WELCOME TO MT MARTHA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Welcome
On behalf of the staff I extend a warm welcome to the new school year and a thank you from the end of school last December for the well wishes and generosity of families. It is rewarding to know our efforts are appreciated.

For families joining our community and returning families the staff wish everyone a happy and rewarding association with Mt Martha Primary School throughout 2013. A special welcome to all our new students and their families:

Year 5: Ella.
Year 4: Cerys, Grace & Ella.
Year 3: Fergus, Tal & Joshua.
Year 2: Abigail.
Year 1: Pierce, Tess & Tegan

Prep A  Prep B  Prep C  Prep D  Prep E  Prep F
Annabelle  Tabby  Mia  Samuel  Imogen  Mark
Charlie    Cooper  Isabella  James  Maia  Elle
Indianna   Lola   Shayla  Sacha  Emily  Rory
Rex       Milly   Jack  Blake  Finn  Leila
Tom       Eve    Mia   Finn  Miles  Oliver
Oscar     Faith  Ben   Xavier  Billy  Noah
Adelle     William  Cameron  Kasper  Jemma  Spence
Hudson     Amy    Jake  Thaila  Sienna  Ashton
Sassy     Alexi   Summer  Kieran  Ethan  Helena
Alice      James  Sunny  Tristan  Jasper  Justin
Lukas      Lucy   Alasdair  Lexi   Jai   Jemima
Sophie    Scarlett  Emmaline  Isabella  Lani  Layla
Ben       Samuel  Max   Tyler  Sebastian  Nate
Keegan     Bella  Leala  Lily   William  Zachary
William   Heath  River  Phoebe  Lochy  Leni
Bella      Ostyn  Ocean  James  Liam  Maya
Matilda   Ava    Dylan  Kash  Sophia  Sam
Jake       Catherine  Lily  Ruby  Tayah  Indi
Camilla   Rhen   Jasper  Emma  Ella  Lilly
Lilly      Harry  Georgia  Jessica  Erin  Asher

A big welcome to our new staff:
Michael Beirne, Amelia Davey, Jessica Dixon, Janine McAuley, Paula Phillips, Adrian Vitale and Leanne Rault.

Great Start
I wish to thank all our families for the wonderful preparation you have put in to having your children so well presented and ready for the new school year. They arrived happy and eager and looking absolutely fabulous in their uniforms.

Also, I thank the staff for the extensive preparations they have made in readiness for the start of school.

Our 2013 Preppies have made a wonderful start to school. They’re smiling and settling in and are already meeting many new people.

School Council 2013
School Council Elections are underway with the inclusion of a parent information sheet in this newsletter.

I encourage all eligible parents and staff including retiring members to consider assisting the school in this way as it is a great opportunity to be involved in your school. Please contact me for information regarding school council or any aspect of your child’s education.

Smile and have a happy day,

Judy  Hugh  Karen
Mount Martha Primary School, School Council Elections – Information for Parents

School Council Elections 2013

What is a school council and what does it do?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within statewide guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the school council?

For most school councils, there are three possible categories of membership:

- A mandated elected Parent category – more than one-third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) employees can be Parent members at their child’s school as long as they are not engaged in work at the school.
- A mandated elected DEECD employee category – members of this category may make up no more than one-third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.
- An optional Community member category – members are coopted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DEECD employees are not eligible to be Community members.

Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half the members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is Parent membership so important?

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school. Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

How can you become involved?

The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might seriously consider

- standing for election as a member of the school council
- encouraging another person to stand for election.

Do I need special experience to be on school council?

No. What you do need is an interest in your child’s school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school’s future.

What do you need to do to stand for election?

The principal issues a Notice of Election and Call for Nominations early in Term 1 each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March unless the usual time line has been varied by the Minister.

If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category.

DEECD employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not engaged in work are eligible to nominate for parent membership of the school council at that school.

Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the Notice of Election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt in the mail following the receipt of your completed nomination.

Generally, if there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

Remember

- Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do
- Consider standing for election to council this year
- Be sure to vote in the elections.

Contact either Judy Beckworth, Hugh O’Brien or Karen Walker on 5974 2800 for further information.
Buildings and Grounds at MMPS

We have had a lot of renovations and changes occurring on our school site over the Summer period. There have been renovations in the Melrose building to support our students and staff working in an open learning space. This area (formerly the Year 6 classrooms, administration area and corridor) has created quite a lot of excitement and discussion amongst teachers and students. It is a significant change to the way we utilise the spaces we have available to us. The library has also had some renovations with the creation of a new IT learning area which should be completed in the next few weeks. Thanks to Steph Otte and his team of assistants for all the hard work they have done in making sure the library collection is well organised and easily accessible by our school community.

At the back of the school, near the netball courts, there is a recently acquired modular portable that will accommodate two Year 2 classes. This building arrived January 7 and is currently being fitted out by DEECD staff. We hope that this task will be completed in the next couple of weeks. Once the building is completed we can begin to reinstate some components of the Year 1/2 playground equipment and undertake some landscaping tasks to blend the building into our school grounds. Towards the end of 2012 we were approached by John Fivet (parent of Thomas) who is the manager of Ducon Maintenance (9558 8411). John was keen to make a contribution to the school and kindly offered the free use of some of his contractors to undertake some works around the school. We discussed with John what works could be tackled and were delighted to have the seats in Area C repaired and the pergola structure over the outdoor classroom in the Sensory Garden completed. The 2012 Year 6 students met the costs of the materials for the pergola from some of the monies raised at the Year 6 Market. Ducon Maintenance supplied all the labour free of charge and the school only had to pay for the materials. So, a big thanks to the John and the team at Ducon Maintenance!

Other works continued throughout the holiday period to ensure that our grounds are safe and attractive for our students and staff. The synthetic oval received its regular full day of maintenance, dead trees were removed, all adventure playground areas were re mulched in line with OHS requirements and all sand pits were topped up with fresh river sand. All carpets were steam cleaned and all tiled/wet areas including the gymnasium floor were cleaned and polished. All in readiness for the start of the 2013 school year!

Vacation Care Holiday Program – Camp Australia

An information session will held in the school Library on Wednesday 20 Feb at 6.30pm for those families interested in using the new Vacation Care Holiday Program. The program will be based in the school library where the Out of School Hours Care program runs but will be managed and staffed by Camp Australia. The program will commence during the first term break which is only 8 weeks away. At this Information session the staff from Camp Australia will be able to answer any questions you may have about the program including costs and how to register your child/ren in the program.

Hugh O’Brien
Assistant Principal
Convenor Facilities Sub Committee.
SCHOOL PHOTOS

Friday 8 March 2013

Class and individual photographs of all students will be taken at school on Friday 8 March.

ENVELOPES WITH CORRECT MONEY ARE TO BE RETURNED ON PHOTO DAY ONLY

PLEASE DO NOT SEND IN BEFORE THAT DAY

All children will receive an order form pack Friday 1 March

Packs range in price from $18 - $37. There are 7 options you can choose from depending on how many photos you require.

** Sorry - No change available at the school office**

Each student will be given their own order form pack specific to their class.

Each student must hand his / her own envelope to the photographer on the photo day.

If the envelope is not presented the photo pack will not be included in the main delivery to the school.

Parents who want their children to have a Family Photo, need to collect a Family Photo envelope from the office from Friday March 1. The photographer will collect Family Photo envelopes on photo day and the children will be called to pose for those photos during either the morning or lunch recess.

Mt Martha Netball Club
pre season information. Registrations this year will be occurring online only. Dates and fees still to be confirmed, more information to follow.

Mornington Pirates Baseball Club
is having a ‘come & try baseball’ night on Wednesday 13th February 2013 from 5.30pm for 8 to 16 year old boys. We would like to invite any interested 8 – 16 year old boys to come on down for a free sausage sizzle. Wilson Reserve, Wilsons Rd, Mornington. For further information contact Club Secretary Craig Isbister 0409 822 739 or email morningtonbaseball@hotmail.com or www.mornington.baseball.com.au

Frankston Hockey Club
– Free Hockey Clinic for juniors at Peninsula Hockey Centre, Monash Uni, off Bloom St, Frankston. Clinics will run Thursday 14th, 21st & 28th Feb 6pm – 7pm. For more information contact Chris at: cwall89@live.com

Mornington Farmers Market
– Special‘ Health & Wellbeing’ month. Saturday February 9 8.30am – 1pm, Mornington Park, Schnapper Point Dve, (Mel Ref 104 D10). New produce includes local Summer vegetables, tomatoes, smoked salt blends, chemical free garlic, gluten free cakes & biscuits, fruit sorbet and much more.

For more information contact Janette on 0401 026 687.

BOOKCLUB

The first issue for 2013 will be sent home to you Monday 11 February. Please have your orders completed and returned to the school office no later than Thursday 14 February.
This Thursday 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 enrolment 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, a new 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 website.

http://www.cybersmart.gov.au

Mt Martha Primary School will also be hosting a series of Cybersafety presentations run by the AMCA (Australian Communications and Media Authority) for students from years 3-6, staff and parents on Thursday 14th and Friday 15th March. More information about these sessions will be provided in future editions of the Banksia Bulletin.

Sarah Forward, ICT Specialist Teacher

---

### Student Conveyance Allowance Application 2013 Private Car Travel

For a student attending a mainstream school to be granted a conveyance allowance a number of criteria must be met.

**Criterion 1 – The campus of the school attended must**

- be located outside the Conveyance Allowance Melbourne Metropolitan Boundary (MMB)

  (Exemptions do apply to some schools within the MMB. Please check with your school)

**Criterion 2 – The Student must**

- be a Victorian resident
- be of school age
- reside 4.8k or more by the shortest practicable route from the school/campus attended
- attend the nearest appropriate school at which admission is possible


Application forms can be collected from the school office and should be returned to the office no later than Friday 22nd February.

**2013 Conveyance Allowance Program (CAP) - Update**

In October 2012 it was announced that means testing was being introduced for all new applicants, effective from January 1, 2013. After receiving feedback from rural and regional Victoria, the Minister for Education announced in Parliament on 29th November 2012, that the means testing component of the CAP will be removed.

A revised conveyance allowance policy will be issued in due course along with the 213 Conveyance Application Form.
NETSPACE INTERNET SERVICE CODE OF PRACTICE

Student Agreement

Whilst enrolled as a student at Mt Martha Primary School, I agree to use the Netspace Internet Service in a responsible manner, but if I find myself in unsuitable locations I will immediately click on HOME, or turn the monitor OFF and inform the teacher.

When using the Netspace Internet Service at school I will:

- Only work on the web for purposes specified by my teacher
- Fully understand the process for using my Login Code and Password Code and only ever use that to access the web
- Not give out any personal information relating to myself, family or school friends
- Never send a person a picture without checking with my teacher
- Always have my teacher's permission before sending an Email
- Compose Email messages using only language that I understand and that is acceptable in my school
- Not respond to any messages that are unpleasant or make me feel uncomfortable
- Not use material from other websites unless I have permission from the person who created the material. If I am unsure I will check with my teacher
- Not use the Internet to frighten, annoy, threaten or bully another person
- Not download any material from the Internet unless approved by my teacher
- Not bring any programs or CDs from home to download and save to my or other students' files
- Follow school guidelines and procedures when preparing materials for publication on the web
- Be aware that the school will make random inspections of students' files throughout the school year

I understand that breaches of the rules will see me lose my Internet access rights for a period of time as determined by the school.

Student's name: ..................................................  Class: ...........

Student signature: .............................................  Date: ............../............./.............

PARENT/GUARDIAN AGREEMENT

Whilst my child .................................. is enrolled at Mt Martha Primary School, I agree to him/her using the Internet at school for educational purposes in accordance with the school Netspace Internet Service Code of Practice.

I understand that the school will provide adequate supervision and that steps have been taken to minimise risk of exposure to unsuitable material.

Parent/Guardian's name: ..........................................

Parent/Guardian's signature: .......................................  Date: ........../......./.....
Changes to the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) for 2013:

The EMA continues to help families on lower incomes with financial assistance to cover the cost of educational expenses including textbooks, stationery, uniforms and excursions for their child up until the age of 16.

From 2013, the Victorian Government is restructuring the EMA to better target financial support to families on lower incomes. Payments made direct to parents will be increased for eligible recipients at all year levels up to age 16, with an additional increase for parents with students in Years Prep and 7 in recognition of the additional costs at these transition points.

In 2013 the annual EMA payment for families with children in primary school (years 1-6) will receive a payment of $150. Families with children in secondary school (Year 8 up until the age of 16) will receive an annual payment of $250.

The School Start Bonus which was previously received by EMA families has been discontinued as a separate payment from 2013. However, additional funding has been incorporated into the EMA meaning that parents of children in Prep and Year 7 will receive boosted EMA payments of $200 and $300 respectively in those years.

From 2013, the EMA will no longer be paid 50/50 between the parent and the school. The 50% school portion of the EMA will no longer be paid to schools on behalf of parents. However, $62 million over four years will be redirected to the State’s most needy schools to assist families on lower incomes. These funds will form part of the school Student Resource Packages to be allocated at the local level.

New EMA payment option

From 2013, on the EMA application form you can choose to have your EMA payment;

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

The introduction of the new payment option to have the EMA payment directed to the school provides parents with extra flexibility to assist with budgeting towards education expenses.

Eligibility:

To be eligible for the EMA in 2013, you must:

- be either a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen; and
- be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004* or be a Veterans Affairs (TPI) pensioner or be a temporary foster parent.

* i.e – the parent/guardian must be the holder of a valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card.

The eligibility criteria must be met as at 29 January 2013 (Instalment One) and 15 July 2013 (Instalment Two).

Payment amounts - 2013:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Prep</th>
<th>Years 1 – 6</th>
<th>Year 7</th>
<th>Year 8 – Age 16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Instalment One</td>
<td>$140</td>
<td>$105</td>
<td>$210</td>
<td>$175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instalment Two</td>
<td>$60</td>
<td>$45</td>
<td>$90</td>
<td>$75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Total</td>
<td>$200</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>$250</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Student year level (or age for ungraded and special school students) will determine the amount payable. Parents of students turning 16 years in 2013 are paid on a pro rata basis.

Contact: School Office for an EMA application form and to lodge your application. The closing date for EMA application forms to be submitted to the school is 28 February 2013.
Hello MMPS families – another school year has begun. I hope that you all had a wonderful Summer break. The PTA is looking forward to another wonderful year with lots of enjoyable events for the children and families. The PTA would like to welcome the new MMPS families who are starting this year!

Please note that unfortunately the 'Family Picnic' evening scheduled for the 22nd of February will have to be cancelled. This is due to the restrictions placed on teaching staff by the union bans.

PTA are meeting tonight and we will be discussing the up and coming events for this term and we will be able to confirm events to be held after this time.

Contact List – If you would like to be able to help with certain events being held at the school then this is a fantastic list to put your name on. 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 Judy Beckworth (Principal). If you were a part of this contact list last year there is no need to fill out a new form. This list was a fantastic success last year.

Jaala Mayer
PTA President.

Yes I would love to be a part of the volunteer data base -

Name:____________________________________________________________

Child/ren's name:____________________________________________________

Email Address:______________________________________________________
Mornington and District Christmas Hamper Committee

Incorporating: The Giving Trees

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

AWARDED TO: Mt Martha Primary School

In recognition of your generous support in assisting the Committee to provide food hampers, toys to the needy families of our community. Thank you for your generous donations.

The money went towards purchasing food and gifts for the needy of Mornington.

Signed: [Signature]

Date: 21/1/2013
Parking Awareness Program

This year our Ranger Team will again be involved in a Parking Awareness Program, the program aims to address illegal parking around schools during pick up and drop off times.

The main areas of concern as noted in the past are:

- **Parking overtime in the ‘drop off bays’,** these bays have been designed to allow parents to quickly drop off or collect their child and then move on, thereby allowing as many parents as possible a chance to use these desirable parking spots.
- **Parking on nature strips,** is prohibited as parking in this manner can impact on the ‘line of sight’ of vehicles or pedestrians, which is especially important in the vicinity of schools.
- **‘No stopping anytime’ areas are areas where it is not appropriate to leave a vehicle stopped, for even a short time. These areas are not considered a safe nor appropriate place to stop, or for a child to enter or exit a vehicle.**
- **Double parking,** can lead to traffic disruption and places the child who may be entering or exiting a double parked vehicle in a very dangerous position. Double parking even for a short time is not appropriate.
- **Stopped in a disabled parking bay,** these bays are for use of people who hold a disabled parking permit only and should not be used as ‘a drop off or pick up bay’.
- **Stopping in a bus zone,** bus zones are designated for buses only, using these bays even for a short time, can cause disruption to a bus, which in turn causes traffic congestion.
- **Stopping on a road with a yellow edge line,** these lines are placed where it is not appropriate to leave a vehicle stopped, for even a short time. These areas are not considered a safe nor appropriate place to stop, or for a child to enter or exit a vehicle.

The Rangers will be attending schools over the next few weeks and will be speaking to drivers that commit any of these offences, the purpose of this is to raise awareness and educate the school community. Once this awareness program has ceased the Rangers will then begin issuing infringements to offending drivers and the aim is to maintain a visible presence throughout the school year.

In order to achieve success it is important for the Shire to work with the school and hence it would be beneficial if an article could be included in any school news letter informing driver of the risk they pose to children through failing to obey the road rules.

If there are particular traffic management or safety issues that need to be addressed you can contact the Traffic & Road Safety department on 5950 1030 to discuss particular concerns.

If you require further advice you may contact me at any time on 1300 850 600.

Yours faithfully,

Paul Bonnici
Team Leader Shire Ranger
MORNINGTON PENINSULA SHIRE
1300 850 600
Mt Martha Primary School
Glenisla Dve
Mount Martha, 3934
Phone: 5974 2800    Absence Line 5973 7700
Fax: 5974 3634
E-mail: mount.martha.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au
Website: www.mtmarthaps.vic.edu.au
Office Hours 8.30am-4.15pm Monday–Friday

A friendly reminder to families and friends that Melrose Dve. is reserved for STAFF PARKING.

Mt Martha Primary School strives to provide a safe environment for students, staff and visitors. Please alert the office to any hazards.

NEXT WAVE Pty Ltd
Plumbing & Building Services
Renovations, Maintenance
Mark Resuggan - Director
nextwaveptyltd@bigpond.com
No Call Out Fee
Mob 0414 867 616 Ph/Fax 5974 2474

Dr Peter Scott Orthodontist
Children & Adult Specialist Orthodontist
Creating Beautiful Smiles
13 Beach St, Frankston 3199
PH: 9783 4511

Make-Up Artist & Eyelash Extension Technician.
Ever wished for longer, thicker & darker looking lashes? Well throw away your mascara and have some
Lash Extensions professionally applied.
Summer Special $100 for a Full Set.
Contact Kate 0438 640 787
4 Shona Place Mt Martha. kate.tread@gmail.com

‘Cleaning Divas’
Let us put the sparkle back into your property!
Experienced with Police checks.
Call Penny on 0414 289 353

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

John The Handyman
(I take pride in my work)
Mature, Reliable, & Courteous
Carpentry, Painting, Tiling, Plastering.
25 Years Experience, Cheap Rates.
No Job too small.
Ph: 5976 1957 or 0414 243 914

Leah Lamb Peninsula PT
Yummy Mums Booty group
Drop off - Train - Then Play! @ MMPS carpark
(Eco park) Mon, Wed, Fri 9.15 - 10.15am school terms.
Join a group or make your own - 10per class.
15min 1 on 1 initial weigh, measure & assessment.
SMS accountability/Healthy simple delish recipes
$20 per session - term payments - eftpos*
Contact Leah 0432 284 477

CAPEZIO Dancewear & Activewear
12-14 Milgate Drive, Mornington
Ph (03) 5975 0266 Fax (03) 5975 0233
shop@capezio.com w: www.capezio.com
Over 120 years of dance
10% off with this Advert

Any advertisements in this newsletter are not associated with Mount Martha Primary School operations and as such, Mount Martha Primary School accepts no responsibility for the quality of the product or service advertised.