This week at MMPS we have provided a vast array of activities and opportunities for our students and their families to celebrate Education Week. As I have “hot footed” around the school to be part of all the excitement, I have felt privileged to be Acting Principal of such a wonderful school. I thank all of our staff for offering these opportunities to our students and families and congratulate our community on their high level of involvement. (See Karen Walker’s full report on Education Week next page.)

**Farewell to Rachel Esler**

This week we are sad to be saying goodbye to Mrs Rachel Esler, teacher of 5B. Rachel is taking leave for the remainder of the year due to her husband’s interstate work commitments. We wish Rachel and her husband all the best for their move to Perth. We thank Rachel for being such a terrific teacher of the students in 5B and appreciate her outstanding efforts as team member of Year 5 and the Leading Teacher in charge of “KidsMatter” – our Mental Health initiative at MMPS. Today the students gave Mrs Esler a delightful farewell with a shared lunch and lots of treats and warm farewell wishes.

Starting from Next Monday Mrs Sumintra Sharma will be teaching 5B through to June 28th (final day of Term 2). Mrs Sharma is well known to our school as a very experienced and competent CRT. From the start of Term 3 through to the end of 2013, Mrs Laila Contini will be teaching 5B. Mrs Contini is currently teaching ICT to all class levels at our school. Due to commitments with the ICT program, including writing reports for over 700 students, Mrs Contini is completing this semester as the ICT teacher. Rachel’s responsibilities in her Leading Teacher role will now be fulfilled by Mrs Karen Marsh.

We know that Mrs Sharma and Miss Contini will do an excellent job of teaching the students in 5B for the remainder of the year, and that Mrs Marsh will continue the KidsMatter leadership role most capably.

**Year 2s – Environmental Science Activities**

Thank you to the Year 2s for inviting me to their Environmental Rotational Activities last Friday.

The activities were:
- Paper making
- Construction using recycled materials
- Scientific experiments all related to the Estuary

I was very impressed with the students’ knowledge of environmental issues. These messages were well articulated by the students during the session (see page 3).

**Banksia Bulletin – The long and the short of it!**

We are going to make some changes in an attempt to streamline the Banksia Bulletin to reduce the overall amount of reading material as well as the paper used for its publication. We are going to alternate between a “big” newsletter and a “small” newsletter on a fortnightly basis. The “big” newsletter will include editorials from the Principal and/or Assistant Principals, Year Level reports, Maths quizzes, details of up and coming PTA events, Teacher profiles etc. The “small” newsletter will be a skeleton version with the calendar dates and reminders only. We will try to fit it on one doubled sided A4 page. It is important we promote sustainable practices at MMPS and the “big” and “small” versions of the BB should significantly reduce paper usage. Starting from next week we will have a short version of the BB, followed by a longer version the following week. We are also currently investigating ways we could move over to electronic access/delivery of the BB in preference to printed versions being handed out to all families.

**Punctuality**

After writing about punctuality in the newsletter last week, I am pleased to say that a number of our students are trying very hard to improve their punctuality in the mornings and arrive at school in plenty of time to get organised before the bell. Keep up the good effort.

**Pam Anderson, Acting Principal.**
Education Week

Education Week is celebrated from 19-25 May 2013 when kindergarten programs and government schools throughout Victoria will open their doors to parents and their broader communities through activities that showcase their programs and achievements.

Our week at Mount Martha Primary School started with very excited prep students. On Monday the prep students invited their Grandparent’s or a special friend to school. The Grandparents were shown around the school by their grandchildren. It was hard to believe these students have only been at school for 15 weeks when you heard their amazing descriptions of the school and what they are learning. The Grandparents also got to enjoy some healthy morning tea prepared by the students and participate in a range of activities in the classrooms.

On Wednesday the whole school participated in “Gold For Green Day”. During Term 2 the school’s ‘through line’ of inquiry has been based around sustainability. Students came to school dressed in green and donated a gold coin towards the purchase of a worm farm. The students were also encouraged to walk or ride to school, bring a rubbish free lunch and write a pledge to the environment. We were fortunate on the day to have the assistance of parents, volunteers from BERG, Franklyn Scholar and Parks Victoria assisting on the day. Preps continued to plant our school forest on the oval banks with assistance from the Year 3 and 4 students. Year 1 students planted around the school. Year 2 students were mulching their playground and planting in the planting boxes outside their building and in the Sensory Garden. Year 3 students listened to a guest speaker from Parks Victoria speak about projects that students can participate in, including the Hooded Plover Project. Year 5 students planted areas of the Melrose car park and Year 6 students were presenting environmental messages to students across the school. It was a fabulous day, congratulations to Mrs Spiridis for organising such a wonderful day and to all those involved.

This week has also seen many potential new families come through the school on tours Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. It is with great pride that Pam, Hugh and I have taken these families around the school to see all of the fantastic learning opportunities our students have on a daily basis. The feedback from those on the tours has been very impressive. They have enjoyed walking around the school and experiencing the lovely atmosphere at MMPS.

Other activities during Education Week have included parent visits to Year 1 to assist in making sustainable backyards from recycled bits and pieces. Parents also assisted the Year 2 and 3 students with their Inquiry Topic. Year 4 had an incursion from South East Water and a maths and literacy morning. Year 5 students had a maths morning and the Year 6 students had students from Mornington Secondary College come and work with them as peer tutors on the mathematical topic of fractions. Our week of busy activities will finish tomorrow with a preps maths morning, Year 3 Incursion ‘Wild Action’. District cross country and National Walk to School Day. Thank you to all the members of our community who visited the school for all of the activities during this week.

Karen Walker, Assistant Principal.

The Travelsmart Committee seeks Council support on footpaths

The Mt Martha Primary School TravelSmart committee is appealing to the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council to install several footpaths on key student travel routes. These have been identified through mapping of student residence and observing students at travel times over a number of years.

We are seeking support from parents and community members for sealed footpath access on the following routes:

- Dominion Road - Bay Road to Glenisla Drive West
- Orana Drive - Walara Drive to Legacy Drive
- Glenisla Drive Eastern section - Dominion Road to Melrose Drive.
- Ferrero Grove to Dickinson Grove

Currently our TravelSmart statistics show an increase of 20% in those choosing healthier alternatives. This has been achieved through the finalisation of one route and campaigning only. With further infrastructure support around footpaths we would envisage a further increase. This would have profound effects on parking around the school and would create a wonderful community atmosphere as students walk and talk their way to a better start to their day.

Start the conversation as the school approaches the council. Stay tuned for updates!

Thank you for your support.

TravelSmart Committee.
Year Two have been busy!! Over six weeks we have been…..

Designing and making toys was really fun. It didn’t cost any money because we used recycled things. I made a bunny out of bottles, boxes and lids. It was hard work thinking of what toy to make. It was hard finding the ‘bits and bobs’ that I needed to make my doggy.  Ashlyn and Ginger 2C.

We did a science experiment to show what the estuary water would look like if we drop rubbish and it goes down the drains. We are observing the glass jars with things in. The jars have wrappers, food, metal, oil and other things. Charlie T and 2C.

We all made a piece of recycled paper. Thank you to Mrs Dabbs, Mrs Nelson and Mrs Anderson for helping us. It was disgusting when we put our hands in the slurry! The recycled paper had glitter and paint to colour it. Getting the slurry onto the deckle was really tricky. We didn’t want it to be too thick or too thin. Chiara, Charlie B, Elizabeth and 2C.

Safety before and after school – Eco Park
We have become aware that some children are playing in Eco Park prior to school commencing. Could parents please ensure that when they drop children off in the morning that the children enter the school grounds. If your child/ren ride or walk to school please have a chat to them about going directly to school and not stopping to play. Staff are not able nor expected to supervise children playing in Eco Park before or after school.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.
Hugh Obrien, Assistant Principal.

Teacher Questions
Mrs Anderson - Acting Principal

Favourite colour? Red

Celebrity crush? Leonardo De Caprio

Favourite TV show? Downton Abbey

Favourite movie/book? Life Of Pi

Previous job? Receptionist

Do you have a pet? Golden Labrador

Birthday? May 30

Why did you become a teacher? Grandfather was Headmaster of a small country school. When we visited him he would let us go into the school and I decided I would like to be a teacher and help children learn.

Favourite food? Italian

Favourite drink? English Breakfast Tea
SPORTS NEWS

Winter Days / Safety

As we are now having a few colder days, students need to wear appropriate clothing and footwear for PE lessons. The School Gym is not heated and can be cold during the day. Wearing a jumper/jacket is advisable as they can always be removed as students warm up. Appropriate footwear is an essential part of the PE program. Wet footpaths and rain on concrete surfaces makes the need for footwear with good grip an important component of our Health and Safety for children.

Winter Sports

Next Friday our school teams will be taking to the fields/courts to have a friendly practice match against Osborne Primary School. The children have a chance to work as a team in their chosen sport and to encourage others to participate. These matches are a good warm up, ready for our District Winter Lightning Premiership later in the term. Good luck teams and have fun!

Cameron Sweatman, Physical Education Teacher.

BOOK FAIR

Monday 27th to Friday 31st May. Mt Martha Primary School is hosting a Book Fair. This special event celebrates books and reading and gives children, parents, teachers and community members the opportunity to purchase quality books. The fair will be set up in the Staff Centre and will be visited by each class at their allocated time on Monday and Tuesday during school hours. From Wednesday we encourage you to drop in and take a look at what’s on offer during the following times:

Wednesday 29th 8.30 - 9.30am and 3 - 4pm
Thursday 30th 8.30 - 9.30 and 3 - 4pm
Friday 31st 8.30 - 9.30am only

A percentage of the proceeds from the sales of these books directly contributes to raising funds for the school to purchase many more valuable resources for our children’s literacy pleasure. This is a great opportunity to have a leisurely browse at some of the great books available.

Georgina, Bookclub Coordinator.

STUDENT INJURY INSURANCE

As the Department does not provide personal accident insurance for students, it is timely to remind parents and guardians that they are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any transport costs. Some commercial insurers offer reasonably low cost accident insurance policies that might be something families may wish to arrange.
Here are some ways you can enjoy Maths with your family.

**Family and friends** (Prep – Year 2)

You will need

- paper and coloured pencils, textas and crayons
- a tape measure

What to do:

Draw a picture of your family on your paper.

1. Name them.
2. Who is the biggest?
3. Who is the smallest?
4. Make a sentence about it.

Measure yourself. How many centimetres tall are you?

Some more to do:

Draw a picture of yourself and 3 of your friends.

1. Who has the longest hair? Put a circle around that person.
2. Who has the smallest feet? Put a square around that person.
3. Who has the biggest smile? Put a cross under that person.

**Fun with time** (Year 3 & 4)

You will need:

- A calendar
- Pen or pencil

What to do:

1. Use a calendar to help you.
2. Which months have the most Sundays?
3. Which month has the most public holidays?
4. How many days is it from Labour Day until the Queen’s Birthday?
5. What is a Leap Year? Is this year a Leap Year? How do you know?
6. Find our what day the birthday of each family member falls on.

**Garden patterns** (Year 5 & 6)

You will need:

- paper and pencil
- counters, buttons or coins

What to do:

1. The gardener, to make the job interesting, specialised in planting in patterns. When laying out a rose bed she managed to plant seven rose bushes so that they formed six lines with three bushes in each line. How did the gardener do it? (Use the counters to practise)
2. The gardener then found a way to plant nine trees so that there were four lines with three trees in each line. What did this arrangement look like?
3. How long did it take you to work this problem out?

Try the puzzle on someone else.

Donna Gadsby, Maths Curriculum Leader.
Term 2 Events -

**Book Fair** - This is a great opportunity for the children to look at and purchase some wonderful books - whilst supporting the school. Children will be able to go with their classes to view the books on - Monday 27th and Tuesday the 28th of May. The Book Fair will be open to children and parents to make purchases on Wednesday 29th, Thursday 30th at 8.30am-9.30am and 3.00pm-4pm, and on Friday the 31st of May 8.30am-9.30am only.

Please join us at our next meeting scheduled for the Wednesday 29th of May, 7pm in the Staff Centre; it is a great opportunity to stay in touch with what is happening within the school and also an excuse to have chocolate and bubbles midweek!

Look forward to seeing you there.

**Wow, what a week of wild winter weather we have had! Remember to take care on the roads especially around the school - we would not want to put our children in danger with these horrible driving conditions.**

Jaala Mayer - PTA President

*Your feedback would be greatly appreciated - we have had a lot of discussion over whether to continue with the very popular Father's Day Breakfast or have a Father's Day Stall. Asking all MMPS Dads and children, please circle which activity you would prefer. Please return the form to the office by Friday 24th of May (tomorrow).
WORKING BEE!

Mt Martha Primary School is having its 1st Working Bee for 2013 and we need YOU please!

Date: Saturday June 15 2013.

Time: 9am - 12pm.

Location: Mt Martha Primary School Grounds

Jobs to be completed:

"In the Garden Project" — we want to continue to refine this area of our school grounds. There will be general pruning and mulching tasks in the garden and around the school. General tidy up tasks – relocating rocks to dry river bed and weeding. We would like to use the this Working Bee for general tidy up and maintenance tasks.

All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Morning tea and drinks provided.

Please complete this attached slip and return to the office so we can plan and organise the tasks on the day. If you can only make it for an hour it would be appreciated. If you can bring along useful tools like a wheelbarrow, spade, shovel, secateurs, gloves etc that would also be very beneficial.

☐ .................................................................................................................................

Yes, I am able to help out on Saturday June 15 at the school Working Bee.

My name is ____________________________________ and

my child/ren’s names are

____________________________________

Please return to the office as soon as possible.

Hope to see you there! Jenny Spiridis and Hugh O’Brien.
Active kids are healthy kids

WALK SAFELY TO SCHOOL DAY

Friday 24 May 2013
walk.com.au

Take the Challenge

Download the FREE APP

WIN GREAT PRIZES

SUPPORTED BY THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT AND ALL STATE, TERRITORY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
Found: A small bike has been left at the school. For more information please contact the school office 5974 2800.

Parents and carers contribute to traffic problems around our school. Please help by obeying the parking restriction signs, keeping clear of the children’s crossing and never double-parking outside the school.

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.

Students are responsible for locking their bike to the bike rack.
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