Dear Parents and Friends,

Firstly I would like to say thank you to all of the MRMS staff, students and families for welcoming me so warmly to the school community. It has been a wonderful few weeks since I began. I have particularly enjoyed visiting the classrooms and being visited by students who wish to share their work and special talents with me.

I am a big supporter of the idea that families welcome school into their lives not the other way around. The most important educators in children’s lives are their parents/carers and extended families. You have entrusted MRMS to be a part of the education you have chosen to provide for your children. We honour this decision and thank you for entrusting us with the most precious treasure there is.

Having said that, I would like to welcome the Ross family and the Eckert family as new families to the MRMS community. We also make welcome all of the new students from existing families. We hope your experience of beginning school is positive and happy.

Staff had a wonderful and full week of professional learning and planning last week, before students returned. I was taken aback by the dedication of the teachers and assistants to their work with your children and am very excited to be working with a staff of people who truly care about being the best they can be for their students.

I am keen to get to know everyone in the school community so please do not hesitate to pop in and see me or chat to me when you are around the school. You know your children better than anyone else and so if there is any way you can support our work with your children by enlightening us with information about how your child is feeling about school please do not hesitate to do so.

**STAFFING** – We have a number of staff to welcome into new positions this year. Welcome back to Daniel Cabral who will be taking MP sport. Welcome back also to Trish Murray who will be working as an EA in JP1 on Fridays as well as taking JP sport. Karen Haslau will take UP sport as well as continue Japanese for all classes, as is Suzie with regard to music. Welcome back also to Rona Mirtle who will be working in both MP 1 & 2 on Friday afternoons. Congratulations to Tilly Kelleher who has been appointed as the permanent EA in MP2. Sue Gaunt will be back working in JP1 and JP2 on alternate Fridays as well as working alongside me providing administrative assistance, especially in the lead up to our School Re-registration visit in June.

**STAFF and PARENT DEVELOPMENT** – During a recent week long Montessori Mathematics workshop in Perth at the Montessori Institute I was delighted to find that there were four of us associated with MRMS attending: Tilly Kelleher, Lauren Beeton, Ombeline Eckert and myself. It is wonderful to see so many of our community interested in extending their knowledge of and training in Montessori teaching and learning.

**BUSY BEE** – We had a great start to the year with a big turnout for our Busy Bee on Sunday. It is heart warming to see everyone so dedicated to ensuring school gets off to a safe, clean and tidy start! A HUGE thank you to all those who were able to attend and help out.

**MUSIC PLAYGROUND** – The children who attended the Busy Bee with their parents took great pleasure in testing out the new musical equipment and shop front. **Please note this equipment has not been designed for climbing on.** Teachers will be talking to all of the children about this in their classes this week. We would appreciate it if you could reiterate appropriate use of the playground with your children at home and after school.

**PARKING** – Thank you for adhering to our new parking system. I have been out there the last few mornings and the new system seems to be generally working well. Please check that if you are parking on the gravel verge facing west near the exit of the main carpark that **you are not blocking visibility of cars trying to exit onto Clarke Rd.** Please also be reminded there is **NO STANDING AT ANY TIME** in front of the new double gates near MP. This area must be kept **CLEAR AT ALL TIMES** for emergency vehicles.

As I said above, my door is always open so come in or make a time to see me. The importance of the presence of families in our school cannot be underestimated so we welcome your support and input.

Kind regards, Lisa Fenton
**VIRTUE OF THE MONTH**

Our first focus virtue for this year is **friendliness**. These virtues are taken from the Family Virtues Guide, part of the Virtues Project by Linda Kavelin Popov. We have this book available in our parent library if you are interested. We will be focusing on a new virtue each ‘big’ newsletter, but starting our first in this ‘mini’ one. The chosen virtue will be used in all classes across the school at the same time so please ask your children and talk to them about it at home.

You are practising friendliness when you...
Like yourself and realise you have a lot to offer.
Smile and greet people with courtesy
Have courage to introduce yourself.
Show an interest in others.
Show caring when a friend needs you.

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**After School Sport**

After School Sport begins next week on Tuesday for all Middle and Upper Primary children. 3pm to 4pm. Kellie Howarth will be the facilitator once again for us. For the first 4 sessions we will have “Ultimate Frisbee” with Ashley Evans and this will be held over on the Nippers Oval. Ashley competed in the World Junior Ultimate Frisbee Championships. All students participating this year must have a new permission slip for 2014 (attached). Please hand this form to the office or to Kelli.

**Middle Primary Playground**

This up-grade has finally come to fruition. We sincerely thank MRMS P&F, Rachel Kerr and Dean Taylor (parents of Django UP and Woodvibes), Alex Hawthorne (Earth Essence Landscape Architecture), Mike Minchin (Dad to Leilani MP2 and Bioscapes Margaret River Landscaping and Dan Norrish (Norrish Fencing) for their time, expertise and persistence with this project. We are confident that the students will enjoy the extra space, creativity and safety aspects of their outdoor learning environment.

**Future Carpark and Landscape Work**

Further major works will be carried out during the April school holidays to extend our car parking bays and further landscape our entrances to the school. The plan is on the office notice board and we welcome your feedback and comments.

**School Canteen**

This term our school canteen will operate with Brumby’s. Beginning next Wednesday 12th Feb. Your child will bring home a zip lock bag labelled with their name and class and have enough menu’s inside for the term. As before, all orders must be at your classroom each Tuesday morning with the correct change for collation. The School Canteen Coordinator is Sarah Maiolo (Cody’s mum JP1).

**School Uniform**

Attached to this email is a school uniform order and price list. The uniform shop operates every Wednesday morning from 9am to 9.30am or you may bring your order in at any time with payment (cash or cheque to MRMS P&F) and it will be delivered to your child.

**School Sundowner**

We welcome all families to a meet and greet Sundowner on Friday 21st February from 3pm to 6pm. Please bring your own snacks and beverages. Fingers crossed for nicer weather than the last Sundowner!

**School Fees and Parent Commitment**

Term One accounts will be posted tomorrow. Please note that payment is required by 21st February 2014. A reminder to parents that you are requested to complete 6 hours of commitment time per term. We are happy to take suggestions if you see an area that needs attention and we usually have a list going of jobs that need doing so please just ask. If you attended the Busy Bee, please record your hours.