



MOORINE ROCK PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter

Issue: 15

13th October, 2020

Principals Message

Dear Parents and Guardians

Welcome back to another term. Term 4 promises to be a busy term with athletics carnival, NAIDOC day, reports, swimming lessons and the end of year concert.

End of Year Concert

Planning is well underway for this years End of Year Concert. We will be taking you on a journey around WA on Santa's sleigh and checking in at locations around the state. We are looking forward to seeing it all come together and hope to see you all at the concert on **December 12th 2020 at 6pm.**

Athletics Carnival

The athletics carnival is going ahead for **Friday 30th October at Southern Cross Oval**. We are having a final planning meeting on Wednesday of this week to finalise the plans. After this I will send out a note to update you all of the plans.

A reminder that all members of the school community will have to adhere to the two square metre social distancing regulations. The toilets will be cleaned throughout the day and sport equipment will be cleaned and sanitised between each game or activity. We are required by the Department of Education to inform spectators of these measures and we hope they allow us to have a safe and enjoyable carnival. It is important that if you are unwell please do not come to the carnival.

School Works

Over the holidays we have had some final improvements done around the school with our High Priority Maintenance money. We have had a new cement path laid at the entrance to our school, some trip hazards removed, new edges added to our flower beds, the bench replaced in the senior bag room, new shelving in the art room and wet weather room and lino laid in the staff room kitchen. We are very happy with the work and how it improves the over all appearance and usability of the spaces.

Swimming Lessons

At this point swimming lessons should be able to go ahead but we are waiting on final confirmation that the pool in Southern Cross will be completed by the dates. When I know more about this I will let you all know via email.

Bushfire Plan

As we are nearing summer and bushfire season I thought I would reiterate the key points of our bushfire plan. Moorine Rock Primary School is classified as 'Very High' on the Bushfire Zone Register. This means that in the event of a Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating Day we are required to close. This decision is made by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services in conjunction with the Deputy Director General. If a Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating Day is declared I will let you know through the phone tree that a pre-emptive closure has been recommended. This term we will be conducting a couple of fire drills to ensure students know the procedure. If you would like to read through the Bushfire plan you can find a copy on the school's website.

Lauren Suttie
Principal

Principals Message

Bushfire Zone Register

The Department of Education (the Department) is committed to maximising the safety of its students and staff. Moorine Rock Primary School is on the Bushfire Zone Register. Inclusion on this register means that the school may be required to invoke a pre-emptive closure on a day for which a Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating (FDR) has been declared for the Shire of Yilgarn. A Catastrophic FDR means that if a fire starts, it is likely to be uncontrollable, unpredictable and fast moving.

What does this mean for our school?

When given advance warning by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) that a Catastrophic FDR has been forecast for a given day, the Deputy Director General, Schools may direct the pre-emptive closure of . If the school receives such a directive, you will be in-formed of the possible planned closure by a letter sent home with your child. Parents of students absent on the day this letter is sent home will be contacted by telephone, so please ensure the school has up to date contact details for you. In the intervening period between the declaration of the pre-emptive closure and the day of planned closure, DFES will keep the Department informed of any change to the FDR forecast for the declared day. The final decision to pre-emptively close the school will be confirmed with the principal no later than 4.30pm on the day before the planned closure. If the forecast changes after that deadline, the closure will stand, regardless of improvements to the weather conditions later in the afternoon of the day before the planned closure or overnight. The intention is to limit confusion or uncertainty for parents and to allow you ample time to make alternative child care arrangements. Parents will be advised of the confirmation of closure, or its reversal, by a note sent home with your child on the day before the planned closure. Again, parents of students absent on this day will be contacted by telephone.

How will I know when the school is reopening?

It is anticipated that the school will typically only be required to close for a single day at a time, however this will depend on the weather. The school website will contain a notice to advise you of the current status of the school closure and when it is expected to reopen.

I ask that you monitor local media for current information about fire danger ratings and notification of schools reopening. Staying tuned to ABC Local Radio in your locality is advisable. You can also check with DFES on 13 DFES (13 33 37) or www.dfes.wa.gov.au and Emergency WA. As discussed at the P&C Meeting earlier this year, a sms will be sent to all parents advising them of the closure or opening of the school, and follow up phone calls will be made for those who have not responded to the message within an hour. Alternatively, you can call the Wheatbelt Regional Education Office on 9622 0200.

Questions?

Please contact the office if you have any questions about planned closures during the bushfire season.

Upcoming Events

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Weekend
1	12/10 School Development Day	13/10 Newsletter Morning Meeting	14/10 3 year old Kindy	15/10	16/10	17/18-10
2	19/10 Morning Meeting P+C Meeting at 2pm	20/10	21/10 3 year old Kindy Playgroup	22/10	23/10	24/25-10

FROM OUR JUNIOR ROOM WITH MISS SCOTLAND

Welcome back to Term Four. This Term we are learning about the farm and getting ready for the Sports Carnival in week three. I will be sending out a parent roster on Wednesday, please do let me know for days that are preferable. I hope you all had a lovely holiday and I look forward to the term ahead with the Junior Room.

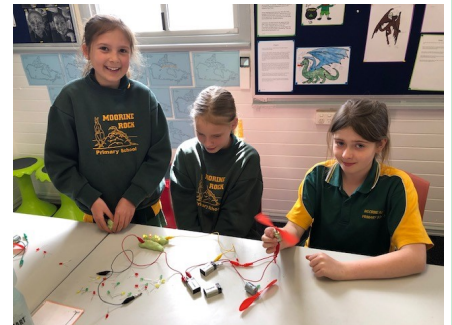


FROM OUR SENIOR ROOM WITH MISS CASTLEDEN AND MRS NICHOLL

A huge congratulations to Maddy, Jackson and Chelsea who topped the school for the Bebras Challenge for computational thinking with a score of 84. Also well done to Claire, Ethan and Gracie who were awarded Merit Certificates. The results showed a great improvement across the entire class in this nation-wide competition.

We finished off last term with a brief experience with electrical circuits - the class were challenged to light up the most LEDs using playdough as the conductor. Who knew playdough could look so spectacular? This term we are moving on to the Chemical Sciences learning about the properties and changes of matter, to be integrated with some woodwork.

Mrs Nicholl



Hi Parents!

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday, I can't wait to hear everyone's adventures from our two weeks away.

This term will be full of fun and adventure as we learn about narratives in writing. In maths, we will be working with money, volume and capacity and much more.

I look forward to a wonderful last term of exciting things in the senior room!

Miss Castleden

Stars of the Week



Junior Star of the
Week
Term 3 Week 10



Senior Star of the
Week
Term 3 Week 10

Moorine Rock Tennis Club

Junior Coaching

Tennis Coaching will commence on Thursday 15th October 2020 at the Moorine Rock tennis courts from 3.30 – 4.30pm

The coaching program will run Thursday afternoons for 5 weeks.

Cost is \$20 per child or \$50 for a family of 3 children.

Participants will need to bring their hats & water bottles.

Sherree Nicholson or Lib Irving have offered to escort the kids from school to the tennis courts at the conclusion of school. Please send in a permission slip and pack something for their afternoon tea.

Any child who is in preprimary or primary school is invited to register their name with:

Lib Irving : mob:0429498000, email:townfoot13@bigpond.com





Magpies – Swooping and Safety Issues

Identification and Distribution

The Australian magpie *Cracticus tibicen* (or *Gymnorhina tibicen*) is a large butcherbird with a black head, body, wing tips and tail tip with patches of white. The bill is blue-grey in colour, the legs are black and the eyes are brown. Males have a white nape, whereas females have a grey nape. Magpies are characterised by strong, rich and varied carolling.

The Australian magpie occurs throughout much of Australia, including bushland, farmland towns and other urban areas. Two of Australia's five sub-species occur in Western Australia: the western magpie *Cracticus tibicen dorsalis* occurs in the south-west and the black-backed magpie *Cracticus tibicen tibicen* is found in the central and northern regions. These two subspecies interbreed where their ranges meet. Refer to www.naturemap.dpaw.wa.gov.au to find further information on the species distribution.



Photo. P. Courtis/DBCA

Behaviour

The diet of the Australian magpie includes some plant material, but consists mainly of small animals that are found on the ground, including beetles, ants, spiders, lizards, frogs and carrion. They have very good hearing which allows them to locate lawn beetle larvae. They also eat other garden and farm pests and are valued as natural pest control agents.

Magpies breed between August and October and at least 2-3 ha (0.02-0.03km²) of territory is needed for pairs to successfully raise young. The female selects the nest site, which is usually in a tall tree, and constructs the nest from sticks lined with grass, roots and other fibres. Up to 6 eggs are laid and a new clutch may be laid if the first brood fails. The female incubates the eggs for about three weeks and feeds the chicks for about four weeks. Young magpies are forced to leave the territory by their parents within two years. They then join another group or take over a territory as part of an adult breeding pair. The young are vulnerable and many die within the first months of independence due to poor weather conditions, lack of food, road hazards and natural predators.

Magpies have a complex social structure and form tribes and flocks. Tribes consist of 2-10 birds of both sexes, which defend a territory of up to 8 ha (0.08km²). They vigorously defend this territory against other magpies because this is the area in which they obtain their food, build nests and rear their young. Flocks consist of birds that are young or too old to breed and are unable to form a tribe or gain access to a territory. These birds live in areas that do not contain sufficient water, feeding or nesting resources. The flock is nomadic as it moves from place to place in search of food.

Environmental Law

All fauna native to Australia, including fauna that naturally migrates to Australia, are afforded protection under both State and Commonwealth legislation.

Depending on the type of fauna-related activity, a licence issued by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions may be required. It is an offence to intentionally or recklessly kill, injure, trade, keep or move them unless authorised by a permit. To obtain a licence, the applicant needs to demonstrate that all reasonable non-lethal methods have been attempted and environmental impacts have been assessed. Further information is available on the Department's website.

Magpie-Human Interactions

Magpies swoop to protect eggs and young from potential predators during the nesting season. They rely largely on intimidation to deter human intruders by flying low and fast, often clacking their bill as they pass overhead. The sound of their wings whistling past and the movement of air can be alarming, but is usually just a bluff.

FAUNA NOTES – Magpies – Swooping and Safety Issues

Like dogs, magpies seem to sense fear and may capitalise on this by pressing on with harassing any perceived threat. Occasionally, a magpie will actually strike an intruder on the head with its bill. While such strikes are rare, magpies can inflict serious injuries. Information collected at hospital emergency departments has shown that the eye was the most common target. Magpies are more likely to swoop cyclists and postal workers.

If you find a sick or injured magpie contact the [Wildcare Helpline](http://www.wildcare.wa.gov.au) on (08) 9474 9055 for information on registered wildlife rehabilitators and centres who can assist you with your enquiry.

Reducing the risk from swooping magpies

If you have problems with a swooping magpie, several avenues of action are open to you. Keep in mind that the birds swoop only during the nesting and rearing period (from August to October) and each bird generally only swoops for a few weeks during this time. If we can understand the catalysts and the patterns of magpie behaviour, we can greatly reduce the risk.

Living safely with magpies

The following steps can be followed to avoid or reduce the impact of a swooping magpie:

- Never deliberately provoke or harass a magpie. Throwing sticks or stones usually makes them more defensive. Magpies have good memories and they may continuously swoop a potential aggressor.
- Avoid areas where magpies are known to swoop. Remember, magpie hostility lasts only a few weeks and they usually only defend a small area of about 100m radius around their nest.
- Locate the bird and keep watching it when entering its territory. If it swoops, don't crouch in fear or stop: move on quickly but don't run.
- If you are riding a bike make sure you wear a helmet, and dismount and walk through nesting magpie territory.
- Wear a hat and sunglasses or carry an umbrella for protection. Magpies initially attack from behind but can swoop back around.
- Adopt a confident stance as this can have a strong deterrent effect.

Remember that the magpies are just trying to protect their young. Learning to live alongside wildlife is an important step towards building a better living environment, and observing and listening to magpies can be an enjoyable experience.

Taking a bird or nest from the wild is illegal without a permit and while such actions may temporarily stop attacks, it is not uncommon for another nesting bird to move in. It is better to avoid the area or live with the swooping bird for six to eight weeks until the chicks learn to fly and the problem ceases.

Citation

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. (2017). *Fauna notes: Magpies – Swooping and Safety Issues*. Retrieved from <http://www.dbca.wa.gov.au/>

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For more information see the department's website www.dbca.wa.gov.au



Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions