



Dear Parents and Families,

A very special thank you to the RFS statewide. To all of the volunteers and their families. To our local Megalong Valley Branch, and all the other Blue Mountains Branches. Their tireless dedication to control the bushfires and keep our small school safe is amazing! We will be passing around a hat on Presentation Day and the Farewell Dinner to raise money for the Megalong RFS.

It has been a privilege to lead our small school this year! We have built a positive strong community of parents this year. Thank you for assisting on excursions, in the classrooms, school garden, and helping out at school BBQ's! Thank you for being such a warm supportive group of individuals who bring wonderful gifts and ideas to make our school great! It is great to have a school community who acts as partners in their children's education.

Thank you to our fantastic P&C members who have worked hard to ensure our small school has a vision, and raise funds to make these decision possible. I look forward to next year working towards wonderful learning for our students in 2020.

I would like to extend my appreciation and special thanks for the efforts to all the staff, both the teaching and administrative roles, who work hard to organise events and learning for the students at Megalong Public School. I very grateful to have such a wonderful staff that has been very supportive of my leadership role.

Thank you to our lovely students who have been well behaved, and have shared many lovely memories this year. It has been a pleasure spending time with you and teaching you all this year. I will definitely miss our year six's next year!

This year has brought many wonderful learning experiences, especially our big trip to Broken Hill. We have achieved a fantastic impact of learning, and continue to look after the well-being of our students over the past twelve months. The year has been jam packed with numerous events, and as the year is ending we have a few more events left! Next week, we have Presentation Day on Tuesday; the Year six formal on Wednesday and staff Christmas party on Thursday night. It will be lovely to have a celebration and we look forward to seeing you there!

Thank you to Bou and Norma who provided scripture this year!

Thank you to those community members who have given their time this year. The Men's Shed has donated their time painting our lovely signs for the bird habitat, and bush-tucker garden.

A special thank you to Patrick who drove us to our excursions this year! We couldn't have done the trip to Broken Hill without him. His stories, Irish humour and music choice now has baptised him into the Megalong family.

Thank you to Margaret Stevenson who volunteers her time and travels down every Friday to listen to the children read! She is a gold member of the community, serving in the CWA and has been supporting the RFS over the bushfire period! Thank you Margaret.

Thank you to Andris Heks who has shared his poetry and time throughout the year. His light hearted nature is a pleasure to have at the school! Next year he is offering to provide Ethics for Scripture lessons.

Please have a safe and very Merry Christmas, and enjoy some special time together. See you all in 2020!

Warm Regards  
Stephanie Scott



## Term 4 dates to look out for:

- ⇒ **Dec 17th:** Presentation Day 11:30am
- ⇒ **Dec 18th:** Muck up Day and last day
- ⇒ **Dec 18th Evening:** Year 6 Farewell Dinner.
- ⇒ **28th January:** First Day of Term 1



## **Bushfires**

### Information for parents

The recent fires across a large part of NSW have affected our students and schools in different ways. It is important to recognise that almost all distress or behavioural change following such an event is normal. There is no such thing as a typical reaction.

Children react in different ways depending on age and personality. Some may show much distress or they may ask many questions and appear preoccupied with the event. Some of these reactions may appear immediately but others may not show themselves for weeks or even months later.

Some reactions may include sleep disturbances, regressive behaviour (thumb sucking) nightmares, fear of the dark, clinging to parents/carers, loss or increase in appetite, physical complaints that have no medical basis, aggressive behaviour, competition with sibling for parental attention, withdrawal and/or loss of interest in regular activities.

Children look to the significant adults in their lives for guidance on how to manage their reactions. Parents and teachers can help children cope by remaining calm and reassuring them that they will be all right.

Importantly most children are resilient and return to their previous level of functioning over time.

### How you can support your child

- Monitor how much your child is being exposed to television/social media stories regarding the fires, children can be distressed by watching repeated images. Explain to them that news reports will repeat images and stories and it may not be a good idea to keep watching.
- Find out what your child's understanding of the event is and correct misunderstandings or confusion.
- Include your child in making plans for the future.
- Support your child to stay connected to friends.

# Country Womens Association Visit





# Blue Mountains Radio Station Visit





# Chinese/Mandarin Lesson

