



Middle Park State School
27 Macfarlane Street
MIDDLE PARK QLD 4074

Telephone: 07 3712 9888
Email: admin@middleparkss.eq.edu.au
Office hours: 8.00am - 3.45pm

MID-TERM 2 NEWSLETTER – 22 MAY 2026

Dear MPSS Families

At Middle Park State School, one of our greatest strengths is the way we come together as an inclusive community, united by a shared commitment to ensuring Each to Succeed. The partnerships between students, staff, families and our wider community play an important role in creating a positive environment where learners feel safe, supported and empowered to grow. Through informed teaching, high expectations and consistent practices, we continue to strengthen both learning and wellbeing outcomes for every student, while building the confidence and capability of our learners to succeed now and into the future.

Equally important is the partnership between home and school. We know that children thrive when families and educators work together with trust, open communication and a shared purpose. Thank you to our families for your ongoing support, engagement and contribution to our school community. Together, we continue to bring our vision of *An inclusive community of empowered learning leaders* to life, creating a school where every child is known, valued and supported to achieve their best.

P&C Day – Volunteer Shout Out

I wish to acknowledge the dedication and generosity of our parent and community volunteers. The time, energy and expertise contributed by volunteers across our school community significantly enhance the experiences and opportunities available to our students. Strong partnerships between home and school are fundamental to our success, and we are grateful for the ongoing support that helps make our school a vibrant and connected place for learning.

HR News

We are currently recruiting for replacement teachers in several classrooms for Semester Two. These positions are advertised through SmartJobs, with applications closing on 27 May.

As many families may be aware, schools across Queensland continue to experience challenges associated with workforce shortages, and despite an earlier round of advertising, we were unfortunately unable to secure suitable applicants at that time.

Please be assured that recruiting high-quality staff remains a priority, and we are actively pursuing all available avenues to secure suitable teachers and minimise disruption to learning continuity for our students. We remain committed to ensuring every classroom is supported by capable and caring educators who will continue to provide high-quality learning experiences for students.

Family Webinar – Cyber Safety

At Middle Park State School, we are exploring opportunities to connect with the [Cyber Safety Project](#), an Australian organisation that supports schools and families to build safer, more positive online experiences for children and young people. Their evidence-based programs focus on online safety, digital wellbeing, responsible technology use and AI literacy, providing practical support for students, educators and families.

As part of this exploration, we are investigating how these resources may complement our ongoing work in supporting students to navigate the digital world safely, responsibly and confidently. Families can also access a range of free resources, webinars and guidance through the Cyber Safety Project, helping parents stay informed about current digital trends, social media, gaming and strategies to support safe technology use at home.

There is a free family webinar scheduled for Tuesday, 9 June from 6.00 – 6.45pm designed for families to build safer, smarter habits with technology. You can register your attendance by clicking on this link: https://bit.ly/CSP_9JUNE

The poster is titled 'FAMILY WEBINAR' and 'Together in Technology: Apple Tools for Families'. It features a central image of a tablet displaying various app icons. Below the title, there are six buttons: 'ONLINE RISKS', 'DEVICE SET UP', 'APP SAFETY', 'FAMILY SHARING', 'SCREEN TIME', and 'START THE CHAT'. The text below the buttons reads: 'Come as a family and join us for a fun, interactive online workshop designed to help families build safer, smarter habits with Apple technology.' At the bottom, it states 'LIVE ONLINE VIA ZOOM', 'DATE: TUESDAY 9TH JUNE 2026', and 'TIME: 6:00PM - 6:45PM AEST'. There is also a small logo for 'CYBER SAFETY PROJECT' and a yellow circle that says 'FOR PARENTS & CHILDREN'.

Premier's Reading Challenge

The Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) kicked off on Monday, 11 May with all MPSS students invited to join. This year's theme is ***The Power of Reading: Become a Reading Hero***, with reading heroes recognised throughout the challenge to celebrate the smaller milestones along the way.



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This year's reading period will run through to 28 August, coinciding with the end of the Children's Book Council of Australia Book Week. Literacy skills are vital to ensuring children have the best chance to succeed in their schooling and life. The PRC is an opportunity for students to be enthusiastic about reading, writing, authors and illustrators. Reading a variety of books builds vocabulary and knowledge, improves spelling and comprehension, can improve confidence and is also a great way to relax.

ICT Coordinator - Emma Turner

Calling all coders!

Coding is a creative endeavour that empowers students to deconstruct complex problems into smaller, manageable parts and solve them using logic. It is also a lot of fun!

A Scratch Coding Club will be commencing in Week 6 on Tuesdays, 1:15pm in the Hall. This club will initially be for interested Year 4-6 students. Students in Year 6 will use their BYOD laptop with the Scratch 3 program already installed. Students in Years 4-5 will need to install the iPad app, 'ScratchUp' which costs \$1.99 from the Apple App Store. Here is the direct link to install this iPad app.

The Scratch Coding Club will cater to beginners and experienced coders, with Year 6 students mentoring younger students. The 'Premier's Coding Challenge' will be an optional competition for students to enter. More information about this challenge can be found here. We look forward to welcoming interested students on Tuesday, 26 May.

SCRATCH CODING CLUB

Tuesdays 2nd Break
1:15pm in the Hall
Starts Term 2, Week 6

Year 6 to use laptops with 'Scratch 3' installed:

Years 4-5 to use iPads with 'ScratchUP' installed (\$1.99):

- Suitable for both beginner and experienced coders.
- Option to enter Premier's Coding Competition.
- Bring your lunch and device.

1:1 Device Program Changes - Reminder

As outlined previously, current Year 2 students are not to bring an iPad from home for Year 3 in 2027. These students will use a school-owned 1:1 iPad for Years 3-5. Parents will pay a yearly SRS fee for the use of the iPad which will include case, screen protector and all apps downloaded. The iPad will be managed by the school, remain the property of the school and stay at school.

Current Year 3-6 students will have no additional changes and will continue with the existing model - BYOD iPad until end of Year 5, with a change to BYOD laptop for Year 6.

Head of Inclusion - Kate Beehag

Autism Awareness Month

Autism Awareness Month, observed every April, aims to promote understanding, acceptance, and support for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

Autism, also known as ASD, is a lifelong condition that can affect how people behave and interact with the world around them. Autistic people may experience difficulties with communication, social interaction and restricted or repetitive interests and behaviours. The term "spectrum" is used to highlight that autism affects each individual differently.

At Middle Park School we are dedicated to raising awareness about autism, promoting acceptance, and celebrating the unique strengths of individuals on the spectrum. We aim to continue to educate our school community about ASD, dispel myths, and foster a supportive environment for those affected by autism.

Autism Awareness Month @ Middle Park State School

AUTISM AWARENESS
APRIL 2026

Staff wear light blue in support of Autism Awareness Month.

HPE Years 3-6 - Tracey Jeanes-Fraser

Middle Park District Representatives Shine

As part of the representative sport pathway, 12 students from Middle Park State School travelled to Limestone Park, Ipswich, on Thursday, 30 April to compete for selection in the Northern Eagles Cross Country Team.



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Congratulations to the following students:

10 Years: Robyn B., Tara B., Carter F., Eddie M., Jessica R., Ryan W.
11 Years: Sophia B., Joseph L., Yihin P., Luke S.
12 Years: Max M., Edith P.

These students proudly represented Middle Park State School with great pride and passion. All competitors had a fantastic day on the course, showcasing the spirit and talent of MPSS.

I would also like to express my appreciation to Mr Westwood and Mr Villari for their support and assistance throughout the day.

Save the Date – Term 2 and Term 3 Events

As we move into the second half of the term, families are reminded of the following upcoming events for the remainder of Term 2 and into Term 3:



- Year 3–6 Interhouse Carnival (200m & 800m nominations): 12 June 2026
- Full Day Year 3–6 Interhouse Carnival: 18 June 2026
- Prep–Year 2 Interhouse Carnival: 19 June 2026
- Interhouse Cross Country (Years 3–6): 31 July 2026

To assist with planning, please see below for the format of the Middle Park State School Years 3–6 Interhouse Athletics Carnival:

- The 200m Finals and 800m Heats will be held on Friday 12 June at 9:00am
- High Jump events will take place during PE lessons
- Students wishing to compete in the 200m or 800m events must nominate beforehand.

Please mark these dates in your calendar. Further details will be provided closer to each event.

HPE Years P-2 – Julian Sanchez

Prep

This term, the Prep students have been learning about playing safely and identifying safe places at school and in the community. Students have been practising following rules during games and activities while building confidence in movement lessons. They have also been developing their fundamental motor skills through a variety of fun beanbag activities including throwing, catching, balancing and aiming games.

Year 1

Year 1 students have been exploring ways to keep their bodies healthy through our Health unit, including learning about healthy eating, exercise and taking care of their bodies. Students have discussed healthy choices and the importance of staying active to support their overall wellbeing. In Physical Education, students have been developing their ball manipulation skills through throwing, bouncing, catching and rolling activities. These lessons help improve coordination, teamwork and confidence, while participating in games and movement challenges.

From Week 6, we are excited to welcome a coach from Football Australia who will be delivering soccer lessons to our Year 1 students. Students will have the opportunity to learn fundamental soccer skills and participate in engaging team activities.

Year 2

Year 2 students have been learning about health and creating safe and supportive classroom environments. In PE lessons, students have been developing their scooter board skills, focusing on safely manipulating and manoeuvring around obstacles. Students have also been working together to solve problems through team challenges while demonstrating teamwork, cooperation and good sportsmanship.

Junior Sports Carnival

On Friday, 19 June, students will participate in our Junior Sports Carnival. Students are encouraged to wear their house colours and join in a half-day filled with fun, participation, teamwork and school spirit. Throughout the morning, students will take part in a variety of engaging activities that promote cooperation, resilience, confidence and positive sportsmanship.

The carnival is a wonderful opportunity for students to celebrate being active, support their peers and represent their house teams in a positive and encouraging environment. Our focus is on participation, trying your best and having fun while building teamwork skills and school pride.

Parents and carers are welcome to attend and support the students throughout the event. We look forward to a fantastic morning of energy, encouragement and community spirit.

Music – Julie West

ANZAC Assembly

Congratulations to our Senior Concert Band, Senior Strings, Senior Choir and Year 3 Junior Choir students who contributed beautifully through their performance and respectful behaviour at our whole school ANZAC Assembly on Thursday, 24 April.



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Special mention goes to the saxophone solo by Jio K. and trumpet solo by Harry T. Our musical contribution was valued, and Veterans and other community members present shared such positive feedback. Well done!

Instrumental Music

Mrs Legried and Mr Humphry would like to thank Senior Strings and Senior Band students for their consistent attendance at rehearsals before school. Performing in these ensembles is a key part of learning throughout our instrumental program and continued attendance contributes to successful performances. Instrumental students are working towards their Busker Week concert!

Exciting news! Dedicated band students Harry, Jio, Sam, Joseph, and Henry along with dedicated strings students Ildi, Adithiya, Nate, Edith, Phoebe, Alex, Valexandria, Eric, Laura, Imogen and Sharleez have been accepted into the Westcent District Advanced Music Program which runs from Wednesday, 29 July to Thursday 30 July 2026. This program is for students in Year 4 to 6 who are working on at least Level 3 of the IM Curriculum.

Program activities will include band students performing in concert band; strings students performing in string ensemble; specialist tutorials as well as the opportunity to perform new and challenging music with other performers of a similar level. The program will conclude with a concert for parents/carers on the final day of the program. We wish them well!

IM Dates Coming Up

- Instrumental Music Concert: Thursday, 11 June (during Busker Week)
- Westcent Intermediate Music Program: Monday, 27 July to Tuesday, 28 July.
- Jinda-Jam Beginner Band and Strings Workshop: Thursday, 25 June.



Kind regards

Penny Couch

Penny Couch
Principal

Date Claimers

| Term 2 | | |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Week 7 | Monday, 1 June | 3-6 Assembly |
| | Thursday, 4 June | Fanfare – Band and Strings |
| BUSKER WEEK | | |
| Week 8 | Monday, 8 June | P-2 Assembly Year 2 Starlab Incursion Choir and Ukulele Concert Night |
| | Thursday, 11 June | Prep Wildlife Incursion IM – Band and Strings Concert Night |
| | Friday, 12 June | 200m and 800m Trials (Nominated Years 3-6 students only) |
| Week 9 | Monday, 15 June | 3-6 Assembly Year 6 – Parliament in Schools Presentation |
| | Tuesday, 16 June | P&C Meeting @ 6:30pm (online) |
| | Wednesday, 17 June | Year 5 Excursion (Queen's Park) |
| | Thursday, 18 June | Years 3-6 Athletics Carnival |
| | Friday, 19 June | P-2 Athletics Carnival Year 3 Excursion (Lone Pine) |
| Week 10 | Monday, 22 June | P-2 Assembly Chappy Week (Crazy Sock Day) |
| | Wednesday, 24 June | Under 8s Day |
| | Thursday, 25 June | Years 3&4 Jinda Jam Band and Strings Workshops |
| Term 3 | | |
| Week 1 | Monday, 13 July | School resumes |
| | Monday, 20 July | P-2 Assembly |
| Week 2 | Wednesday, 22 July | Prep 2027 Parent Information Sessions – 9:30am-10:30am, 5:30pm-6:30pm |
| | Saturday, 25 July | P&C Bogan Bingo night |
| | Monday, 27 July | 3-6 Assembly Westcent Intermediate Workshop for Band and Strings |
| Week 3 | Monday, 27 July – Thursday, 30 July | Westcent Intermediate Workshop for Band and Strings |
| | Friday, 31 July | Years 3-6 Cross Country Carnival |
| Week 4 | Monday 3 August | P-2 Assembly |
| | Wednesday, 5 August | P&C Tuckshop Pantry Day |
| Week 5 | Monday, 10 August | 3-6 Assembly Year 4 Camp Warrawee |
| | Tuesday, 11 August | Year 4 Camp Warrawee |
| | Wednesday, 12 August | EKKA SHOW HOLIDAY |
| | Thursday, 13 August | P-2 Bravehearts |
| | Friday, 14 August | P&C Disco |



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Middle Park State School

TUESDAY

7:45 – 8:30 AM

The "Fun" Room

Weekly classes will help improve:

- Creativity
- Memory
- Concentration
- Planning Skills
- Independent Decision Making
- General Aptitude for Learning
- Problem Solving
- Teamwork

Learning chess has been shown to improve overall performance at school by nearly 20 % compared with children who have not



To book online, scan or go to chessmates.com.au/schools

INFO@CHESSMATES.COM.AU
1300 CHESS MATES

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(07) 3372 1711
 fostercare@ich.org.au
 ich.org.au/inclusivecare
 38 Sittella Street, Inala 4077



Scan the QR code for further information and to see if we service your area.



Are you a parent or grandparent looking to give back to your community?

Mater Parent Aide Unit is looking for volunteers to home-visit referred families to provide support and encouragement in parenting

An information session will be held on **Tuesday 26th May 2026**
 Training commences **June 2026**

Contact us on **07 3163 2299** or parentaideunit@mater.org.au if you are interested

materhealth.org.au