Dear Parents/Guardians,

I would like to say a HUGE ‘Thank you!’ to the parents and families who have worked so hard over the first four weeks of the school year, volunteering their time and effort to bring our school grounds back to pristine condition. It required many hours and a great deal of muscle to hack through 6-8 weeks of solid grass, plant and weed growth, but together it was completed. It looks fantastic and is now beautiful again! (I won’t mention people individually as you know who you are.) I feel great pride in knowing that the community spirit and support is alive and well in our small school.

School Improvement
At Moffatdale State School, we aim for 100% attendance each day to maximize our learning experiences. Our minimum expectation is students attending 95% of the time. This roughly equates to missing 5 school days a term. Currently our whole school attendance is sitting at 96%, which is a great way to start our year!

Our average attendance by year level is:

Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL)
This year students will be using Vivo Rewards instead of the traditional token rewards system. This rewards system will be coordinated by Miss Rebecca Payne, our PBL Team Leader. Students will receive Vivos for displaying behaviours that are Safe, Responsible and Respectful, as well as for Academic Success, Homework Completion and by actively participating in School and Community Events.

Parents will be able to access an online account to see how their child/children are tracking and what they are receiving Vivos for. If you would like more information about the Vivo Rewards system please speak to Miss Rebecca Payne or Mr Aaron Jones.

Term 1 Rewards Day will be held on Thursday 24 March. All students with an attendance rate of 95% and above will be invited to attend the day. Students receiving 3 or more Yellow Slips will not be invited to attend the Rewards Day and will be involved in curriculum based tasks for the duration of the day.

Our school is currently using Yellow and Orange Slips to differentiate between Minor and Major behaviours. A Yellow Slip designates a Minor behaviour which has required the student to leave the area of instruction (Time Out/Buddy Class). An Orange Slip is issued when behaviour is deemed Major; a physical incident, behaviour that is dangerous to the child or others. Receiving an Orange Slip will result in removal from the Rewards Day, as will a suspension.

Swimming
Swimming began this week. The weather was fine and the pool was a welcome relief from the heat for most of our students. Please ensure your child/children has all of the required equipment with them when they leave home in the morning. We had a number of students who did not bring a towel, sun protective shirt or a change of underwear or clothing. Following-up with phone calls to ensure your child/children are prepared takes up valuable time. We have very tight timelines in our schedule this year and our teaching time is our priority. Please also be sure to label all of your child’s belongings with their name or your family name.

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.

P&C Meeting
Our next P&C meeting is our AGM. It is scheduled for Thursday 17 March at 8:30am. All positions will be open, so come along and join our P&C for 2016. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Aaron Jones, Principal
Prep/One Class News

We have been at school for 18 days today! We are counting the first 100 Days of School this year and recording the numbers in different ways.

Our classroom is buzzing with excitement about our Schoolyard Safari Science Unit! We have had many fine specimens brought to our room for careful observation. It has been really wonderful to share similar learning to the Year 2/3 class and to have so many older students excited to help the younger students with their real-life investigations during playtime as well. This week, we did some research about small animals and drew diagrams of real specimens.

Two/Three Class News

We were very lucky this week to have a former student visit us for the day. Miss Steph Rose joined us for the day and helped with our many activities for the day.

Homework folders were sent home this week. These are to be returned each Monday for marking and to change over the comprehension task cards. Included in the books are a list of students spelling words. Please remember to practice these with your child.

Attendance in the 2/3 class has been wonderful. Most students are currently sitting on 100%. Remember—to attend our end of year rewards day, students must have been attending for 95% of the term (this allows for only 5 days away). Sick days do not count towards days away.

As part of our C2C English Unit, we have investigated the similarities and differences between Imaginative stories and Information books. (Fiction and non-fiction.) This has linked very well with our Science research.

Our Homework Program began this week. We send our Important Bags home on Mondays and they need to be returned on Fridays. If you would prefer to have additional time over the weekend to complete homework tasks with your child, please let us know.

Thank you very much, to many school families, for their huge generosity in purchasing new items for us to use at school. We have had some beautiful, good quality, toys given to us, including puzzles, Duplo, coloured blocks, cars, wooden trucks, a play mat, a cash register and some much needed paint pots. It is very humbling to experience such kindness and generosity. Thank you!

SCIENCE

Thank you to all those families that helped their children with the science homework that was sent home. It was great to see so many interesting diagrams arrive at school. We have also seen many interesting specimens arrive into the room. From caterpillars through to rhinoceros beetle horns—we have seen some weird and wonderful things!

HISTORY

Students have been busy looking at how technology has changed over time. It has been very interesting to see what has changed and stayed the same over time. According to the students we have only noticed ‘positive’ effects from the changes that have been made to technology. Below are some of the students responses to why the effects are positive:

‘The changes are great because we have more stuff to do today and we can go to places faster than in the olden days’ Hannah.

‘The changes to the cars are great because there are seatbelts and there is a roof to protect you. The windscreens are also safer today’ Amelia.

At Moffatdale State School we are...

RESPONSIBLE

RESPECTFUL

SAFE
Four/Five/Six Class News

Students are continuing to work hard in our classroom! In Science this week, students have investigated different plant and animal adaptations. Students completed an investigation looking for evidence of animals in our school environment. Students have been asked to take photographs of evidence of different animals in their home environment and add to our Science wall.

School News

Student Resource Scheme Forms

We thank families who have already returned their children’s Student Resource Scheme forms and ask families who have not to do so by Monday.

The student resource scheme is an effective and efficient way of providing our students with the tools they need to learn each day at school. The costs of these resources are greatly reduced due to bulk purchasing by the school and we encourage all families to participate.

If you do not wish to participate the forms still need to be returned indicating so and we will then provide you with a booklist for your child.

If you need another form please send a note with your child or call our office. We thank you for your cooperation.

P&C News

Thank you to the parents who attended yesterday’s P&C meeting.

The P&C AGM will be held on Thursday 17th March at 8:30am. We welcome all to come along and be a part of our schools direction.

At Moffatdale State School we are...

RESPONSIBLE  RESPECTFUL  SAFE