

Welcome to 2024 at Morley Primary!

It's always great to see all the familiar faces return at the beginning of the year and to meet new families who have entrusted their children's educational journey to our school. We look forward to sharing a wonderful year of learning and community with you all.

We have begun the year with 207 enrolments, 21 more than last year!

Room	Class - Learning Area	Teacher
koomool	Kindy	Mrs Kylie Juniper
bindi bindi	Pre-primary	Mrs Michelle Salamone (M-Th) Mrs Samantha Jones (F)
djidi djidi	Year 1	Miss Amy Gartrell
karak	Year 2	Mrs Jan Read (M-W) Mrs Anne Binetti (Th-F)
yaakin	Year 2/3	Miss Helen Mills
yongka	Year 3	Miss Genna Bray
kwoka	Year 4	Miss Poppy Crouch
kwilena	Year 4/5	Mrs Luis Giles (M-Th) Miss Melissa Hayman (F)
maali	Year 5/6	Miss Phoebe Moses
	Mandarin	Miss Monica Xian
koolbardi	Music	Mrs Samantha Jones
kooboolong	STEM	Miss Melissa Hayman

Thank you to all families who helped prepare our students for a great first week! Special thanks also to our team for their dedicated effort to provide engaging programs and wonderful learning spaces for students to enter. We welcome our new staff to our school community and look forward to getting to know you more over the year ahead.

Welcome Picnic

We invite all families to attend a welcome gathering celebrating our school and community on Tuesday 13th February from 4-5:30pm. This will be a simple, fun event and a free sausage sizzle where people can get to know one another. We will send home a note next week to help us plan the catering. Families may also bring their own afternoon tea and drinks if the wish. We encourage using picnic blankets. Students must attend with an adult from their family who is responsible for supervision, and they may wear casual clothes. On this day external gates will close at 3:20pm to allow for any set up that is required.

COMING EVENTS

Friday 2nd February
First Friday Free Dress Day

Thursday 8th February
Uniform shop 8.30-9am
(weekly)

Tuesday 13th February
Welcome Picnic

Wednesday 14th February
Assembly – Leadership Group

Thursday 22nd February
P & C Annual General Mtg

Monday 4th March
Labour Day – Public Holiday

Wednesday 6th March
Toast Wednesday

Friday 8th March
Cricket/Modcrosse



Information Session and Class Dojo

Class information sessions will be held in Week Three with details being communicated to you by the class teachers. These sessions are for general information, and not for discussions about individual students. Please make a separate time to meet with your child's teacher if you require this type of meeting.

Class Dojo remains an important mode of communication both at class and school level. If you are unsure of how to access this, please speak with your child's teacher as a matter of urgency. While we will continue written communication through specific notes as required, Dojo will be the source of information in Term One with the next 'newsletter' being at the end of the term. As we provide such regular communication through Dojo, the more old-fashioned newsletter is seen as less relevant and useful. Parent communication will be a focus for our next Parent Engagement Group meeting.

Student Leaders

At Morley Primary we expect all our senior students to be leaders in our community as well as role models for our younger students. In addition there are some dedicated roles for which students may apply. I thank all those students who put their hand up to serve our school. Congratulations to the following students who have taken on leadership positions for 2024.

Student Council	
School Captains	Sofia and Nuwan
Student Councillors	Thomas and Ashlee
Arts Captains	Ivy and Carly
Library Captains	Elizabeth, Eve, Aaleeyah-Jade and Muthaher
Faction Captains	
Poseidon Captain	Indi
Poseidon Vice Captain	Mila
Athena Captain	Zaiden
Athena Vice Captain	Lance
Zeus Captain	Maverick
Zeus Vice Captain	Apajoh

Children's University

We are excited to be moving into the sixth year of our partnership with Children's University. At Morley Primary we are learners, and this program aligns directly with this school expectation. Participating in Children's University is voluntary, and child led. It recognises learning outside of the school day, helps develop a lifelong learning mindset and rewards effort.

Donna Gallinagh, the Children's University coordinator from ECU, will attend our assembly on Feb 14th. After the assembly she will present information to students and families from Year 3-6.

If you would like more information, I encourage you to attend or contact me for more details. Students from age 7 may be involved so if you have a Year 2 child who is interested, please have a chat with their teacher or myself to determine if they are ready for the program.



Summer Reading Challenge

Well done to everyone who participated in my Summer Reading Challenge over the holiday period. We are learners at Morley Primary and these students are setting a great example! Reading is a key to opening a world of opportunities and I encourage all our students to read every day! Literacy skills are also developed by being read to, so no matter how old your child, reading to them regularly is important. If you are fortunate to have a language other than English, reading in your home language is ideal.

On Monday we will draw the winners of the Dymocks book vouchers and announce them on Class Dojo. All participants will be presented with a certificate at the Leadership Assembly.

School Hours

At Morley, we are safe. Please ensure that students do not arrive on the school grounds until 8:15am when the internal gates to the quadrangle are opened. Supervision is not provided until this time. Classrooms open at 8:30am and we encourage students to enter at this time to set up and be ready to learn at 8:45am.

At the end of the day, the quadrangle gates are closed at 3:20pm as school staff continue working. Students who have direct supervision of their parent or guardian may play and socialise near the playground until 4pm when the external gates will be locked. This will be monitored, and parents of unattended children called to collect them. The toilet block near the undercover area will be locked at 4pm.

Parent Visitors

If you come onto the school grounds during the day to drop off lunch or other items for your children, please sign in at the front office rather than go directly to the bags. At the end of the day, please allow your child to pick up their own bag from the hook.

If you need to collect your child early or for an appointment, please also go through the office to sign them out before attending the classroom.

Parents & Citizens' Association

The AGM and first meeting of the P & C will be on Thursday 22nd Feb at 7pm in the meeting room. It would be fabulous to have at least one representative from every class in attendance.

Special thanks to Laurelle, and also Dan Dan and Mrs Sloss, for their help ensuring everyone had a uniform for day one!

Interpreters

We love using interpreters in parent/teacher meetings to improve our communication with you. This service is available free of charge. Please let us know if you would like to take advantage of this opportunity. We usually require 24 hours to arrange.

Take care,
Nicole

Nicole Kovalevs
Principal

Swimming

Swimming lessons are progressing well and we appreciate the wonderful organisation from parents and staff to ensure that students were ready for swimming lessons on the first day. Given the heat wave, the timing for swimming lessons could not have been better, with students enjoying the opportunity to cool off.

Learning how to swim and being safe around water is so especially important given our culture and close proximity to pools and beaches. For some of our younger students, this has been their first opportunity to attend formal lessons and swim at the local pools.

Swimming lessons continue during Week 2 and finish on Friday 9 February. Thanks again for your support and organisation with the swimming program.



Attendance

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At Morley PS, we recognise that 'every day matters' as we strive for regular school attendance of 90% and above. With strong attendance, students will have the best opportunity to achieve their potential, maximise progress and achievement, and establish and maintain connections and friendships.

Absentees

If your child is going to be absent from school, we ask that all parents and carers please notify the school as soon as possible via the website, sms or a phone call to resolve absences for your child. This ensures that our attendance records are accurate, and parents have provided a valid reason for the absence as per the policy. The *School Education Act 1999* requires parents to send their child/children every day the school is open for instruction unless there is a good reason for them not to attend.

We look forward to continuing our work with families to promote strong attendance habits and striving for improved outcomes for students. Please contact me if you have any questions about attendance or absentees. Alternatively, the MPS Attendance and Engagement Plan can be found on the school website.

Ryan Gray
Deputy Principal

Ryan.gray@education.wa.edu.au

We are all in this together – support reminders

Please see the list below of some of the many agencies which provide mental health support. If you or members of your families are facing particular problems or are struggling with anything, please give Mrs Kovalevs a call at school so she can help you access some support.

Mental health and Wellbeing Supports

- **KidsHelpline** provides 24/7 phone and online counselling support to young people aged 5-25. Call **1800 55 1800** or visit www.kidshelpline.com.au
- **Lifeline** provides 24/7 phone and online counselling support to people in crisis, including suicidal thoughts and self-harm. Call **13 11 14** or visit www.lifeline.org.au
- **Youth Beyond Blue** is a website dedicated to providing information to young people on anxiety and depression. The website helps young people to understand mental health and strategies to cope through tough times: www.youthbeyondblue.com
- **The BRAVE program** is a free and interactive online program for the prevention and treatment of anxiety in young people. The program provides ways for young people to better cope with their worries. There are also programs for parents to learn strategies to support young people. The program can be used on any computer or tablet device and includes up to 10 sessions that you can work through at your own pace. There are three versions of the program: **Young Child Program** (ages 3-7), **Child Program** (ages 8-12) and the **Teen Program** (ages 12-17). For more information visit <https://brave4you.psy.uq.edu.au/>
- **Headspace** is a youth-friendly counselling service for young people aged 12-25. The Joondalup office can be contacted on (08) 9301 8900, or chat to a counsellor online at www.headspace.org.au/eheadspace. For more information on how to cope with stress relating to COVID-19 visit: <https://headspace.org.au/young-people/how-to-cope-with-stress-related-to-covid-19/>

Community Notices

Transperth Smartrider

There are two new initiatives to provide ongoing cost-of-living relief to Western Australian families.

1. Students may travel, to and from school, free on public transport on weekdays.
2. Free public transport to be provided for everyone, every Sunday.

The Ride to School Free Program is specifically for travel to and from school Monday to Friday and is available to those who hold a valid Student SmartRider card, while the Fare Free Sundays is available to everyone with a valid SmartRider card.

See the Transperth website for more information <https://www.transperth.wa.gov.au/smartrider/types-of-smartrider>

Midvale Parenting Hub

Free parenting programs, workshops and support for parents and carers of children aged 0-18 years and reside in the local government areas of Mundaring, Swan, Bassendean and Bayswater. The Term 1 program has been emailed to parents with this newsletter. Further information is also available from the office.