Dear Students and Parents,

It's wonderful when plans and intentions come together successfully!

We have already been able to implement some innovations here at MIPS that sometimes have come from requests and other times arisen from looking at things with a new set of eyes. Your support and that of our teachers have been crucial and will continue to be so.

Our most recent improvement has been in the school canteen. Students, teachers and parents are constantly telling me that they love it – the choice, the quality and the variety are wonderful. Online ordering option – wow. Service – tremendous.

The new grass area has been enhanced by new equipment for our kinders and the preschoolers. The main play area has been cleared of the bark mounds so now Year 3 can join us for play in that area to take pressure off the space on the new grass area.

Our school is a large site with incredible potential. Making sure that our school buildings are utilized to the utmost as learning areas and not just thoroughfares is providing the students with the sorts of space and design they need access to.

These are outward signs of the great things that are happening in classrooms around learning. Our teachers are welcoming the drive to reflect together on practices and how best to support learning across the school. I have introduced half day ‘taster’ sessions around Japanese language and culture, run by the very talented Mr. Matulewicz. During that time teachers are going on classroom and school visits to further their learning and make valuable connections.

The BYOD initiative is allowing for students to have an even broader and more accessible learning experience. Our Stage 3 classes are leading the way there for us at the moment. We will be exploring other possibilities in the future.

MIPS is ‘on-the-move’! I am most grateful for the support of the teachers and our community I am receiving. I hope that you are looking forward to the possibilities as much as I am.

Yours in Learning,
Stephen Dowd
Principal

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Staff Development Day 3rd August 2016

Peer Support

We are commencing our Peer Support lessons this week. The whole school participates in Peer Support for 30 Minutes each week. Two Year 6 Peer Leaders facilitate a small group of 8-10 students from Kindergarten to Year 5, who work together through a number of structured activities. Each teacher will supervise 2-3 group in their classroom. We are working on a module called Promoting Harmony helping us define individual and community values, build relationships and improve decision making skills. The module runs for 8 sessions. Our first session enables the children to get to know everyone in their group, agreeing on how they will work together and interact cooperatively with others. They will also begin to think about what is a value and something they value in themselves. We recommend you talk to your children about Peer Support every week, as it will help to reinforce the concepts learned in each session.
WYD2016 In-Synch: 31 July
You thought WYD was just for those on pilgrimage to Krakow? No way! It's for those back home as well. Young people, students, pilgrim parents and anyone interested in WYD is invited to attend WYD2016 In-Synch. Special WYD Mass with Bishop Vincent Long at 6pm followed by food, live stream to the Closing Mass with Pope Francis in Krakow, testimonies from past pilgrims, great music, Filipino and Polish flavours all round and video messages from our pilgrims in Krakow. Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, 198 Old Prospect Rd, Greystanes. RSVP 25 July to Fr Paul Roberts:connect@ifm.org.au

PARENTS AND CARERS
Dental Staff from Blacktown/ Mt Druitt Dental Hospital Clinics
will be visiting Mary Immaculate Primary on Wednesday 10th August, 2016 to provide Kindergarten, Years 2, 4, and 6 with a short talk regarding oral health information and diet advice plus a FREE DENTAL CHECK

The Dental staff will bring portable dental chairs and lights. The dental clinician will use sterilised equipment and wear a new pair of latex free gloves for each child.

Consent forms will be sent home for each child and should be returned as soon as possible to the teacher with all questions completed, ticked Yes or No and signed by the parent/guardian.

Each student (with Medicare Number and the consent form ticked Yes and signed by a parent) will be eligible to have a dental checkup.

A letter (result sheet) will be sent home with each child on the assessment day. This will indicate how the parent should follow up the dental assessment.

Parents will not need to contact the dental clinic, unless otherwise indicated on their result sheet

The child's details will be entered onto the hospital computer data base and will remain confidential.

Treatment appointments will be offered on a prioritised basis and sent directly to the child's address. Students with urgent treatment needs will be offered treatment appointments first.

Parents may choose to make an appointment with their Private Dentist if the result sheet indicates their child requires treatment.

Children from grades 1, 3, 5 will not be assessed at school.

Parents with children in Years 1, 3 & 5 or children suffering dental pain or trauma, may call the Western Sydney Local Health District call centre on: 9845 6766

Free * dental care is available at NSW public dental clinics for all children under 18 years of age.

* Charges may apply for Specialist services
BOOK WEEK

2016 Theme: Australian Story Country
August 20th—26th

LOTS OF FUN!

More information to follow

Thank you to everyone who ordered books from Issue 4. We received Scholastic rewards to the value of $180.

Issue 5 of Scholastic Book Club was sent home on Friday. Orders need to be placed by Friday 29th July.

We accept: credit card online payment using LOOP: www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP.

There is no need to return paper forms or payment receipts to school when using LOOP.

We do not accept cash payments. Please disregard this option on the Book Club form.

Happy Reading!

Sue Henson (Book Club -ordinator)

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to students who celebrated their birthdays between 18th July and 25th July
Kain Dibb, Elizabeth Serwaa, Sasha Derevyanko, Ella Fenech-Soler, Lucas Estera, Sabrina Tomas, Cassidy Nolland, Lennox Prakash, David Lewadromodromo, Ralph Ferrer, Antonio Jimenez, Jack Crawley, Abbey Miralles, Lorenzo Ybuan, Gracelyn Adi Lingga