Mt Martha Primary School strives to empower students to be active learners who make a positive impact in a changing world.

Principal Report

A huge welcome to our 2017 Prep students who started so well on Monday. Welcome also parents and families. The first day of school is always one to remember! They are quickly adapting to the school and classroom routines. Well Done!

Welcome to our 2017 Preps:

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<tr>
<th>PREP A</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Dixon</td>
<td>Mrs Trimnell</td>
<td>Ms O’Brien</td>
<td>Mrs Adcock</td>
<td>Mrs Moncrieff</td>
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<td>Asher</td>
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<td>Geordie</td>
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Meet The Teacher - It is great to see so many parents taking the opportunity to share information with the teachers at the Meet The Teacher evenings scheduled for next week. Bookings opened this week using the PTO booking system. Our first night is on Wednesday 15th February for Years 4,5 and 6 and Thursday 16th February for Years Prep, One, Two and Three.

School Council Elections 2017 - Nominations open on Monday 13th February for 3 parent vacancies on our school council. If you are an enthusiastic parent interested in getting more involved and having a say in what our school is doing, or know someone who is, we would love to hear from you. We are looking for people who are committed to improving the educational outcomes for all our students.

Effective councils have a broad range of experience, skills and expertise. Face-to-face and online training is also available to help councillors develop the skills and knowledge for the job. Parents find their involvement satisfying and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

Nominations close on Monday 20th February at 4pm and forms are available from school office. An election will be conducted should the number of nominations exceed the number of vacancies. Additional information regarding School Councils is included in this newsletter.

COMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY

Friday 10th
- Year 4 Beach Program
  04A & 04C
  9.30am — 2.30pm

Monday 13th
- Year 6 Beach Program
  Carnival
  9.30am — 2.30pm

Tuesday 14th
- Year 5 Beach Program
  Carnival
  9.30am — 2.30pm

Wednesday 15th
- Year 3 Beach Program
  03C & 03D
  9.30am — 2.30pm

- Meet The Teacher
  Years 4, 5 & 6
  Bookings are essential

Thursday 16th
- Year 3 Beach Program
  03A & 03B
  9.30am — 2.30pm

- Meet The Teacher
  Prep, Years 1, 2 & 3
  Bookings are essential

Friday 17th
- Prep Teddy Bears Picnic

- All Year 4s Beach Program
  9.30am — 2.30pm

Tuesday 21st - Tues 28th March
- Year 4 Triskills Dance Workshop commences

Wednesday 22nd
- PTA Meeting 7pm in Staff Centre all welcome
- Year 3/4 Film Production commences today

NEXT SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING TONIGHT
Thursday 9th February
at 6.45pm
in the Staff Centre
Student Health - We do our best to look after the health needs of our students. To assist us with this a reminder to update the school if any contact details have changed eg telephone numbers, emergency contacts, etc. Also please contact Lorraine at the school to supply updated asthma, anaphylaxis or other medical condition plans as required. A reminder also students should not be sent to school if they are unwell. They may be not in a state to participate in the program and there is a possibility that their illness may be spread to others. Thank you for your assistance.

Uniform Swap Box - It is great to see our students wearing their uniform. A reminder that there is a swap box of donated uniform items in the gym foyer. If your child has grown out of their uniform the swap box gives the opportunity to swap it for a larger size. An honesty system applies. Thank you to the parents that have donated items. It can certainly be very handy!

A couple of reminders - While they enjoy the walk to or from school, dogs are not permitted on the school grounds. In addition, in the interests of pedestrian safety, the staff car park is not used to be used as an entry to or exit from the school. Drivers may not be expecting pedestrians and we want to minimise the chances of an accident. Again thank you for your help.

Kind regards

Martin Page

FIRST AID NEWS

Head Lice News

Head lice are still around. Please check your child’s hair for live eggs or lice. Should you find any, there are two choices of treatment:

Chemical: Treat and comb with a head lice comb to remove the head lice and eggs; and repeat in 7 days.

Non-chemical: Use conditioner and comb with a head lice comb to remove the head lice and eggs and repeat every 2 days until no live lice have been found for 10 days.

Head lice need 14 - 17 days to mature to egg laying stage, so if you leave a comb in the shower or bath and comb through the conditioner when you wash your hair each week, you will remove the lice before they are able to lay more eggs and we would soon be rid of this itchy problem.

Thanks for your co-operation.

Lorraine Stuart

First Aid Officer
School Council Election 2017 - Information for Parents

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 Training (DET) 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 DET 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. DET 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 i 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 will issue a Notice of Election and Call for Nominations following the commencement of 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.

DET 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 the Martin Page, Principal, for further information.
Emergency Management Plan

Every year, in the first couple of weeks of the school year, we practise our Emergency Bushfire Lockdown procedure so that children and staff are familiar with our processes if such an event was to occur. The Prep teachers conduct their own practise with the new Prep children once they are a little more settled into school.

The assembly areas for our Bushfire Lockdown procedures are:

- Block B (BER) building which has a toilet and running water.
- The Staff centre which also has a toilet and running water
- The library/IT room which has access to the internal toilets and running water.

(All of these locations are air-conditioned).

The children practise moving quickly, quietly and carefully, under the instruction of staff, to these 3 locations.

Staff have been briefed as to their roles and these include:

- Accounting for all people on site
- Keeping the children calm, occupied and hydrated
- Maintaining vigilance around the buildings (see below)
- Listening to ABC 774 for updates
- Taking advice from police and CFA

Up to 10 staff are selected each year to be Fire Wardens who don protective gear and patrol outside the buildings to monitor our grounds for embers/spotfires during our Bushfire lockdown procedure.

We will endeavour to keep our school community informed of the situation at the school via our SMS messaging system and our MMPS Skoolbag app.

The CFA advises that parents do not drive to pick up their children from school as this could be hazardous. Being on the road is not safe because of disorientation and radiant heat. The roads need to be clear for fire vehicles too. If there were a fire the best place to protect against radiant heat is inside a building.

Regular practices are conducted throughout the year for other emergency situations. These include Evacuation offsite, Evacuation onsite and Lock Down in classroom procedures. Please inform your child’s class teacher immediately if these practices might be upsetting for your child.

Hugh O’Brien

Assistant Principal
SWIMMING SPORTS

In a few weeks is our Year 3-6 School Swimming Sports at Mornington Secondary College which is a highlight for all involved either swimming or cheering? Students are encouraged to wear their house colours to the event and support their team to see who will be crowned House Swimming Champions for 2017.

On the day of both events, I will need some assistance from parents to act as finishing judges. Please consider this request and make sure you see me pool side on the day. Your help would be much appreciated.

Dates are:

Year 5/6: Thursday 23rd Feb
Year 5 – 11:45 till 1:30
Year 6 – 9:45 till 11:30

Year 3/4: Friday 24th Feb
Year 3 – 9:45 till 11:45
Year 4 – 12:00 till 1:45

Parents/Spectators: Mornington Secondary College has requested that if you are intending to attend this event at their pool, could you please park your car at Bunnings and walk across to the pool? Thank you.

Border - Green
Curry - Blue
Flintoff - Red
Gardner - Yellow

JOGGING CLUB

Jogging Club will start Tuesday 28th Feb. Every student has either the same card or a new card ready for 2017. Prep students will be taken around the track during a PE lesson so they become familiar with the route that needs to be followed. The track is as follows:

Start at Basketball courts near prep playground, run around all 3 basketball courts and head down the ramp towards the oval. Running around the oval on red track, continuing up past the gym on path past prep playground and down to get cards marked off.

Certificates for milestones in Jogging Club will be presented at year level assemblies. Let’s make a huge effort to see more students jogging the track this year!!

AMART COMMUNITY KICKBACKS PROGRAM

Our school has been selected to participate in the Amart Community Kickbacks Program. Under this program, the school can earn 5% of your purchases at Amart Sports as in-store credit to spend on our school sports programs.

All you need to do is join Team Amart, select our school from the list of participating groups and swipe your loyalty card every time you make a purchase at Amart Sports. You'll receive access to great member prices and other benefits and the school will receive a 5% credit from everything you spend.

Thanks for your support.
School Sport Victoria Team Online Registration Process.

12 Years and Under

Registration to trial for AFL, Netball, Soccer and Basketball for state teams has traditionally started with nominations through their school to attend district trials.

School Sport Victoria (SSV) have advised that this process has now changed to an online registration process. District trials will no longer be held.

The SSV website [www.ssv.vic.edu.au](http://www.ssv.vic.edu.au) provides important information and a video on the process as well as application forms and must be visited.

Key points include:

1. Parents must consult with their Sport Teacher at the school to ensure their child has the skill level to trial and represent their school.
2. It is imperative that teachers will decide on your child’s capability of representing their school at a state level before registering online.
3. This discussion with the school Sport Teacher is necessary as all students MUST get the Sport Teacher/Coordinator and the Principal signature on their registration form prior to attending a trial.
4. The Eventbrite ticket, application form signed by the Principal and Sport Teacher/Coordinator and proof of payment must be handed to the Division Trial Coordinator on the day of the trial.
5. Applicants will be notified of arrangements for the Division trial once registrations have closed.

Note: Registration for Division trials close on Friday March 10th, 2017.

Mr Sweatman, PE Teacher.

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**SCHOOL PHOTOS - THURSDAY 9 March 2017**

**CLASS & INDIVIDUAL PHOTOS**

Class and individual photographs of all students will be taken at school on Thursday 9 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 on Thursday 23 February. Packs range in price from $25-$45. There are 8 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.

**FAMILY PHOTOS**

Parents who want their children to have a Family Photo, need to collect a Family Photo envelope from the office from Thursday 23 February. 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.

*Correct uniform with attention to detail please.*
**Student Conveyance Allowance – 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.

**APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE AND NEED TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE BY WEDNESDAY 1ST MARCH, 2017**

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**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS**

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government’s commitment to breaking the link between a student’s background and their outcomes.

**CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)**

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, encouraging a deeper understanding of how the world works, teamwork, discipline, and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- $125 for primary school students
- $225 for secondary school students.

**HOW TO APPLY**

Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from [www.education.vic.gov.au/csef](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/csef)

**MORE INFORMATION**

For the CSEF application closing dates and more information about the fund visit [www.education.vic.gov.au/csef](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/csef)
The Parenting Masterclass

How to raise independent kids

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- Michael Grose

Lose the bubble-wrap and step away from the helicopter!

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• Encourage independence
• Build strong, caring and cooperative family relationships
• Reduce anxiety
• Foster emotional intelligence

You’ll leave feeling empowered to move forward in raising your independent children.

Join us for our Parenting Masterclass

Date  Tuesday 28th February
Time  7–9pm
At   Mount Eliza Primary School
     1 Wooralla Drive, Mount Eliza

100% of the proceeds will be donated to The Smith Family, helping young Australians in need to transform their lives through education.

About Michael Grose

Michael has been sharing his insights and strategies with parents and teachers for more than 25 years. Michael has been the teacher and he’s been the parent. He’s written 10 award winning books including Thriving! and is currently touring Australia with his newest release Spoonfed Generation.

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