**COMING EVENTS**

**DECEMBER**

Friday 16th
- Year 4 Beach Day
- Year 6 Luna Park

Monday 19th
- Final Assembly 9.10am

Tuesday 20th
- Last day of school year. Students dismissed at 1.30pm

**FEBRUARY**

Wednesday 1st
- Year 1 - 6 students commence
- Prep Interviews

Thursday 2nd
- Prep Interviews

Friday 3rd
- Prep Interviews

Monday 6th
- 2017 Preps commence 9.00am - 2.15pm

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

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**Principal Report**

As the 2016 school year draws to a close I would like to congratulate all our students for their fantastic achievements this year - the students should be very proud of their active participation in the school program and the achievements they have made! A huge thank you to our terrific staff for all their work in the school. Thank you to our wonderful parent community whether it be on School Council, PTA, helping the school in classrooms, excursions, camps and other activities, planning and organising graduation or just being great supporters of Mount Martha Primary School – your contribution is always greatly appreciated.

**Staffing for 2017** - We have a number of staff changes for 2017. We will be welcoming the following new teachers to Mount Martha Primary School for 2017 - Sarah Bell, Alice Eadie and Daniel Vercoe. Alicia Latify and Lucinda Cooper are returning to Mount Martha PS after time on Family Leave. Jess Dixon is also returning from leave. Steph Otte will be on Long Service Leave for the first half of 2017. We will be farewelling Paula Phillips who has been with us for term 3 and 4 term replacing Jess Dixon and Stephanie Van Hoof who has been with us two years teaching in Year 3. We thank them for their contribution to the students, staff, parents and Mount Martha Primary School community and wish them well for the future.

**Year 6 Graduation** - Our Year 6s will be celebrating their graduation in style tonight followed by an excursion to Luna Park tomorrow and their final farewell to the school at assembly next Monday. Congratulations and well done to our Year 6s on a great effort over their years at primary school. They have been outstanding role models and leaders in our school. We wish them every success for their secondary education and beyond and know they will take fond memories of Mount Martha Primary School with them.

**Last Day of School for 2016** - A reminder that school finishes on **Tuesday 20th December at 1.30pm**. On this day we will not be running a lunch break. Our middle “block” after recess will run from 11.30am to 1.30pm. Parents should consider if their child requires a slightly larger snack to get them through the additional class time.

**Start of School 2017** - School resumes for 2017 for students in Year 1 to Year 6 on **Wednesday 1st February**. 2017 Prep students will have interviews scheduled this week and a start in classes on **Monday 6th February**. Prep parents will receive a letter advising of their interview time and teacher during the holidays.

**Urgent - Library Books and Take Home Readers** - All library books and take home reading material should be returned to the classroom as soon as possible. Thank you for your help to preserve our collection of books for the students.

**Lost Property** - An urgent final reminder for the year to check our Lost Property section near the Art Room. Thank you.

**Final Assembly for 2016** - Our final assembly will be held on Monday 19th December at 9.10 am in the gymnasium. We hope to see many of our school community attend the farewell assembly for the 2016 school year.

I would like to wish everyone in our school community a safe, restful and happy holiday. I am really looking forward to another fantastic year in 2017!

Kind regards
Martin Page
Principal
Help stop the Summer Slide!

Did you know that when students don’t read and write over the summer holidays they can lose some of the important skills they have learnt during the school year? Research shows children who do not write over summer can fall behind up to six months before they begin school again the following year. Help to stop the “Summer slide” by making it a priority to keep students’ minds sharp and active. Encourage them to read for at least ten minutes each day, and write letters, postcards, lists, labels, stories or a diary.

Here’s some more ideas for maintaining the skills that students have developed over the school year!

- **Be a reader and writer yourself.** When you spend time reading books on the beach or even directions for how to put together the grill this summer, you demonstrate for your child that reading is both fun and useful.

- **Set aside a consistent time each day for reading.** Depending on your family’s schedule, reading time might be in the morning, afternoon or before bed. Whatever time you choose, stick to it, but also remember that flexibility around trips and special family events is OK.

- **Read aloud to your reader.** As school-aged children become better readers, parents often stop reading aloud to them. However, by reading more difficult books aloud to your reader, you help him learn new vocabulary words, concepts, and ways of telling stories or presenting information. You also enjoy the closeness of sharing a book with your child.

- **Connect read-aloud choices to summer activities.** Read your child books about camping, such as “Webster and Arnold Go Camping”, before or after a camping trip. When you read and discuss books about things your child has experienced, you help her learn important vocabulary and extend her understanding of experiences.

- **Allow your child to choose books for summer reading.** While it is important for your child to complete reading required by his school, it is equally important for him to read about topics that interest him, whether it is insects, dragons or a favourite fiction series.

- **Help your child select books at a comfortable level.** Listen to your child read. If he reads smoothly, uses expression and can accurately tell you what he read, the book is probably at a comfortable level. If you are having troubling judging, consult your local children’s librarian, who is likely to be an expert at matching books to readers. In addition, teach your child to use the “rule of thumb” in selecting books: if he makes five or more errors in reading a page of about 50 words, the book is too challenging.

- **Encourage your child not to limit summer reading to books.** Encourage your child to read the sports page to check up on her favourite sporting team or to read children’s magazines.

- **Read a book and watch the video together.** When you finish reading and viewing, discuss the similarities and differences and talk about which version you prefer. Many books, including “Stone Fox”, “Sarah, Plain and Tall” and “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory,” are available in movie versions.

- **Take books along on outings.** Pack books in your beach bag or picnic basket, and bring a stack on long car rides. You and your child can enjoy books together anywhere you go this summer.

**Encourage your child to write this summer, too.** From writing postcards to friends and relatives to keeping a journal while on a trip, summer presents unique ways for your child to write about his own experiences. Have your child pack a disposable camera on vacations or day trips and help him create a book about his experiences.
Community awareness

Last year during the Summer school holidays some of our school facilities were damaged by unknown persons. Damage included torn and burnt shade sails and broken windows. Teenagers were also seen on top of shade sails and up on the school roof which also suffered some minor damage.

We would ask that if you see a person/s damaging school property that you consider ringing the Mornington Police Station promptly on 5970 4900. Make the phone call discreetly and inform the officer on duty what is occurring at the school. **Please do not approach or confront the person/s doing the damage. Do not take photos of the person/s with your camera/phone.** You do not need to stay on the school premises to see if the Police attend.

Hopefully, if we take this simple step we may see a reduction in vandalism and damage over the school holiday period. Thank you for your assistance.

Facilities sub committee
HI FAMILIES,

Well here we are last post for the year! What a fun year it has been with some new activities that we have tried and some of the favourites that are always a hit. PTA is about community and fundraising and I think this has shown in every event we have held for our children and families. Flashback of this year’s events organised by PTA: 

Morning Tea for Prep Parents
Parent’s Movie Night
Mother’s Day Stall & Raffle
Hot Chocolate Day
Student Disco
Trivia Night
Scouts Raffle
Father’s Day Breakfast
Footy Day Lunch
New Prep Afternoon tea
Carnivalé

We hope you all enjoyed these activities and although not every event is about fundraising, we as a community did very well this year by raising over $35,000!! Thank you and well done families for supporting the PTA, School and of course your children, by coming along and joining in. The funds will be going towards the new bike shed which is currently being organised with the School Council. More will be clarified on this project early next year.

During the year I had to change to full time work and yes at times it has been tricky but being with a team of awesome people on the PTA is what it is all about. Knowing that as a team we don’t have to do every event and can share the load. We are all time poor these days but trust me it is all worth it and so rewarding. We would not be able to hold these events without the rest of the parent helpers that come along on the day to make each event a success. Being part of our Committee means you can be as involved as much or little as you like, there is no huge expectation and every bit helps. So come along to our meetings, even just to see what is being planned at the time and you may want to join in or just offer support and feedback.

A special thank you for supporting me this year and for all that they have done throughout the year by volunteering their time when possible:

Fiona Lowe - Vice President
Jo O’Reilly - Secretary
Jodi Simpson - Treasurer
Committee Members - Trish Pelt, Camille Savage, Michelle Pickford, Amy Chinnick, Ainslee Feehan, Caitlin Davies, Maria Arturi, Deanne Johnstone, Jemma McInerney & Damian Van Raay.

A special thank you to Sonia Barras who designs and creates the art work for all of our advertising, tickets, calendar and even my BB post each week so that it looks more interesting... so much appreciated for your time and effort, thanks Sonia! Also thank you to the lovely families who donate items for our raffles and auctions for which we are very grateful.

We especially need to thank our Principals, School Office Staff and Teachers for all their time and support with each event. It does add on to their already heavy workload but always done with a smile.

Again what a year and so nice to end on a high with the Carnivalé. I hope you all have a lovely, relaxing holiday and new year. I look forward to seeing you all in 2017!!

Cheers,

ELLE & THE PTA TEAM

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2017 CALENDAR
Available from the school office
Don’t miss out!!

Don’t forget your 2017 Calendar.
Beautifully designed with some great local photos. Great Christmas presents! Can be picked up from the School Office.

Don’t miss out!!
2017 TERM 1 IMPORTANT DATES

YEAR 1 - 6: Commence 9.00am Wednesday 1st February 2017

PREP INTERVIEWS: Wednesday 1st February, Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd February
Parents please attend with your child

PREPS START SCHOOL: Monday 6th February 9.00am - 2.15pm

PREPS START FULL DAYS: Monday 27th February 9.00am - 3.30pm

FEBRUARY OSHCP: OSHCP offers a service for parents requiring care for their Prep children during these 4 weeks of early finish times. To register for this service please contact Gillian Reid on 0407 438 858, or collect a registration form from the school office.

SUNSMART POLICY: Everyone is encouraged to be SUNSMART and the wearing of hats is compulsory until 1 May. Parents should supply their child with sunscreen to be kept in their school bag.

UNIFORM SHOP: PSW will reopen on Thursday February 2nd 3.00 - 4.00pm
Usual shop hours are Tuesday 8.45am - 9.45am & Thursday 3.00pm - 4.00pm

BANKSIA BULLETIN: The next publication of the Banksia Bulletin will be on Thursday 2nd February.

2017 SCHOOL TERMS

TERM 1 1st February to 31st March 2017
TERM 2 18th April to 30th June 2017
TERM 3 17th July to 22nd September 2017
TERM 4 9th October to 22nd December 2017
STIRLING LINGARD TENNIS COACHING
MT MARTHA TENNIS CLUB
Tennis….fun for life! Coordination, fitness and fun
Tennis lessons from only $15 per week
Hot Shots program 4-16yrs
Adults Cardio program Mon-Fri 9.30am
Extensive Holiday program running Christmas/Summer holidays
slingard8@bigpond.com or call Stirling 0411 082 723

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

Cut and Color Hair
Stylist: Fee Kuss   M:  0403 166 129 E: feekuss03@gmail.com.au

Bill Baker is a licensed plumber with over 20 years experience.
We specialise in kitchen/bathroom renovations, all plumbing maintenance, water tanks and outdoor showers.

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EMMA KAMAN SCHOOL OF DANCE
Offering classes in Hip Hop, Tap, ‘Musical Theatre, Acrobatics, Jazz, Ballet and Contemporary.
Classes held at MMPS Gym, Mt Martha House and Orbit Gym.
Contact Emma on 0419 173 406 emmakaman@gmail.com
www.emmakamandance.com.au

Cost effective, up-to-date, evidence-based solutions for FOOT PAIN
Dr George Murley
PhD B.Pol(Hons)
Ms Anita Spring
B.Pol. G. Cert Wound Care

Professionally fitted SCHOOL SHOES!
For each pair of school shoes purchased we donate $10 to Mt Martha Primary School PTA fundraising
Ph. 5974 8565 or Book Online at southcoastfootclinic.com.au

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Mature, Reliable, & Courteous
Carpentry, Painting, Tiling, Plastering. 30 Years Exp
Cheap Rates.
Also Dog Minding (Animal Lover)
No Job too small.
Ph: 0414 243 914
First Aid Medication Collection

Medication may be collected from the First Aid room on your child’s last day of school. You may also choose to leave medication in the First Aid room ready for the beginning of school next year. If you choose to leave the medication at school, could you please ensure that all medication is in its original packaging and within use by date. Any medication which is not collected and is out of date will be taken to the chemist for appropriate disposal.

In order that we provide appropriate care for your child’s condition, we require an updated management plan annually, please arrange this for the beginning of the new school year.

If an adult is unable to attend the school office to collect the medication, could you please send a letter of authority for your child to collect on your behalf.

Enjoy the holidays!

Lorraine Stuart  
First Aid Officer