### Important Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>23 February</td>
<td>Wise Ones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>23 February</td>
<td>Assembly Hosted by HG 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>24 February</td>
<td>JSC Leadership Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>25 February</td>
<td>School Council Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>2 March</td>
<td>Division Swimming</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>2 March</td>
<td>Wise Ones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>3 March</td>
<td>2015 School Photo Day– Please note the change of date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>6 March</td>
<td>JSC Ride to School Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>9 March</td>
<td>Labour Day Public Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue-Fri</td>
<td>10-13 March</td>
<td>Gr 5/6 Camp Campaspe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>11 March</td>
<td>Region Swimming 9am-1.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>16 March</td>
<td>Wise Ones</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>16 March</td>
<td>Assembly Hosted by HG 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>18 March</td>
<td>Interschool Chess Tournament</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>20 March</td>
<td>JSC Crazy Hair Day National Day of Action Against Bullying &amp; Violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>23 March</td>
<td>Assembly hosted by School Leaders</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>23 March</td>
<td>Gr 5/6 T-Ball</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>24 March</td>
<td>Student Led Conferences- Students Attend Only at time of Interview</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>27 March</td>
<td>Assembly 1.45 pm Easter Raffle Draw Last Day of Term 1. Students dismissed at 2.30pm</td>
</tr>
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### FROM THE PRINCIPAL

**19th February 2015**

Hello Everyone,

This past fortnight we have had our information nights for all grade levels. It was great to see so many parents attend. Thank you for showing such interest in your child’s education. The children do know when you demonstrate this and they respond accordingly by being focussed and valuing their own learning. Sandi and I would like to congratulate the staff and commend them to the whole community. Their presentations were most informative and clearly demonstrated their knowledge of how children learn and their willingness to work with parents and their children in an effective and focussed partnership. The feedback was very positive.

**Well done everybody and thank you.**

*If you were unable to attend we will soon have some materials available on our website for you.*

Participating in your child’s education does pay off. Research shows that when parents engage in their children’s education it leads to improved achievement.

**Help your child achieve by Michael Grose**

One way to help your child achieve at school is to work together with your child’s teacher. The parent-teacher partnership takes work from both sides to become a reality. Here are some ideas that will help. There’s no doubt that the best outcomes for kids happen when teachers and parents work together to support children’s learning. Here are 10 ways you can work with your child’s teacher to maximise your child’s chances of school success.
1. Know what your child’s teacher is trying to achieve
   Like children, every teacher is different with their own specific expectations, goals and interests. Get to know your child’s teacher and gain an understanding of their approach and aspirations for your child’s class.

2. Keep your expectations reasonable and positive
   If your expectations are too high your child may give up. Too low and they will meet them! The trick is to keep your aspirations for your child in line with their ability and their interests. Also be realistic about what your child’s school can deliver. Sometimes our expectations of schools are not in line with their capabilities or their roles.

3. Support your teacher’s expectations & activities at home
   One practical way of supporting your child is to take a real interest in their home-based learning tasks and follow the guidelines laid out by teachers.

4. Send kids to school ready to learn and on time
   Maximise your child’s chances of success by sending them to school in a good frame of mind, with plenty of sleep and a good breakfast. Also make sure they get to school on time. It’s estimated that many kids miss up to two weeks of school a year when they are routinely late by just five minutes a day.

5. Inform teachers of your child’s challenges and changes
   Life’s not always smooth sailing for children. Family circumstances can alter. Friends move away. Illness happens. These changes affect learning. Make sure you keep your child’s teacher up-to-date with significant changes or difficulties your child experiences, so he or she can accommodate their emotional and learning needs at school.

6. Skill children to work with others
   Schools are social places requiring children to work and play with each other much of the time. Teaching manners to children, as well as encouraging them to share their time, space and things with others are practical ways to help children with their social skills. Talk through any social challenges they may have, helping them develop their own strategies to get on with others.

7. Respectfully seek joint solutions to problems and difficulties
   Resist the temptation to solve all your children’s problems or think you have the only solution. Most learning and social problems can be resolved when teachers and parents work together in the best interests of the child.

8. Participate fully in class & school activities
   There is a huge body of research that points to the correlation between parent involvement in a child’s schooling and their educational success. Quite simply, if you want your child to improve his learning then take an interest in his learning, attend as many school functions as you can, and follow the lead provided by your child’s teacher.

This simple strategy will have a massive, long-term impact.

9. Trust your teacher’s knowledge, professionalism and experience
   Your child’s teachers are your greatest allies. Their training, their experience around kids, and their objective professionalism puts them in a strong position to make judgement calls about your child.

10. Talk up what happens at school
    Your child will take their cues from you about how they see their school. If you want your child to value learning, and enjoy their time at school then you need to support your school and make sure he or she hears positive messages about learning, teachers and the school itself. You can set a strong educational agenda at home by talking up your school.

   This type of 10-point plan is easy to read but hard to put into practice, particularly when you get busy or your child has significant difficulties. Choose two or three ideas from this list to really focus on in the coming year and you’ll find that the rest will fall into place. Good luck and nurture the partnerships you have with your child’s teachers.

Last night we had our Parents and Friends AGM and the first Parents and Friends meeting for the year. It was wonderful to welcome back many previous members and some new members as well. Sandi and I will look forward to another fun and productive year working with you all. The office bearers were elected and plans commenced for the year. Congratulations to all the newly elected office bearers. Following is a list of the main office bearers:

President – Michele Lewis
Vice President – Linda Luke
Treasurer – Sarah Woosnam
Secretary – Emma Dickens

Last year PFA raised almost $23000. What an amazing effort. This enabled us to purchase new take home books for grades P-2 and ensure that we have interactive TVs or Whiteboards in every classroom, along with six iPads and six netbook computers in every P-2 classroom. PFA are also currently deciding on a project on which to spend $4000 of the money they raised over their budget goal. Look out for more news about this in coming Newsletters.

The 2014/15 School Council will meet next Wednesday February 25th at 7.30pm in the staff room for the last time. You are welcome to attend if you would like to see how School Council works.

The 2015/6 School Council will meet for the first time on Wednesday March 25th.

We were able to fill four two year term, parent vacancies.

Congratulations to the following parents who have been elected for a two year term to School Council:

Rodney Cornwall
Emma Dickens
Stephen Potter
Joel Quinton
We still have two one year parent vacancies for School Council this year. If you are interested please collect a nomination form from the office or come in to have a chat to me. Nominations close 4pm Wednesday February 25th. (NB change of date)

On Monday February 23rd at 2.45 we will be presenting our Library and Office monitors and the PREPIC Mentors with their badges. Our student leaders are an important part of our school and we congratulate them all on their appointments. This schedule for term 1 Assemblies was included with the last Newsletter for your convenience. The scheduled assemblies also appear under Important Dates each newsletter. This term is always a busy one filled with lots of opportunities for parents and children to meet with the staff and each other as we cement our relationships as a learning community. Please be sure to check the Important Dates list on the front page of the Newsletter to ensure you are aware of school activities.

In the interest of children safety and in line with Department of Education and Training (DET) expectations we require every adult who volunteers to work in the school or attend camps or excursions to obtain a Working with Children Check.

The Working With Children Check is a mandatory screening requirement for any Victorian who undertakes child-related work described in the Working with Children Act 2005. Under the Act, people who engage in paid or voluntary child-related work need a WWC Check.

The check involves:
Consideration of:
criminal history records in all states and territories across your lifetime
disciplinary findings of Victorian professional bodies such as the Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT) and the out of home care Suitability Panel relevant determinations by the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) under the Health Professions Registration Act 2005.

A rigorous assessment of relevant offences and disciplinary findings revealed by the criminal history check. For the assessment the department gathers information from a range of sources such as:
court records including the children’s court
other departments such as Human Services, health professionals employers and Corrections Victoria
Any material provided by the applicant.
To apply for a Working with Children (WWC) Check, (arrangements have changed since last year):
You need to:
Fill in an application on line

1. Obtain a passport size photo of yourself
2. Gather your proof of identity documents to the value of 100 points and
Lodge your application at a participating Australia Post retail outlet
1. Volunteer applications are free.
2. Keep the application receipt, which is an important document.
3. Please bring your receipt to the office for us to copy so you can volunteer in the interim.
When you receive your card, please bring it to the office for us to copy and make a record.

Parking and traffic around all schools at drop off and pick up time is often problematic. In recent weeks the City of Whittlesea By-Laws officers have been patrolling parking areas surrounding schools. The City of Whittlesea has been alerted to the fact that some people are parking for far longer than permitted in the parking section south of the crossing in Riverside Drive, which is designated a three minute drop off zone. Please consider others and park according to the law. Remember that you will be fined if you park illegally in this zone!

Our Newsletter arrives via email. If you would like a hard copy of the Gorge News, there will be a limited number available in the foyer for collection by you or your child.

Education Matters, Teachers Make a Difference & Every Day Counts!
Keep up that lifelong learning!

Julie Jones
Principal
Grades Prep – 6
Term 1 week 3

Home Group 1
Ryan & Haylee

Home Group 3
Riley and Jordan

Home Group 5
Lachlan and Kelsea

Home Group 09
Ruby and Elektra

Home Group 11
Jonathan and Charlie

Home Group 14
Home Group 16

Home Group 14
Home Group 16

Home Group 21
Sharon and Sarah

Home Group 23
Madison and Diesel

Science
HG05, HG17

Good Sport Award
Aaron C (HG 9)

Home Group 2
Mia and Jacob

Home Group 4
Holly and Ollie

Home Group 7
Jamie and Hg 7

Home Group 10
Nicola and Orlando

Home Group 13
Bonnie and Jarrod

Home Group 15
Ella

Home Group 17
Danni and Ethan

Home Group 22
Kalepo and Alexia

Home Group 24
Honey and Antonio

Home Group 9
Home Group 14

The Arts – GR 1-6
HG17 & Syed I (Hg10)
On Monday February 16th, 28 students attended the Bundoora District Swimming Sports at Northcote Aquatic Centre. The team was chosen from grade 3-6 students (10-12/13 year olds) who achieved good results at the MSPS School Swimming Carnival. Students participated in individual events such as Freestyle, Backstroke, Breaststroke, Butterfly, as well as Freestyle Relays and Medley Relays. The students were fantastic at “having a go” and competing in the 50 metre pool—a long distance to swim!! We achieved some terrific results with a few 1st, 2nd and 3rd place-getters, and the MSPS team came 3rd overall. Also Ryan L. and Jonathon S. got through to qualify for the next level (Division) in their individual events, and the 12/13 year old boys Freestyle Relay Team qualified as well. The Division competition will take place on Monday March 2nd. Good luck everyone! The whole Swimming team were a credit to our school and showed outstanding Sportsmanship as they encouraged and cheered each other along. What a great day! Thanks to Ms. Murray and Ms. Martin (Pre-service Teacher) who came to help and also to the parents who were able to come along and support our team.

Sue Grad (1-6 P.E.)
In Home Group 10 we are all bucket fillers.

We are bucket fillers when we:

- share things – Olivia & Amelia C
- care about each other – Lilli & Eva
- help people and show respect – Liam & Fillip
- Let people join in our games – Daffa & Yazan
- play with people when they are alone - Nathan & Ethan
- let our partners go first – Taylah & Amelia k
- help someone when they fall down – Oscar & Syed
- play with people that are new at our school – Chase & Jayden
- care about people and help people when they need help – Orlando & Tyson
- tell people that their work is nice – Nicola, Anuki & Emilly
- say please and thank you - Lucas & Ryan

FILLING BUCKETS MAKES US FEEL:

HAPPY, EXCITED, WONDERFUL, SPECIAL, AWESOME, TERRIFIC AND GREAT !!!!
As part of the Everyday Counts initiative, the DEECD is reporting attendance in percentages. Some children have 100% attendance.

The percentages in the following table indicate the average attendance for each grade during the fortnight.

| Foundation | | Grades 3/4 | |
|------------|---|------------|
| Home Group 1 | 97% | Home Group 13 | 97% |
| Home Group 2 | 97% | Home Group 14 | 97% |
| Home Group 3 | 97% | Home Group 15 | 94% |
| Home Group 4 | 91% | Home Group 16 | 97% |
| Home Group 18 | 100% | | |

| Grades 1/2 | | Grades 5/6 | |
|------------|---|------------|
| Home Group 10 | 98% | Home Group 5 | 97% |
| Home Group 21 | 93% | Home Group 7 | 90% |
| Home Group 22 | 95% | Home Group 9 | 92% |
| Home Group 23 | 94% | Home Group 11 | 94% |
| Home Group 24 | 89% | Home Group 17 | 94% |

Shaded Area Indicates Highest Grades

Remember that every day counts and arriving at school on time, every day, can improve student learning! Please make sure you send a note if your child is going to be absent from school or on their return to school after an absence.

No kids in Hot Cars

The temperature inside a car begins to rise as soon as the door closes, and within minutes it can be double the temperature outside.

So if it is 30 degrees outside, it can be more than 60 degrees inside a car in just a few minutes.

With smaller bodies and under-developed nervous systems, young children are at much greater risk of life-threatening heatstroke, dehydration and other serious health risks.

While the summer holidays may be over, the warm weather continues throughout term one.

Leaving children unattended in a car, even for a short period of time, can be fatal.

No Exceptions No Excuses

![No kids in Hot Cars](image)
MISSING LIBRARY BOOKS

Two weeks ago I distributed 72 overdue Library book notes for books that were not returned at the end of 2014. These missing books equate to hundreds of dollars as some students have up to 4 books.

A big thankyou to those who have found and returned their books.

However, there are still many unreturned books and perhaps some of the notes did not make it home.

Before I send more notes, I’d really appreciate it if you could check with the children if they received one of these notes and also check if any Morang South PS Library books are on your bookshelves at home.

I will issue more notes in the future.

If you find a Morang South PS book, just ask your child to place it in their classroom Library tub.

If you believe your child has lost a book/s, please pay the replacement cost on the overdue note at the office.

If you believe your child has returned the book/s, please just return the note with a written message or come and see me in the Library on a Tuesday.

Until all these matters are resolved the computer system blocks borrowing for students with overdue books

Thanks so much for your assistance,

Heather Govett

(Library Aid)

Think Helmet

In order for children to ride their bike to school they must wear a helmet. This is a legal requirement in Victoria. Please care for your children and ensure they wear a helmet when riding a bike at any time.
School Photographs

Dear Parent,

Photographs will be taken at Morang South Primary School on Tuesday March 3, 2015.

School photographs provide a unique opportunity to record these special times for years to come and we look forward to providing them to your family.

New for 2015 are our ‘Wish’ packages. For every ‘Wish’ pack purchased, $1 will be donated to Make-A-Wish Australia to help grant the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions.

When ordering school photos online you may also purchase a high resolution digital copy of your child’s image.

Family portraits will be available as in past years, however all orders for family photographs need to be made by midnight, the day BEFORE photo day.

Your package of school photographs will be delivered to the school approximately four weeks after photography is completed.

Arthur Reed Photos Pty. Ltd.

How to order

Go online to shop.arphotos.com.au/schoolorder or scan the QR code shown below to go to our mobile friendly ordering site.

Enter your online ordering code, then follow the instructions to place your order. A receipt will be issued to you once payment through our secure payment facility has been completed.

Order your school photos NOW and up to 10 days after photo day but remember, orders for family portraits must be placed by midnight the day BEFORE photo day.

Online ordering is convenient and easy so order your school photos today.

ORDER PHOTOS ONLINE ORDERING CODE
MRG458

Important information

LATE ORDERS
Orders placed more than 10 days after photo day will cost an extra $15 to cover special handling requirements and must be accompanied by a statutory declaration. For late orders, please download the required forms from our website.

FAMILY DISCOUNT
Families with 3 or more children attending THE SAME SCHOOL can benefit from our family discount. The first two children pay full price for their photo packages while other siblings attending THE SAME SCHOOL can receive their photographs for HALF the normal price.

When ordering school photos for your children online and at the same time, the discount will automatically be calculated for you.

Wish PACKAGES

In 2015 Arthur Reed Photos is partnering with Make-A-Wish Australia who grant the cherished wishes of seriously ill children.

$1 from the purchase of each ‘WISH’ package will be donated to help bring the healing power of a wish to children with life-threatening medical conditions.

Proudly Supporting
MAKE A WISH
Australia

Not able to order online?

If you are not able to order photographs online, please complete an order form which has been supplied to your school and return directly to Arthur Reed Photos before the ten day cut off time.

Orders placed after this time are considered as late orders and incur additional costs as outlined above.

Unconditional Money-Back Guarantee

You will receive a full refund if you are not completely satisfied with your photographs - just return your complete photo package directly to us, within 10 days and a refund will be sent to you. (Please keep evidence and date of return).
EASTER RAFFLE

to be drawn last day of term 1 - donations are kindly appreciated

SCHOOL BANKING

Every Tuesday 9.00am

Lots of cool rewards throughout the year along with certificates at different stages

New bankers always welcomed :-)

CLASSIFIEDS

Advertising prices (per month) are currently being reviewed.

Prices will be published in the next newsletter

To advertise, contact the school on 9404 1548 for further details

SECOND HAND UNIFORM SHOP

Run by Jodie Potter and Kate Rigoni

Situated in the Parents & Friends Room

Open Thursday mornings 9:00-9:30am

IF YOU HAVE ANY ITEMS OF CLOTHING THAT YOU NO
LONGER REQUIRE PLEASE SEND THEM TO THE SHOP

DONATIONS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED—THANK YOU :)
How to avoid a parking fine around schools

Please think of the safety of children and observe the signs. Practice safe driving around the school by driving slowly. Obey the road rules and allow enough time to drop off or pick up your child. If necessary, park a little further away from the school in a legal parking space and walk down to pick up or drop off your child. Some examples of restrictions around schools are listed below. If you have any further queries, please call our Local Laws Department on 9217 2100.

**NO STOPPING**
This sign means that you can’t stop here, not even briefly. The left side of this sign applies 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The right side of this sign shows specific times when the sign applies.

*The same applies if there is a continuous yellow line on the edge of the road.*

**NOTE:** No Stopping means no stopping at all – even if you are only letting someone in or out of the vehicle, and regardless of whether you leave the engine running and stay in the vehicle.

**PARKING, timed, school days only**
Parking time is limited on school days only, and during the specified times. A timed parking sign will be at both ends of the timed parking zone; note the directional arrows. Depending on the length of the zone there may be an additional sign in the middle of the zone with the arrow pointing in both directions.

**SCHOOL CROSSING**
The School Crossing is operational when flags are in place (there may also be a School Crossing Supervisor in attendance). School Crossing Supervisors can also be on duty at pedestrian lights; pedestrian crossings; and intersections lights.

*Note:* A driver must not stop or park on a children’s crossing, or on the road within 20 metres before the crossing and 10 metres after the crossing whilst the flags are displayed.

**CAUTION, CROSSING AHEAD**
Colours will vary depending on the environment.

**DISABLED PARKING**
Parking is limited only to vehicles displaying the blue disabled parking permit.

**DOUBLE PARKED**
Vehicles may not be stopped next to legally parked vehicles even for a short time to drop off or pick up passengers. Double parking can reduce the visibility for other motorists and pedestrians. It can also cause other motorists to drive on the wrong side of the road in order to pass.

*A driver must not unreasonably obstruct the path of another driver or pedestrian.*