner, eye shadow, nail polish etc.

HAIR AND ACCESSORIES
For practical reasons and safety, hair is to be worn in a way that meets WH & S requirements.
Headbands and bandanas are not part of the uniform code. If wearing ribbons and scrunchies, these are to be plain navy blue and unobtrusive.

AEROSOL DEODORANTS
Please Note: Students are reminded that aerosol deodorants and perfumes are banned within the school.
P & C MEETINGS

We extend an invitation to all parents/caregivers to come along to our P & C meetings. Our group meets the third Tuesday of each month in the Staff Common Room (entry via Front Office) commencing at 6.30pm.

2016 P&C AGM Notice

We hereby give notice that the Annual General Meeting of the Moss Vale High School Parents and Citizens, will be held on Tuesday, March 15 2016 at 6.30pm in the Staff Common Room.

Reminder: Please pay your $2 membership to the school front office enabling you to vote.

For your Diary

Moss Vale High School
Photo Day
Friday 18 March 2016

N. B: Advancedlife photography’s preference is that ordering to be completed online and prior to photography day, ie March 18.

Please see ordering info in this newsletter, page 12 or on our website.
Message from School Administrative Manager

Have things changed during the holidays?

Perhaps you have moved house or changed telephone numbers or email addresses.....
Perhaps you would like to add or remove someone from your child’s emergency contact list.....

Please notify the school of any changes. This can be done:
- Via the School App—Change of Details form
- Via email to moosvale-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au ensuring student’s full name and date of birth are included
- By completing a paper form available from front office or newsletter
- By telephoning front office

A reminder about student absences....

Written explanations for all absences, even part days, are required within 7 days. This can be done:
- Via the School App—Absence note
- Via email to moosvale-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au ensuring student’s full name and date of birth are included
- By completing a paper form available from front office or newsletter

Any changes in medical conditions?

Please notify the school if a student’s medical condition changes in any way, including if the condition is no longer current.

Maureen Sinclair
School Administrative Manager

Our beautiful Moss Vale High School environment
Moss Vale Hockey Club

Want to play hockey?
Join our club!
We welcome all players (new and old) over the age of 5.

To register please visit the Hockey NSW website, click the ‘participate’ tab and register with Moss Vale Hockey Club.

For more information
email us: mossvalehockeyclub@outlook.com
or contact Jackie Ticken
0402082314

Moss Vale Junior Rugby League
Under 6s to Under 16s
REGISTER NOW
To Play Rugby League
Visit:
www.mossvalejuniordragons.leaguenet.com.au

DRIVE SAFE

Your LOCAL award winning driving school
* Lessons for beginners to advanced lessons
* Older driver lessons & assessments
* Rehabilitation driver training and assessments
* FREE Keys 2 drive lesson - see webpage
* Gift vouchers available

**NEW**
RMS SAFER DRIVERS COURSE
held every month over one weekend
5 hr course = 20 hrs in logbook*
see website for details
*conditions apply

www.highlandsdrivesafe.com
Facebook: Highlands Drivesafe

Phone to book: 0428844473

- Advertisement -
LOG BOOK RUN
Sunday 6 March 2016
10.00am – 1.00pm
Gain ‘real’ driving log book time.

PARENT WORKSHOP
Wednesday 24 February 2016
6.00pm – 8.00pm
Helping you and your learner with practical advice about:
- Current laws for L & P licence holders
- Supervising learner drivers
- Benefits of supervised on-road driving experience
- Low risk driving

BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL

Teaching someone to drive can be a happy experience.

Come to a FREE Parent Workshop & Log Book Run

Local drive for learners accompanied by their supervisors
Clock up some driving experience hours
Graduated Licensing Scheme’s Learner Log Book topics covered
Experience a NSW Police RBT set up

“Free” 3 week Program
Includes
- Fun Games and Activities
  - Sausage Sizzle
  - Give aways

FRIDAY
26TH FEBRUARY,
4TH & 11TH MARCH
6.00PM - 7.00PM
AT LOSEBY PARK, BOWRAL
First 50 to Register online will receive a Free NRL Football
Animals of the Dreaming is a program that operates out of Sydney’s Taronga Zoo and combines Australian animal encounters with Aboriginal Dreamtime stories.

During the presentation, your students will hear stories and songs from Dreaming about animals as told by Col Hardy, a highly respected Aboriginal elder. At the same item, your class will meet a number of amazing native animals, each with their own very special character!

Col Hardy is an Aboriginal singer who was born and raised in outback NSW. He has a deep understanding of the Dreaming and Aboriginal culture. One of Col’s passions is to pass this knowledge on to children. He is a natural entertainer and storyteller who in 1990 was recognised as Aboriginal Artist of the Year. Col’s “Golden Guitar” and his Order of Australia are testament to a life of commitment to music and our community.

The fully qualified Education Officer will introduce a wide variety of unique and wonderful animals such as Ferris the Carpet Python, Brian the Echidna and Larry the Salt Water Crocodile.

If you have any other ideas or requests feel free to discuss them with us.
TO: MOSS VALE HIGH

NOTE OF ABSENCE

Date: ___________________  Address: _____________________________  __________________________________

Roll Class: ____________ Year: ____________  __________________________________

Please excuse the absence of my son/daughter: ________________________________

on (dates) __________________________________________________________________

Total number of days absent: ____________

The reason for the absence/s (this reason must be specific, not just “he/she was sick”): ________________

______________________________________________________________________________

Parent Name: ______________________________

Parent Signature: ___________________________  Date sent: ______________

CHANGE OF ADDRESS / CONTACT DETAILS

NAME: ...............................................................  Roll Class: .......  Year: .......

NEW ADDRESS: ..............................................................  PO BOX .................

New Phone No’s: Home: ......................  Work (M): ......................

Mobile (M): ......................  Work (F): ......................  Mobile (F): ......................

Email: ..............................................................

DATE YOU CHANGED ADDRESS: ..............................................................

PARENTS / GUARDIANS NAMES YOU ARE LIVING WITH:

..................................................................................................................