CONTACT DETAILS
Principal:
Mark Whisson
Deputy Principals:
Shane Rutter
Bridget O’Neill
Marlene Bevan
Telephone:
School:                            08 9921 4066
Kindy/Pre-primary:          08 9921 4310
Canteen:                          08 9964 3162
Fax:                              08 9921 4467
Email:                           MountTarcoola.PS@education.wa.edu.au
Website:   http://mttarcoola.wa.edu.au

UPCOMING EVENTS
Thursday 27th March
SLSA Boardies Day
Friday 28th March
Parent Assembly Rms 5 & 18
Tuesday 8th April
Parent Newsletter No:5 due out
Wednesday 9th April
QPT Mr McGeex Excursion—pre-primary, Years 1 & 2
Friday 11th April
ANZAC Assembly—9:00am
Last day of Term 1
Monday 28th & Tuesday 29th April
School Development Day — Pupil Free Days
Wednesday 30th April
Students commence Term 2
Tuesday 6th May
Parent Newsletter No: 6 due out

SCHOOL WATCH ALERT
Our school is being subjected to increasing vandalism after school and on weekends. Please report any after hours visitors to the police on 9923 4055 or School Watch on 131 444.
Please keep children out of the school grounds after hours.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL:
It will come as no surprise that higher student attendance at school is associated, on average, with higher student achievement. It may come as a surprise to learn that there is no safe threshold for non-attendance - literally every day counts!

Regular school attendance will mean that your child has a better chance in life. Your child will achieve better when they go to school all day, every school day because:
• they learn better
• they are happier
• they make friends
• they have a brighter future.

Under Western Australian law, you must make sure your child of school age is enrolled and attends school all day, every school day unless they have an acceptable reason. Illness, doing work experience or competing in a school sporting event are acceptable reasons for being absent from school. Principals decide if the reason given for your child's absences acceptable. Avoid keeping your child away from school for birthdays, shopping, visiting family and friends, if they sleep in, looking after other children, minor check-ups or care such as haircuts. Routine medical or other health appointments should be made either before or after school or during the school holidays.

You are encouraged not to schedule holidays during school time. If your family holiday is during school time, let the school know in advance and talk about what arrangements can be made for your child. Depending on the circumstances the school may be able to provide tasks for your child to complete while they are absent or assist you to organise an exemption from schooling. You must let the school know the reason why your child has been absent from school within two school days of their return. If possible, advise the school beforehand.

Are you having problems getting your child to school for some of these reasons?
• won’t get out of bed in the morning
• won’t go to bed at night
• can’t find their uniform, books, school bag …
• slow to eat breakfast
• haven’t done their homework
• watching TV
• have a test or presentation to do, have an assignment to hand in
• it’s their birthday.

If so, a set routine can help:
• have a set time to go to bed at night and to get out of bed in the morning
• have uniform and school bag ready the night before
• have a set time for starting and finishing breakfast
• set a time for daily homework activities
• speak about school positively
• be firm, send your child to school every school day including their birthday and the last day of term!

If your child will not go to school you should contact the school as soon as possible for advice and support.

MARK WHISSON
PRINCIPAL
CONTRIBUTIONS AND CHARGES 2014
A Contributions and P&C Advice has been sent home for each child via their classroom teacher. Charges for In-term Swimming and Incursions/Excursions will be pay as you go. Class teachers will provide details of insurances/excursions and costs, payment to be made to class teacher (cash or cheque). Credit card payment is only available for Contributions and P&C.

Contributions and P&C are voluntary and are used by the school to provide materials, services and facilities for the educational program of students. Charges and other optional costs are for the participation of students in events such as excursions, performances, in-term swimming and sporting events. Students cannot participate in these events unless the charges have been paid. Students may still be in credit for unexpended Incursions & Excursions from 2013, parents will be advised if this applies to their child on the statement received.

Parent Tours
Have you ever been to John Willcock College? Call in to our Front Office if you would like a tour of our school.

Look out for information about our Extension Program 2015
We will be calling for expressions of interest from families who have students who meet the necessary criteria. Call us for more information on 99 658 300.

Western Front Tour - France 2014
28 weeks to go!

2ND HAND UNIFORM SHOP
Uniforms are on sale every Monday morning between 8.30am and 9.00am in the undercover area.

If you have any Mount Tarcoola Primary School uniforms that are no longer needed, it would be appreciated if you could bring them in to the school. Thank you.

CONTRIBUTIONS AND CHARGES 2014
KNEE DEEP IN NATURE
Top up your inner intrepid naturalist and give free reign to your inquisitive curiosity as you take part in the action packed holiday program at the WA Museum – Geraldton.

THE HUNTER AND THE HUNTED
Discover how insects interact with their environment. Create your own finger puppet collection based on real insects and re-enact the high drama of insect life.

Dates: 11 - 28 April
Times: 9:30am - 4:00pm
Ages: 6+
Cost: $3 ($2.50 per activity for families and groups of 4 or more children)
Bookings not required

FAMILY OF THREE
Make a very cute family of three black swans, the iconic bird of Western Australia.

Dates: 11 - 28 April
Times: 9:30am - 4:00pm
Ages: 6+
Cost: $3 ($2.50 per activity for families and groups of 4 or more children)
Bookings not required

COSTS OF FAMILY OF THREE
Are voluntary and are used by the school to provide materials, services and facilities for the education program of students. Charges and other optional costs are for the participation of students in events such as excursions, performances, in-term swimming and sporting events. Students cannot participate in these events unless the charges have been paid. Students may still be in credit for unexpended Incursions & Excursions from 2013, parents will be advised if this applies to their child on the statement received.

ACTIVITY CORNER

R THE HUNTER AND THE HUNTED
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Dates: 11 - 28 April
Times: 9:30am - 4:00pm
Ages: 6+
Cost: $3 ($2.50 per activity for families and groups of 4 or more children)
Bookings not required

REPTILES RULE
Discover Geraldton’s very own gecko - the little cloudy stone gecko and make a 3D paper model to capture this remarkable little reptile.

Dates: 11 - 28 April
Times: 9:30am - 4:00pm
Ages: 6+
Cost: $3 ($2.50 per activity for families and groups of 4 or more children)
Bookings not required

BUTTON IT NATURALLY
Explore the ANZANG nature photography exhibition and the Mid West Gallery to inspire your sensational animal or plant button-badge.

Dates: 11 - 28 April
Times: 9:30am - 4:00pm
Ages: 6+
Cost: $3 ($2.50 per activity for families and groups of 4 or more children)
Bookings not required

ACTIVITY CORNER
Create your own insect creature on a felt board with coloured body parts and learn the identifying features of insects.

Try the 'Who am I?' discovery board where you can test your knowledge and uncover more facts about the insects, plants and animals that are from the Mid West.

UP AND AWAY - TAKING TO THE SKY: place the images of each stage of an insect’s life cycle in the correct order to reveal the mystery word.

Puzzles to share of insects and flowers

Dates: 11 April - 3 July
Times: 9:30am - 4:00pm
Ages: all ages
Cost: free

Bookings not required

TRAILS
Non Readers - Follow the animal footprints and take a journey through the Mid West Gallery. Be amazed with the natural wonders of the mysterious 'great southern land'.

Nature Sleuth: The WA Museum Geraldton needs your super sleuthing skills! Hunt down each small clue to locate the photographs in the ANZANG nature photography exhibition.

Nature Challenge: Complete the four missions so the Pollinator can return to the future with the information needed to ensure the survival of wildflowers and bush plants.

Dates: 11 April - 3 July
Times: 9:30am - 4:00pm
Ages: various
Cost: $3 ($2.50 per activity for families and groups of 4 or more children)
Bookings not required

Venue: WA Museum - Geraldton Further information: Call 08 9921 5080 including costs & ages
Bookings: Bookings not required for groups of less than 10, Booking appreciated for groups of 10 or more
Programs are subject to availability. All children 12 years and under must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.
**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**GERALDTON AKSICK PROGRAM**

**Venue:** Utakarra Ball Park  
**Cost:** $70 per child  
**Times:** 8.30 am—9.30 am  
**Ages:** 5–8 yrs

Duration: Saturday 3rd May—Saturday 28th June 2014

The enrolment forms are available from the front office. Completed forms and payments are returned to Geraldton Department of Sport and Recreation, Level 1, 268–270 Foreshore Drive, Geraldton.

**AFL UNDER 8’S COMPETITION**

**Venue:** Utakarra Ball Park  
**Cost:** Available from Club of Choice  
**Times:** 10.00 am—11.00 am

Duration: Saturday 14th June—Saturday 6th September

**IMPORTANT NOTE:**

All Junior clubs are now responsible for Under 8’s registration. Any child interested in playing Under 8’s please inquire through your chosen club. Contact information provided on the PLAY AFL FLYER is available at the front office.

Eligibility: Children that are 6 turning 7 in 2014 and 7 turning 8 in 2014 are eligible to play in the Under 8’s competition.

**YOURTUTOR - HELPING FAMILIES WITH 'HOMEWORK TIME’**

It can be stressful for parents or carers to try to help with their child’s homework, especially during high school. With yourtutor, a little help is always a click away. It’s live, one-to-one, on-demand online help. The moment your child has a question - English, essay writing, maths, science, and more - there is a real-life, expert local tutor online, ready to help them.

"How does my child access yourtutor?"

Find your nearest access point [here](#).

"Who are the online tutors?"

The online tutors are Australian teachers or university experts, located across the country. The online staff must go through all necessary checks and a long application process, to make sure only the best are allowed in the network.

"What kind of help will my child get?"

The tutors will not ‘give’ answers, students are taught to think for themselves and reach their own answers ethically. Help is available in all core curricula - English, maths, science, business studies, and more.

"Is there a time limit?"

The average session is 20 minutes, some students need less, some need more. It’s a chance to get back or track with one question, feel more confident, and then go back to their own study. Your child can always sign back in later with another question. This system helps keep it fair for thousands of families across the country.

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**AIDAN’S PLACE — ROC TEEN WORKSHOP**

Aidan’s Place Inc. are pleased to present a workshop facilitated by Claire Eaton of ROC TEEN. This workshop is informal and relaxed and specifically designed for parents and grandparents who have a child 10+ with a disability. It is aimed at empowering parents with tools and information to enhance resilience, optimism and confidence of all family members.

**When:** Wednesday, 26 March 2014 at Lotteries House, Conference Room, 114 Sanford Street, Geraldton, 6.30 pm - 8.00 pm

**Cost:** $10 for Aidan’s Place Members and $20 for non-members.

For further information, please contact Julie Baker 9938 0793 or email on [info@aidansplace.org.au](mailto:info@aidansplace.org.au)

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**ANNUAL PERMISSION FORMS**

Our Annual Permission Forms have been sent home to all students via their classroom teachers. Forms need to be completed and returned to the SCHOOL OFFICE ASAP. We apologise to parents if there has been a double up in these forms but it would be appreciated if the forms could be completed again.

**REGIONAL CRICKET CARNIVAL 2014**

On Friday 14th March 2014 Mount Tarcoola Primary School sent six teams to compete in the annual Regional Cricket Carnival. Everyone had a fantastic time participating in the event and the whole squad showed some fine qualities in sportsmanship. We had some wonderful helpers on the day and I would like to thank them again for all their efforts as we wouldn’t have been able to send as many teams without them.

As a school we competed very well and finished off the day as the Year 7 Boys champions, the Year 6 Boys champions and the Year 7 Girls runner-up champions. Well done to everyone who played on the day, you all were amazing and as a school we are very proud of your efforts.

Mrs Forrester  
PE Teacher

**HARMONY DAY**

A very successful Harmony Day was held last Wednesday 19th March at Mt Tarcoola PS. Our guest performers were Anne Norman & Toshi Sakamoto - Taiko Drums & Flutes Of Japan. The children and teachers thoroughly enjoyed the demonstration and participation in Japanese culture. The students also participated in different class activities throughout the day and shared a delicious lunch of multi cultural foods.