TERM 1
WEEK 1
30th January 2013

Wednesday 30th January
Years 1 to 6 return
Mobile Library visits

Thursday 31st January
Best Start Testing

Friday 1st February
Kindergarten commences

Memorial Service - 10.30 a.m.

Swimming for Sport - Ganmain Pool

IAN LUCAS - MATE TO ALL CELEBRATION OF HIS LIFE GRONG GRONG HALL MON 28TH JAN - 2PM
Principal’s News

The extremely large crowd at Monday’s celebration of Ian’s life was an unmistakable testament to the remarkable man he was and just how sorely he will be missed. Our very deepest sympathies are extended to Bron, Jo, Renee, Paul, Brooke, Eva and their extended families. Condolences also, to all of you who felt a connection to Ian.

Grief counselling sessions were held today to help students through this difficult time. Thank you to District Guidance Counsellor, Mrs Eileen Knox and School Counsellor, Mrs Tracey Jacobsen for providing support throughout the last few days of the holidays and at the commencement of term. Remember, support is available to all students and families and can be accessed by contacting our school.

Plans are afoot for ways to appropriately honour Mr Lucas’ memory. To begin, a memorial service will be held at school this Friday from 10.30 a.m. under the COLA. Everyone is invited to attend and each family is asked to bring a plate for morning tea.

Today we welcomed returning students as well as nine new faces who have come to join our ranks from Grong Grong Public School and Sacred Heart Primary. Warm welcome to students Noah Kitching, Isabella Bateup (Yr 1), Florence Meier (Yr 2), Blake Bateup (Yr 3), Aiden Bensch (Yr 4), Luke Johns, Kyesha Hines (Yr 5), Zaiden Bateup and Laith Kitching (Yr 6) and their families. We trust you will all enjoy wonderful times as part of the MPS family.

Kindergarten Best Start Testing will be conducted on Thursday prior to the arrival on Friday, of our new Kinder students – William Beard, Digby Currie, Nick Dennis and Baxter Smith. Welcome to big school boys!

There has been a delay with the delivery of our back to school supplies. Book packs will be sent home for covering in the coming weeks.

For Term 1, Jessica Walsh will be teaching Stage One, while I teach Stage 2/3 and assume the role of Relieving Principal. Brooke Lucas will continue in her regular role as Teacher/ Librarian.

School Education Director, Mr Peter McLean and School Development Officer, Mr Ken Davis travelled out today to provide their support.

Special welcome to Mrs Marg Turnbull as our new School Administrative Manager. Marg will work Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, while Mrs Carmel Walsh will work on Tuesdays.

Congratulations to all involved in the organisation and running of the P & C Christmas raffles and Carols in the Park and to the Matong community for their ongoing support of this event.

Best wishes to Bao Tran, Emma, Fraser, Kyla, Max and Murray as they commence their high school education this week. We look forward to hearing all about your successes and new experiences.

Regards,
Valerie McKelvie

Small Schools’ Swimming and swimming for sport

The Small Schools’ Swimming Carnival will be held at the Ardlethan Pool on Friday, 15th February. In preparation, all stage 2/3 students, plus those from Stage 1 who turn eight years old this year, will travel to the Ganmain Pool for sport from 12 p.m. till 1 p.m. on Friday, 1st February and Thursday 7th February. Transport will be via bus. Per student, the cost is $5 for the bus, plus $2 pool entry unless a season pass is held.

Lunch Orders

Lunch orders are again available from the Ganmain Bakery every Friday. A current price list is attached to this week’s newsletter. Orders are to be handed in to the front office by Thursday afternoon. Many thanks to Rosie Rowland and Warwick Lenord who have offered to assist with pick up and delivery. However, we do need volunteers to help out. Please give Rosie a call on 69277845 if you are willing to assist and a roster will be made up.

Permission Notes

Attached to today’s newsletter are a number of permission notes, family details and medical updates. In an effort to streamline our beginning of year notes, last year we revamped our system, so that one set lasts for the duration of your child’s time at our school. Permission notes will only be sent home with kindergarten students and new students enrolling this year.

Family Details

Please complete the attached Family Details note, even if nothing has changed, to ensure that our current school records are up to date. It would be appreciated if these notes could be returned by the end of this week.

Voluntary School Contributions

Each year the school provides all students with their textbooks and stationery needs. To assist with covering the cost of these items, we ask that family pay a voluntary contribution of $30 for one student, $50 for two students or $60 for three or more students. It would be appreciated if this contribution could be paid as soon as personal funds permit, either as a whole payment or in instalments.
Vale Ian Lucas

A man among men.

A man of honesty, integrity, humour and warmth. Ian was everything to everyone.

He created a school environment that was really more like a second family – like a home away from home for all of us.

His open-door policy meant that, at the drop of a hat, he would help everyone and anyone – even those he had never met in person. Whenever you spoke to Ian, you knew you had his undivided attention – 100%. You always knew your concerns had been heard and that he would support and help you in anyway he could.

Ian gave so generously of his time, even if it meant he had to pull ‘all-nighters’ to get his own work done. Many an email has been exchanged with Ian in the wee hours of the morning.

His energy and drive was remarkable. Ian’s passion for life, for educating, for nurturing students was inspiring and infectious. Ian always said he was proud of the way his staff went ‘above and beyond’ for the good of the children. Truth is, Ian led by example.

Ian was the man in whom you could confide and who, you were assured, would stand by you if the going got tough. Bron and family, we want you to know that you can lean on us.

With his friendly, personable nature, it seemed that if you met Ian, you instantly felt that you could consider yourself a friend.

Condolences have been received from Ian’s friends and colleagues of 30 years plus; from prac teachers and work experience students who may have only worked with Ian for a week and even from those who never actually met him. Ian has certainly left his mark in the lives of us all.

I think you could even say Ian was a bit of an iconic figure in the world of education. When asked who our Principal was and I gave the reply, “Ian Lucas”, the reply was frequently something like... “Is he that bloke who wears the shorts and long socks – I’ve heard he is an all-round great bloke”.

A long-running joke at school began when Kerry Symons christened Ian, ‘The Moth’. “The Moth” because while ever a light was shining at a mate’s place, Ian would still be there. I am convinced that we were mistaken - Ian was the light to which everyone else was drawn.

Ian, you will be long remembered and very sadly missed.

Thank you for your wisdom, your professionalism, your friendship.

We are all so very fortunate to have known you.