VIP Students
101 Prep students have commenced their schooling at Mount Martha Primary School. Please give them and their families welcome smiles, waves and space to settle in with their teachers and classmates.
Welcome

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prep A</th>
<th>Prep B</th>
<th>Prep C</th>
<th>Prep D</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dominik</td>
<td>Ella</td>
<td>Ayana</td>
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<td>Isabella</td>
<td>Hamish</td>
<td>Harry</td>
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<td>Leia</td>
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<td>Lana</td>
<td>Ben</td>
<td>Annali</td>
<td>Immy</td>
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<td>Jack</td>
<td>Cassidy</td>
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<td>Romeo</td>
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<td>Hayden</td>
<td>Esse</td>
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<td>Lola</td>
<td>Bonnie</td>
<td>Jett</td>
<td>Max</td>
<td>Milly</td>
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</tbody>
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2014 Staff Team

Principal | Mrs Judy Beckworth
Assistant Principals | Mr Hugh O’Brien
| Mrs Karen Walker
Prep | Mrs Kelly Cartwright
| Miss Lea Henderson
| Miss Lucinda McKIllop
| Mrs Julie Moncrieff
| Ms Mary O’Brien
Year 1 | Miss Alicia Virtanen
| Mrs Karen Allison
| Mrs Kris Colson
| Mrs Lyndal Gunn
| Miss Danielle Howle
| Mr Steph Otte
Year 2 | Mrs Esther Kuliboer
| Miss Amelia Davey
| Miss Jessica Dixon
| Miss Jeanette Goode
| Ms Karen Marsh
Year 3 | Mrs Megan Kohlman
| Mr Jason Antoniou
| Mrs Jane Doye
| Mrs Anne Marie Paterson
| Mrs Marta Reardon
Year 4 | Mrs Joelle Rubinstein
| Mrs Janine McAuley
| Mr Michael Beirne
| Mrs Jenny Spiridis
Year 5 | Mr Bill Nickeas
| Ms Donna Gadsby
| Mrs Sally Giles
| Mr Darrel Hartwig
Year 6 | Mrs Jill Bull
| Miss Alice Harvey
| Mr Justin Whelan
Specialists | Mrs Julie Christie
| Mrs Sarah Forward
| Mrs Leanne Rault
| Mr Cameron Sweatman
Office | Mrs Lindie Hartwig
| Ms Anna Goss
| Mrs Gina McMartin
| Ms Debra Tate
First Aid | Mrs Lorraine Stuart
Support | Mrs Maria Harvey
| Mrs Yvonne Krahe
| Mrs Leigh Morton
Out of School Hours Care - Mrs Gillian Reid
Ms Claire Fisher
Mrs Jane Moore
Maintenance - Mr Andrew Pryor

COMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY

Friday 7th
- Year 3B & 3C Beach Water Safety Program at Mt Martha Lifesaving Club

Monday 10th
- Year 3A, 3D & 3E Beach Water Safety Program at Mt Martha Lifesaving Club

Tuesday 11th
- Year 6 Beach Program & Carnival
- Online Bookings open for Meet The Teacher

Wednesday 12th
- Year 5 Beach Program & Carnival
- Meet The Teacher Prep, Years 1, 2 & 3

Thursday 13th
- Year 4 Beach Program & Carnival

Wednesday 19th
- Year 5 & 6 Swimming Sports at Mornington Secondary College
- Meet The Teacher Years 4, 5 & 6

Thursday 20th
- Year 5 & 6 Swimming Sports at Mornington Secondary College
- Meet The Teacher Prep, Years 1, 2 & 3

Friday 21st
- Year 3 & 4 Swimming Sports at Mornington Secondary College

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday 20th February
7pm in Staff Centre

PTA AGM
Wednesday 12th March
7pm in Staff Centre
I have pleasure in introducing the five new teachers who have joined our enthusiastic team this year.

Please join with the staff to help these teachers to settle in at Mount Martha Primary School.

Over the holiday period a change came about in our Year 3 teaching team when Mrs Despi O’Connor was successful with her application to teach at Mount Eliza Secondary College this year. We wish her well with this temporary placement.

Very soon a presentation of staff photos will be displayed on the screen in the office foyer. Everyone is welcome to pop by to match faces to names.

Who to Contact?
The first contact for any information and support is your child’s class teacher or coordinator of that year level team. Coordinators are identified in bold on the table on the front page. If, after this contact, further support is required please contact one of the Principal team by arranging an appointment through the school office.

RODNEY BROWN
The collection box for students and families who wish to leave cards and messages for Rodney’s family will be available in the office foyer until tomorrow. A pouch is available at the office for gold coin donations.

School Crossing Supervisors
The Mornington Peninsula Shire provides two supervised crossings in Glenisla Drive.

Jan has been our regular supervisor at Normanby Crescent for many years. Robyn started supervising the front of school crossing late last year and is now tagged to this crossing. Robyn feels very fortunate to be working with the Mount Martha school community. Being a past parent she knows what a fantastic school we have.

Please join with the staff in showing our appreciation for the valuable work Jan and Robyn do for our school.

Keep smiling everyone
Judy

School Council Elections

The school will soon be sending home detailed information regarding this important process. There are 4 vacancies in the Parent Category and 3 in the DEECD Employee Category for the 2014—2016 term of office.
Meet the Teacher on February 19 & 20 (2014).

Meet the Teacher sessions will be conducted for Years 4, 5 & 6 on Wednesday 19 February and for Years Prep, 1, 2 and 3 on Thursday 20 February between 3.50pm and 8.30pm (Prep sessions will be 2.45 – 7.00pm). These sessions are a great time to inform the teacher of your child’s learning and interests. Meet the Teacher also assists with building relationships between home and school.

Bookings can be made on line from Tuesday 11 February at 8am onwards. Please visit the MMPS website http://www.mtmarthaps.vic.edu.au/ and click on the Parent Teacher Online (PTO) link found on the home page. Use the password you have been given to access the system. Passwords will be sent home with your eldest child this Friday. If you do not receive a password you should ring Hugh O’Brien on 5974 2800.

PTO gives parents a full picture of time slots available for all of their children’s teachers. Security of information is maintained by password protected access for parents or guardians approved by the school. Parents can only see details for their own children. This Parent Teacher Interview software allows parents or guardians to log on 24/7 and arrange their interviews with teachers from the comfort of their own home, work, library or anywhere that provides internet access. Mount Martha Primary School will provide school laptops in the Administration/Reception area during the booking period for parents unable to access the web from any of the above listed locations.

Because we are using an online service for the booking of these meetings we will disclose the student’s name, parents name and teacher’s name to the service provider. The information will be provided to the service provider in an encrypted and secure manner, and will only be used to arrange the booking of these student/parent/teacher meetings. If you have any queries about this matter please feel free to contact Hugh O’Brien on 5974 2800.

Hugh O’Brien, Assistant Principal.

Food Allergies - Anaphylaxis
Anaphylaxis is a serious, life-threatening condition. MMPS Staff have been trained in responding to anaphylactic shock and are updated each semester on our policy and procedures.

We have a number of students at school who have severe allergic reactions to nuts. For this reason we ask that you be aware and support them by not sending nut products to school. Students are encouraged not to share food.

If your child has a severe allergy make sure their management plan is up to date and returned to school immediately.

Lost and Found
The school aims to return items to their owners.

Please assist this by

♦ naming all items clearly with SURNAMES
♦ checking your child has all their belongings each day
♦ checking the Lost and Found collection regularly

Parents volunteers are needed to display the found items. Please leave your name and contact details at the school office if you can assist in any way, even if it only a few minutes one day a week.

Free Uniform Swap Boxes
This community service was established by parents a number of years ago and has operated very successfully for a number years.

The system is as simple as choosing and donating uniform items. All that is asked is for there to be some donations at some time. It is perfectly fine to select items without anything to donate at that particular time.

Donate clean school uniform clothing items still in good condition

Please remove or cross out your child’s name to prevent the item being returned to you.

Select the item/s your child needs and name each one clearly with your surname.

Sunscreen
Sunscreen should be applied before coming to school. Parents are encouraged to provide their children with sunscreen and staff remind children to apply their sunscreen before going outdoors.
Student Absences

- The Victorian Government is introducing new measures to ensure students attend school every day and get the most out of their schooling.

- Children and young people who attend school regularly and complete Year 12 or equivalent have better health and employment outcomes and higher incomes throughout their lives.

- The Department will be releasing a suite of resources to support schools including revised student attendance guidance, case studies demonstrating best practice and additional resources to promote attendance.

- From 1 January 2014, amendments to the Education and Training Reform Act 2006 will come into effect in relation to the enforcement of compulsory school enrolment and attendance. New procedures to implement the legislation will take effect on 1 March 2014. Before this time, information outlining the new processes and introducing a full set of resources for principals and regional staff will be provided.

- This new legislation means that parents could receive an Infringement Notice if their child misses five full days of school in a year without a reasonable excuse. Principals are able to use their discretion when deciding whether or not to escalate issues of non-attendance. Guidance provided will assist principals with this decision making process. Importantly however, new procedures for enforcing attendance are articulated as a strategy of last resort, when other interventions to improve attendance have failed.

Library News

Welcome back book lovers!

I hope you enjoyed reading for enjoyment in fun locations over the school vacation.

Our Library Policy is to be reviewed early this year and we will be seeking input from our school community. Do look forward to future newsletters to participate in this important process.

Whilst we are always adding new stock to our library collection a stocktake in December last year indicated that we are losing a significant number of books each year. We, as a school community, need to develop a clearly understood process for borrowing and returning books within set timeframes by our students.

**An overdue book reduces the availability for that specific book to be read by others.**

This year your child’s classroom teacher will be responsible for the borrowing out and returning of books to our Library collection during scheduled sessions in the Library.

In Term One all students will be permitted to borrow up to three books. If a book becomes overdue the individual student needs to return it as soon as possible. Parents will be informed in writing as soon as a book becomes overdue. During this period the student’s borrowing rights will be delayed/suspended until the matter is resolved. If a book is lost or accidentally damaged beyond repair the expectation is the student will physically replace the book, not pay a fine.

**Every student will be able to borrow books from the beginning of this year.** There will be an amnesty on any overdue books from 2013 with the expectation that many of the books will be found and returned over the next few weeks. Many thanks in anticipation of your support for this change that will ensure the Library continues to be a valued resource for our students.

Do look forward to book promotions in the Banksia Bulletin and dates for displays and special events at school.

Steph Otte
Library Co-ordinator

Education Maintenance Allowance and Student Conveyance Allowance forms are available from the school office or via the school website: www.mtmarthaps.vic.edu.au

Completed forms to be returned to the school office by Friday February 21.
2014 Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA):

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided by the Victorian Government to lower-income families to help with education-related costs.

If you have a child under 16, and you hold a valid Health Care Card, Pension Card, or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible to receive the EMA. The allowance is paid in two instalments, one in March and one in August.

The payment is intended to assist with education-related costs such as; uniforms, excursions, textbooks, and stationery. You can elect to have your EMA paid in one of the following ways:

- Paid by direct deposit (Electronic Funds Transfer) into your own nominated bank account; or
- Paid to the school to be held as credit which you can use towards education expenses; or
- Paid by cheque which will be posted to the school for collection.

In 2014, the annual EMA amount per student is:

- $200 for prep students
- $150 for students in years 1 – 6.

How to Apply: To obtain an EMA Application Form visit www.mtmarthaps.vic.edu.au to download or contact Gina McMartin at the school office on 5974 2800. Please attach a copy of your valid Health Care Card or Pension Card.

Eligibility Dates: You need to be eligible as at 28 January 2014 Term 1 and 14 July 2014 Term 3.

For more information about the EMA, visit http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/financial/Pages/default.aspx

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Student Conveyance Allowance Application Private Car Travel

Students attending a Primary or Secondary School

An application on behalf of a student may be submitted if the student is:

- a Victorian resident
- school aged and enrolled (3) three or more days per week at a school; and
- attending a school/campus located outside the Melbourne metropolitan conveyance boundary

A student who meets the above requirements may be eligible if they:

- attend their nearest or designated neighbourhood government school/campus appropriate to their year level, at which admission is permissible, or
- attend their nearest appropriate non-government school/campus appropriate to their year level, at which admission is permissible, and
- reside 4.8km or more by the shortest practicable route from the campus attended

If approved the allowance payable is based on the one way distance to make the journey to and from school.

No allowance is payable if the journey to and from school could be made using a public transport service or contract school bus.

Before completing this form please read the information about the Conveyance Allowance Program at http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/finance/Pages/conveyance.aspx
There are now 4 LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES in Mt Martha!

- **35 Watson Rd** (outside Mt Martha Pre-School)
- **Scenic View Drive** (cnr 2 Banksia Grove)
  - 42 Dominion Rd
  - 28 Morlyn Drive

**Take a book. Leave a book. It’s fun. It’s free. It’s for adults and children alike.**

Visit one soon or visit: [littlefreelibrary.org](http://littlefreelibrary.org) to start one of your own.

**Happy reading!**

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**Tuesday the 11th February** is International Safer Internet Day and it is a good time to discuss Internet Safety with your child. We will be discussing Internet safety at school with students and reminding students about their student acceptable Internet use agreement, which is signed by families and students upon enrollment at our school. A copy of the agreement is in this newsletter. Below are some excellent online resources that are a fun way to begin a discussion about Internet safety with your child.

Roll up, roll up and play in the Big Top in cyberspace! Zippep’s Astro Circus, an online game created by the Cybersmart program, is set to help 5 – 7 year old children learn about how to stay safe online. Launched at the annual Youth Advisory Group summit, Zippep’s Astro Circus is designed for parents to play with their children to establish safe online behaviours for the new generation of digital natives.

There are many more excellent resources and games for students of all ages and also informative parent information about Cybersafety available on the [Cybersmart](http://www.cybersmart.gov.au) website.


**Sarah Forward**

**ICT Specialist Teacher**
Hi MMPS Families - Another school year has begun. I hope that you all had a wonderful Summer break. PTA is looking forward to another wonderful year with lots of enjoyable events for the children and families. PTA would like to welcome the new MMPS families who are starting this year!

'Carnivalé Spectacular' – Friday 21st March 2014 - We have started to organise this wonderful MMPS school event - Rides, show bags, cake stall, magic shows, food, drinks, activities - beauty booth, ice cream making, chocolate game and more !!!!!!! This event does not run by itself and we have a dedicated Carnivalé committee and we need your help - please fill out the slip below and return to the school by Friday 14th February. Without your support we will not be able to hold this event - remember 'many hands make light work'!

Volunteer Data Base - If you would like to be able to help with certain events being held at the school then this is a fantastic list to be a part of. It gives you the opportunity and flexibility to be involved in events that are being organised and that you would like to be a part of or ones that suit your home and work situation. Please fill in your details on the form below and hand it into the office and you will be placed on the list and contacted by email when events are happening. Contact details will only be available to the Office Bearers of the PTA and the Principal, Judy Beckworth. If you were a part of this last year there is no need to fill out a new form. The Volunteer Data Base has been running for the past two years and has been very successful.

Jaala Mayer
PTA President.

Yes I would love to be a part of the Volunteer Data Base –

Name:____________________________________________________________
Child/ren’s name:____________________________________________________
Email:______________________________________________________

Yes I can help on the Carnivalé Committee.

Name:____________________________________________________________
Contact Number:____________________________________
Email:_____________________________________________
Mt Martha Primary School
Glenisla Dve
Mount Martha 3934
Phone: 5974 2800  Fax: 5974 3634

Absence Line 5973 7700 or visit the school website
E-mail: mount.martha.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au
Website:  www.mtmarthaps.vic.edu.au
Office Hours 8.30am-4.15pm Monday—Friday

OSHCP: 0407 438 858
Uniform Shop:  1800 337 396
Tuesdays: 8.45am—9.45am
Thursdays: 3.00pm—4.00pm
Cash, credit card & EFTPOS facilities.
Sorry, no cheques accepted
Online ordering available at: www.psw.com.au
PSW Frankston
21 Playne St, Frankston
(03) 9769 6510
Shop Hours Sun & Mon closed. Tue to Fri 8.30am-4.30pm & Sat 8.30am - 2.30pm.

SCHOOL TERMS 2014
TERM 1 30th January to 4th April
TERM 2 22nd April to 27th June
TERM 3 14th July to 19th September
TERM 4 6th October to 19th December

COMMUNITY NOTICES

High Spirits Program at St Macartan's Parish invites children to learn about what it mens to be Catholic. The program is available to children from Year 1 to 6. If you would like to enrol your child or for more information, please email Judy Hogan at highspirits2011@gmail.com

Mornington Baseball Club - Come & Try Night Wednesday 26th February 5pm - 7pm.
Mornington Pirates Baseball Club, Wilson Reserve, Wilsons Rd Mornington. Wear casual sports gear. For more information contact Club Secretary Craig Isbister 0409 822 739.
Email: morningtonbaseball@hotmail.com or www.mornington.baseball.com.au

Mount Martha Netball Club - 2014 Winter Competition Registrations are now open online http://www.foxsportspulse.com/ (use this link or google Mount Martha netball club registrations)
Season commences 15th March. Cost $195 (includes $45 VNA fees for 2014).
Registrations close strictly Monday 17th February 4pm. Enquiries Leisa Christou (President) 0407 438 244 or Ann Morton (Secretary) 0419 800 223
STIRLING LINGARD TENNIS COACHING
MT MARTHA TENNIS CLUB
Kinda Classes 4-5 years (Free Racket)
Prep Classes 5-7 years (Free Racket), $14 per lesson
Group Classes 8-18 years
Beginners Ladies’ groups am/pm
Extensive Holiday Clinic program running over
the Easter Holidays
Call 5974 3271 or 0411 082 723

OPEN SKY QIGONG
Qigong/Meditation: Thursdays 9.30am
Beach Qigong: Saturdays 8.30am
ChiChild: Thursdays 4pm - 4.30pm NEW
Fun simple movements instill
Calm, Vitality & Confidence!
Bookings/enquiries - Melissa 0419 589 029

Thermomix is the ultimate kitchen solution.
Create delicious, wholesome food from basic ingredients in a
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Anne-Marie Raymond 0437 214 211 or
email a-mraymond@bigpond.com

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Email: Morningtonoptimumhealth@gmail.com
86 Tanti Avenue, Mornington.

Advertise your business here $100 per school term.
Contact Debra at the school office 5974 2800