Dear Parents/Caregivers
What a wonderful year it has been! As I reflect back on 2014 I feel a great sense of pride as to what the staff and students have achieved. I particularly want to thank all of the outstanding staff, teaching and non-teaching, we are so lucky to have at Mulga Street PS.

I feel very privileged to work with such a dedicated, professional team. Thank you to parents and families for your ongoing support throughout the year, particularly Governing Council and Parent Club. It is through such strong partnerships between school and home that we get the very best outcomes for our students.

There have been many highlights throughout the year where Mulga Street PS has been profiled positively in the community. These have included:

Choir performances
Sporting representatives/teams
Mt Gambier Christmas Parade Outstanding Float winner
Junior Primary Concert at Sir Robert Helpmann Theatre
White Ribbon Day Loudest Shout Inaugural Winners
Sports Day
Launch of ‘What Will I be When I am older?’ book
Launch “50 Things to do in Mt Gambier Before I am 13’
Youth Forum
Launch of Mt Gambier’s Charter for Children

Another achievement in 2014 has been the upgrading of the school’s ICT infrastructure. The speed at which students and staff can now access the internet has increased tenfold. All learning hubs in the main building are now hard wired, with improvements also to the connectivity of the wireless network throughout the school. We have also upgraded the computer system/computer pods in the learning centre.

Once again I continue to be impressed by the outstanding young leaders we have at Mulga Street Primary School. These leaders have been called upon on numerous occasions throughout the year to represent the school and have done so admirably. These have included

- Tour guides for BLUE LAKE Partnership
- Hosting assemblies
- Sports Team leaders
- Waste Watch Warriors
- Youth Forum
- Compering Junior Primary concert
- Hosting special visitors to the school including Victorian leaders and the Education Director, Adam Box
- Hosting the CE – Tony Harrison
- Remembrance Day Community service

I must also make mention of what great representatives the students in the choir has been for Mulga Street PS. They recently performed for the RSL Ladies Auxiliary and at the Community Remembrance Day wreath laying service.

We say farewell to our Year 7 students who have been part of the school and have had an extremely successful year. They will go on to High School and we wish them well for the future and hope that they will leave with happy memories of their time with us. Good luck to all of our graduating students.

It is also time to farewell staff, teaching and non-teaching, who are leaving Mulga Street Primary School. We thank them for their contributions to the school during their time with us and we wish them all the very best as they either continue their journey at other sites or take a change in direction.

Farewell to:
Jordana Wallis, Rebecca Green, Peter Duncan, Jess Willmott, Danny Burford, Cody Millard, Tatum Ashcroft, Naomi Ferguson and Fiona McIntyre.

A special farewell and thank you must be given to Jennie Elliott who completes her Deputy Principal tenure at the end of this year. I’d like to publicly acknowledge and thank Jennie for her contributions to the development of Student Voice, Intervention and Support, the Library Committee and her work with transition and the non-teaching staff during her time at Mulga Street PS.

We wish all of these people all the best with their future endeavours.

Janine Milsop
Principal

Jennie Elliott
Deputy Principal

MOUNT GAMBIER CHRISTMAS PARADE COSTUMES

Parents are asked to return all costumes borrowed from the school for the Christmas Parade to the Front Office ASAP. Thankyou

FACEBOOK PAGE

Please remember to like our Facebook page to keep up with pictures & happenings at MSPS
DOWN ON THE FARM
CONCERT DVD

Concert DVDs are now available for $30 (inc. GST) from the FED Creative on Commercial Street West. Phone: 87235732

IMPACT OF DATES

Fri 5th Dec  MP Values assembly  11.30am
Fri 5th Dec  JP Values assembly  2.00pm
Tues 9th Dec  Year 7 Graduation
Thurs 11th Dec  Learning Hub end of year celebration at the Valley Lakes MS Values Assembly  2.25pm
Fri 12th Dec  End of term - early dismissal  2.15pm

SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS

Mix ‘me’ time with ‘them’ time.
Plan a mixture of outdoor activities or trips with quiet at-home activities where you can relax and recharge your own batteries. The holidays give you a chance to spend time as a family but you also need to take some time for yourself each day. It helps to let your kids know that you are having some timeout too.

Resist being your child’s home entertainment machine. Give children opportunities to keep themselves occupied or think of inexpensive, fun ways to keep themselves amused. “I’m bored” is an invitation for kids to keep themselves occupied rather than for you to keep them amused.

Team up with other families.
Whether it is sharing celebrations with other families or just holidaying with friends, holidays offer the chance to broaden your child’s social circle.

Make sure you provide the three types of activities that children want with their parents – i.e. rituals and celebrations, including family mealtimes; one-on-one activities where you spend some time alone with each child; and unstructured, impromptu activities such as playing simple games, storytelling and walks around the neighbourhood. These are important relationship-building activities that bind families. By Michael Grose

I wish all families a safe and enjoyable Christmas, see you in 2015

Regards
James Egan, Student Counsellor

MULGA STREET PRIMARY PUBLICATION

“Who will I be when I am older?”
Copies are available at the front office for $5.00, why not purchase one as an ideal Christmas gift for family and friends.

WHITE RIBBON DAY

Congratulations to the Yr 6/7 boys from MSPS who were the winners in their category for the Loudest Shout, registering 125db.

STUDENT GALLERY

Year 4/5 students created these fantastic origami Father Christmases in their Japanese Class with Ms Coleman. Well done to all the participating students on this great Christmas display.
**CHRISTMAS HAMPER**

Christmas time can be tough for a number of families in our community. Over the past 4 years Mulga Street has organised the collection of some grocery items that we donate to the Mount Gambier Foodbank. The Foodbank supports our school in a number of ways including helping our breakfast club with some supplies. If you are able to spare some long life grocery items such as pasta, glad wrap, tinned food, biscuits etc. we will gladly collect them under the Christmas tree in the front office and put together a hamper to give to the Mount Gambier Foodbank. This in turn will be distributed to local families in need. You can donate anytime between now and Monday of Week 9. Many thanks, Alison Martin

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations to Madisyn Freeman, Jordan Freeman, Joel Duncan & Duncan Reid who will represent our state for basketball in January. We wish them every success.

**CPSW**

Sadly this is my last Newsletter message at Mulga Street as my baby girl is due early 2015. I’ve loved every minute of the past 2 years here. The staff, parents, families and most importantly students have been such a pleasure to get to know and I feel incredibly privileged to have been a part of all your lives.

It has been such a learning experience for me being in a school environment and I have developed huge respect and admiration for teachers and support staff with the incredible work they do. Mulga Street is so lucky to have such dedicated staff. You have all made me feel so welcome and accepted me as part of your community, I will miss you all immensely and can’t begin to thank you enough.

Last but definitely not least, a big thank you to the students and their families for sharing their lives with me. Please remember that while I am heading off for the exciting time of being a parent for the second time around, I will continue to think of you all and wish you all the success for the future. Please talk to me if you see me down the street, and I will always be keen to hear what you are up to.

Take Care ☺ Have fun, smile, and Merry Christmas!!!

Danny Burford - CPSW

**Dance Scholarships**

As a result of the hard work completed by students at this school in writing, illustrating and publishing out first book “Who Will I be When I’m Older” Maria Slape from MJ Dance Studio would like to offer 3 scholarships to Mulga Street Students for 2015.

These scholarships are fully inclusive of Tuition Fees ONLY for all of 2015 until the end of year concert for a student’s choice in 1 type of dance. These dance styles include: Jazz, Contemporary, Hip Hop, Classical Ballet, Beginners, Tap Rhythm, Acrobatics and Cheerleading and BOYS ONLY Hip Hop and Street Jazz.

The scholarship does NOT include transport to classes, costumes or any other associated fees; these will be the responsibility of the student’s family.

Application for scholarships is open to current Mulga Street Students ONLY, students who are NOT participating in any other type of dance class and students who are willing to make a yearlong commitment to attending lessons at MJ Dance Studio in the Oatmill Complex (behind Belgiorinos).

To apply, please write your full name, age and contact details along with a paragraph describing why you would like this opportunity and why we should choose you to win. Please then bring this in to the front office by Tuesday, 9th December.

**PARENT CLUB**

This has been another busy but productive year. We have had some amazing fundraisers, this only being possible by the constant support of our whole school community. With this support we have seen some great goals achieved and targets met. Having our playground paid for in 4 terms has absolutely blown me away and I am so very proud of the hard work our Parent Club has done to make this happen.

We saw this year a new playground, new curtains, helping fund class camps, Sports Day ribbons, a donation to the canteen for the new benches and of course our consistent support of breakfast club. I am very proud of our achievements.

This of course is not possible without support from families, teachers, front office staff and local businesses. I thank you all and hope for your continued support.

Our Parent Club have worked wisely this year, with all of us working mums we have all been pushed at times “to fit stuff in” we make it work, its tough but it’s for our school, our kids!!

At the end of the year we will farewell some lovely Parent Club ladies who will always be welcome back for chats, your work has been much appreciated and we thank you so very much.

So farewell for another year and thank you once again, have a safe and Merry Christmas and enjoy the holidays!

Looking forward to seeing some new faces either for Parent Club and Breakfast Club in 2015.

Vicky Carrison Parent Club president

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITES!!**

**MJ Dance & Phoenix Music Studios**

**Come & Try Open Days!**

Monday 12th Jan – Popular Singing/ Dance Workshops
Friday 23rd Jan – Musical Theatre Workshops
11.00am-1.30pm  $30/day

Junior –U/12’s Senior – 12 and over
Children to BYO Lunch - Supervised lunch time!

Bookings to jodi@phoenixstudios.com.au or maria.slape@bigpond.com

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Vicky Carrison Parent Club president
On our excursion, we did an Aquifer Tour at the Blue Lake, watched Penguins from Madagascar at the Oatmill Cinema, Lunch at the Cave Gardens, viewing of the Volcano movie at the Main Corner and had a tour of the Englebrecht Cave. At night time, we went bowling before returning to school for a sleepover.