Welcome back to our new and returning families! I trust you had an enjoyable holiday. It is now time to get back into the swing of things with another action-packed year of events at Moffatdale State School. Thank you to all Parents, Guardians and Carers who have adapted so quickly to our new school hours of 8:45am-2:45pm. As you may be aware, we are trialling the new operating times in conjunction with our new bus pick-up times. The staff at Moffatdale State School appreciate your patience and understanding during these first two weeks while we fine-tune our processes to be the most effective possible.

With the change of school start times, some parents have begun to drop students at school earlier than 8:00am. This is not a safe or acceptable option! School Staff are not required to be at school until after 8:00am. Therefore, there is no guarantee that staff will be on site to ensure the safety of your children prior to 8:00am. Parents, it is your responsibility to ensure your children are dropped off between 8:15am and 8:30am; NOT before.

Similarly, the Final School Bell rings at 2:45pm. It is important Parents/Carers/Guardians arrive at 2:45pm to collect their children. Supervision is not provided after school hours. In the event that you are running late to collect your child/ren, please contact the school office.

Student Absences
Parents, please be aware that it is your legal responsibility to inform the school if your child is absent from school. This communication can be in the form of a voice message on the school answering machine or a note sent to school the following day. Prolonged student absence from school without a valid reason is required to be reported to the police.

Canberra Camp 2016
Year 6 Parents are reminded that the Canberra camp is scheduled for later this year. Parents are asked to speak with Mrs Granger regarding payment plans to ensure the costs associated with the camp are met. Updates will be forwarded to you as the school receives them.

Aaron Jones
Principal

Rewards Day criteria for 2016 has also received an update. The criteria for Rewards Day participation is now based on attendance. Student attendance data will be collected and students achieving greater than 95% (excluding sick days) will be invited to attend. Behaviour expectations will still need to be met; with 1 major behaviour and/or 3 minor behaviours resulting in withdrawal from the Rewards Day experience for that term.

Swimming
Our swimming program will return in Term 1. This year, we will be using the Murgon Pool. We will commence our lessons on Wednesday 17 February. Our lessons will be held in the afternoon. More details will be forwarded to parents in the coming week. If you are interested in assisting with swimming lessons this term, please contact Mr. Jones.

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Aaron Jones
Principal
Welcome to the new school year! 😊

We have had a wonderful start to our Prep/One year and our students have settled well. They have begun adjusting to our routines and expectations so well that it is easy to forget we have only been at school for 7 days! We have a very busy Term 1 planned, with many exciting learning opportunities to share together.

Our Primary Connections Science Unit is called, *Schoolyard Safari*. It focuses on our ecological system and encourages students to look closely at their schoolyard environment. Students will observe the features and behaviours of small animals and insects. They will explore concepts of habitat, food, shelter and protection.

Our C2C History Unit focuses on Family and our own personal history of where we come from and who we are.

Our C2C English Unit is called *Explaining How A Story Works* and focuses on retelling familiar stories using text structure and repetition.

A HUGE, ‘Thank You!’ to Amity’s Dad, Glen, for the AMAZING Painting Easels he made for us. They are brilliant!

We need your donations please!

If you have any unwanted older-style iPhone chargers, with the wide size plugs, please send them into school. If you have any car toys that are no longer played with, please send them to live (and play) in our classroom!

Prep/One Class News

Welcome back! We have heard some amazing stories about what the holidays brought and it was wonderful to see so many happy faces come into the classroom. The ‘new’ year 2s are fitting in well and the classroom is buzzing with learning.

This term will see us very busy in the classroom.

Maths: Place Value concepts. We have split into groups across the 2/3 and 4-6 room and will work through concepts that we have been having difficulties with.

English: Our C2C unit is based around the story by Briony Stewart titled ‘Kumiko and the Dragon’. The assessment task will ask students to create a character and then write a story about the character.

Science: We are looking at the Primary Connections Unit called ‘Feather, Fur and Leaves’. Students will be assessed on their knowledge of identifying groups based on observable features and distinguishing between living and non-living. They will collect data and then put this into graphs.

History: Students will explore the impact of changing technology on people’s lives. They will pose questions about objects from the past and present, compare and sequence objects and identify changes and continuities in one aspect of daily life over time.

Reading Groups: Students have been levelled across the 2/3 and 4-6 classrooms and will work in their reading groups on a variety of texts. There will be comprehension tasks that students will complete that link to the books they read.

Spelling Groups: Using the SoundWaves Program, students have been levelled across the 2/3 and 4-6 classrooms and will work on their weekly spelling words. These lists for the term have been sent home for homework.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! The following students celebrated their birthdays in January and February: Malaeki, Amelia, Olivia.

Two/Three Class News

Welcome back! We have heard some amazing stories about what the holidays brought and it was wonderful to see so many happy faces come into the classroom. The ‘new’ year 2s are fitting in well and the classroom is buzzing with learning.

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At Moffatdale State School we are...

**RESPONSIBLE**

**RESPECTFUL**

**SAFE**
**Four/Five/Six Class News**

I would like to introduce myself to new families. My name is Nicole Smith and I will be working in our classroom on a Thursday, Friday and some Mondays.

I have just returned from 12 months maternity leave. I am very excited to be teaching our upper school children and I am enjoying working with students I taught in Prep and Year 1!

**Science News:**

This Term, we are investigating how different animals survive in the desert. We are focusing on different adaptations of animals and why these are needed to survive. This week students have investigated camouflage and completed a hands on investigation.

Looking forward to seeing some new and familiar faces around the school!

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**School News**

**Student Resource Scheme**

Our School will continue to run the Student Resource Levy Scheme in 2016. This levy covers all consumable items your child/children will use throughout their schooling activities for the year. Families are strongly encouraged to participate in the scheme to ensure maximum benefit from a greater buying power.

The information letter and participation agreement form is attached with this newsletter. Please complete and return the form by next Friday 12th February. Invoices will then be issued the following week. Payment plans or Centrepay deductions are available to all families. Please contact our office for further details.

**School Banking**

School banking is a wonderful way to introduce saving to our children. Please find attached the information kit for parents and students. School banking is every Wednesday. Please see Mrs Granger for further information.

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**P&C News**

The P&C AGM will be held next Thursday 11th Feb at 8:30am.

Our P&C forms an important part of our school and works solely to benefit our students. We are looking for family members to support our P&C by becoming committee members, volunteers and to contribute in a positive manner.

We ask families to please attend this AGM and future meetings and become apart of how our school grows in the future.

All welcome
At Moffatdale State School we are...

RESPONSIBLE  RESPECTFUL  SAFE