Children’s Week Celebrations – LET’S LAUGH, LEARN and PLAY.

This is a time to CELEBRATE children’s rights, talents, skills and abilities.

When the students were asked how they would like to acknowledge the school’s 30th Anniversary year they chose to celebrate the many talents of our students. So what better time to do this than Children’s Week!

This year Children’s Week is so special at Mount Martha Primary School it is being extended to include celebration activities over not one week but two/three or more! There are plenty of other activities being planned by teachers and students. More information about those in the next edition of the Banksia Bulletin.

Choir performance at our next whole school assembly Monday 29th October
Year 6 Market Wednesday 31st October
Carnival rides Wednesday 31st October

2.00pm - 3.30pm after lunch for MMPS students ONLY
3.30pm – 5.00pm open to the public

I extend a friendly reminder to families about next Wednesday being a student free day. This curriculum day is a full day of learning on Mathematics for our teachers.

Judy

Thank You

A total $2109.95 was raised for State School’s Relief through the casual dress day last Tuesday.

Donation from Aussie School Photos $1384.00
Gold coin donation form students and staff $ 725.95

These funds will provide urgently needed uniform items for students in need.
Well done!

Kids In Transition Program for Prep to Year 2 Students

This term we are once again offering the KIT program for children whose parents have separated or divorced. The confidential and fun sessions give the children opportunity to explore their feelings in a safe environment. Karli Ray, social worker, will be running the sessions co-facilitated by me. The group will be a maximum of ten and will meet once a week for an hour over several weeks. If you are interested in your child participating please complete the slip below and return it to me via the school office or classroom teacher. If you would like more information please call me at school on 5974 2800.

Mary O’Brien, Wellbeing Support Teacher.

KIT Program for Prep to Year 2 students

Name of parent/s ………………………………………… Contact number: …………………
Name of child or children ………………………………………………………………………….
……………………………………………………………… Class: ……………………………..

I would like my child/children to participate in the KIT Program.

Parent signature:……………………………………………………...
Operation Christmas Child

Thank you to all of the families who took part in the SRC’s Operation Christmas Child collection. As a school we put together exactly 100 complete boxes. These were collected by very thankful volunteers on Monday. The donations collected at the Prep to Year 3 concerts will be used to cover the postage of the boxes. Well done everyone, what an amazing effort!

Megan Kohlman, SRC.

Free to good home
Silkworms!

Mrs Moncrieff has hundreds of silkworms this year and she would love to give some away! All you need to own these lovely little pets is a mulberry tree (silkworms only eat mulberry leaves) and a shoe box. Their entire life cycle lasts for only 8 - 10 weeks and the eggs can be kept in the shoe box until next Spring. Please come to see Mrs Moncrieff in her Prep room to collect some new pets – and so she does not have to feed them to her chooks!!!

Julie Moncrieff, Prep Teacher.

Mt Martha Lions Christmas Raffle

Coming home to you soon will be a booklet of raffle tickets for you to sell. First prize is a trailer load of goodies. There will be an added incentive this year for those who sell all their tickets and complete and return the accompanying voucher. They will go into the draw for a $25 Rebel voucher.

HELP PLEASE

Families who know their children will be changing schools for 2013 are asked to let us know at the school office. It is helpful for the school to know enrolments at year levels to inform planning for staffing and accommodation needs. Your help with this is appreciated.
Calling All Parents!

Researchers from RMIT University, Monash University and University of South Australia are looking for parents of children aged 5-12 years to complete an online survey. The survey will take between 30-60 minutes.

The study is investigating parents’ opinions about different treatments for ADHD. The researchers are looking for a diverse range of parents to complete the survey, including parents who have a child with ADHD as well as those who do not. All the information you need to complete the questionnaire is provided.

We would love to hear what YOU have to say.

Please go to the website for more information and to take the survey:

http://www.rmit.edu.au/psychology/adhd-opinions

If you have any questions, please contact Cara Miles at c.miles@student.rmit.edu.au or Leah Brennan at leah.brennan@monash.edu or on 9903 0941.

Year 6 Market Day
Is coming!

Many FUN and Funky Stalls will be run by Year 6 students on Wednesday 31st October (11.30am - 1pm)
The children will be busy learning new skills while they make their products and organise their stalls.

BUT WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

Can you donate: your time to supervise cooking and sewing during school hours, or at the Market to support the Sausage Sizzle.

material or old jeans for making bags, cottons, soap or products to sell at the pre-loved stall.

Please see one of the Year 6 teachers if you can support our Year 6 Market!
Family Maths Problems
Here are some ways you can enjoy Maths with your family.

Ad Watch
You will need
• Television, pencil, paper and colour pencils
What to do
1. Watch commercial television for half an hour (that’s easy).
While you are watching, write down what each advertisement is about (or get someone to help you).
How many advertisements altogether?
Group the advertisements, for example ads about food, ads about toys, ads about cards.
This is a bit harder
Draw a picture or graph showing how many of each type of advertisement there were.

Big basketful
You will need
• a shopping basket, supermarket bag or small carton
What to do
1. Fill your basket or bag with items of different shapes and sizes from the kitchen cupboard.
2. Dad or mum guesses how many items are in it. You both check.
3. Then dad or mum takes a turn to fill the basket quickly and you guess. No looking! Then you both check.
4. Was anyone right?
5. Whose guess was nearest to the actual number (either over or under)?
6. Together, can you work out a good way to stack the basket so as to fit in extra items?

Area challenge
You will need
• measuring tape and/or ruler
• paper, pencil and a calculator
What to do
This activity can be played one-to-one, or in pairs or teams.
Instead of just looking at something in your house and then measuring it, you are going to reverse the process. What you are going to do is to ask everyone to leave the room, secretly measure an object and then challenge your family or friends to guess which object in the room has that area!
For instance, a telephone book measures 24 cm wide X 27.5 cm long, which makes 660 square centimetres. Other flat objects, big or small, that you could choose include doors, windows, newspapers and cornflake packets – there are heaps of possibilities around you….

Something extra
You can make it harder by limiting the number of guesses or the time allowed to guess correctly as people get better at the challenge, or by not naming the room the object is in.
Donna Gadsby, Maths Curriculum Leader.
Education Maintenance Allowance - information for parents currently receiving EMA

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).

Please see over the page for payment amounts....
Payment Amounts - 2013:

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*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**.

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**Bringing Up Great Kids**

A parenting program for building good relationships with children

The Bringing Up Great Kids parent program is a fun six week parenting program for parents of children up to the age of 10.

**When:** Thursday 1\textsuperscript{st} November–Thursday 6\textsuperscript{th} December

**Time:** 9.30am – 12.00pm

**Where:** Wallaroo Community House

6 Wallaroo Place, Hastings

**Cost:** FREE & morning tea provided!!

**Contact:** Andrea Gerolemou 5971 9444

**Email** a.gerolemou@goodshepvic.org.au
Hello MMPS Families,

Term 4 Events

Recycled Clothing Night - Thursday 18th October - TONIGHT! I'm looking forward to sipping bubbly, eating treats, shopping and catching up with friends. If you have not already purchased a ticket, it's not too late - you can buy a ticket tonight at the door $20.

After much discussion and organising the Twilight Market Committee and PTA are excited to announce that the date for the rescheduling of the rides is - Wednesday 31st October 2pm-5pm. The rides will be available for the students to go on during the afternoon - in their year levels and then available to students, siblings, friends and families after the bell from 3.30pm - 5pm. Wristbands will be available to purchase, please see the attached order form. Previously ordered wristbands and original order forms have been stored securely in the school safe. All prepaid wristband orders will be distributed on the day. The much anticipated Zorb Balls will be there, together with the large inflatable slide, the small inflatable slide, the large inflatable challenge, the cup and saucer and the chair-o-plane.

Oaks Day Lunch - Thursday 8th November - To help make this day even more successful as a fundraising event, we are looking for businesses who can donate a prize for the raffles and silent auction to be held on the day, please contact Amy Chinnick via email at amy@zooloo.com.au. Remember this is the second biggest fundraiser for the school.

Parent’s Morning Tea - We will be celebrating the end of year by gathering together to catch up, eat Christmas treats and enjoy a cuppa on Wednesday 5th December in the Staff Centre after school drop off. Look forward to seeing you there!

Our next PTA meeting is on Tuesday 23rd October - 7pm in the Staff Centre. We will be starting to talk about events for next year so if you have any ideas please come along. Hope to see you then.

Jaala Mayer, PTA President.

Wrist Band Order Form

Name of Child __________________________________________________________

Class ____________

Number of Wristbands ($20 each) ____________________ Total Paid _________

Order forms are to be returned to the office by 4pm Friday 26th October 2012.

(Please note that wristbands are non refundable)
Lost Property

The new process for lost property has been trialled for three terms and feedback from a small number of parents tells us it might not be working as intended. A couple of parents who would like the school to revert to the previous system have volunteered to spend time regularly checking through the collected items and returning them to owners. This system requires the volunteers to refer to a list with individual student names and class code. No personal information would be shared with the volunteers. Providing parents are comfortable with this arrangement we can return to one central collection area for lost property. Any parent who has concerns about volunteers carrying out this task must phone the office or email the school on mount.martha.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au no later than Thursday 25th October as it is intended to commence this trial as soon as possible.

Bakers Delight ‘Dough Raiser’ Promotion

Bakers Delight Bentons Square are offering to donate 5% of sales from Mt Martha Primary School families back to the school. Please let their staff know that you are from Mt Martha Primary School at the beginning of the sale and they will do the rest. Please see the flyer in last week’s Banksia Bulletin (this can be viewed on our website) or at the school office for more information about this promotion.
“TWILIGHT” WORKING BEE!

Mt Martha Primary School is having its final working bee for 2012 and we need YOU please!

Date: Fri 9 November

Time: 3.45pm till 6.30pm

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 are hoping to create the “surfboard” maze using planks that have been decorated in Art lessons. There will be other tasks to complete as well.

All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Snacks 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 such as a wheelbarrow, spade, shovel, secateurs, gloves, saws etc that would also be very beneficial.

Yes, I am able to help out on Friday 9 November 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
The Mount Martha Community Information Guide is now open for consultation. We would like to hear your thoughts on your township, what’s important to the community, your bushfire risk and what information you feel should be included in your Community Guide.

Community session details:
Date: Saturday 27 October 2012
Time: 11am-1pm (lunch and refreshments included)
Venue: Mount Martha Fire Station
6 Latrobe Dve
Mount Martha (Melways 151 A1)

Enquiries and RSVP: Call Jane on 9767 1888 or email j.fontana@cfa.vic.gov.au

Township Protection Planning:
• Is a set of documents and maps to help communities plan and prepare for bushfire
• Assists residents to make informed decisions in the event of an emergency
• Assists with Emergency Service response to a local emergency event
Mt Martha Uniting Church Community Fair, 109 Bay Rd Mt Martha. Saturday 17 November, 9am to 1.30pm. There will be stalls galore and special entertainment for the children. The Bendigo Community Bank will be funding the Jumping Castle.