Principal Report
As we nearly complete our second full week of Term 1 it is great to see our students, parent helpers and staff participating in some terrific out of classroom activities. Students in Year 3 to 6 have had a terrific time participating in the beach program and, while many of our students are regular beach goers, there are always some skills to learn or practice. Thanks to the Mount Martha Life Savers for the additional assistance.

The Year 4’s had a “hands on learning” opportunity during Tribal Day on Tuesday. In the bush land adjacent to the Ecopark, Year 4 “tribes” built bush shelters, composed bush songs and dances and invented tribal games. Some fun, imaginative and creative learning!

First Assembly - Our first whole school assembly is scheduled for Tuesday 17th February and starts at 9.10am. Assemblies always provide an opportunity to bring our school community together and share some of our activities and successes. Hope to see you there.

School Council Election - as indicated in the last newsletter we will be starting the process for election of School Councillors. Three parent member and two Department of Education and Training employee positions are up for election. The timeline is outlined in the table below with nominations opening on Monday 16th February and closing at 4pm on Monday 23rd February. Nomination forms are available from the Office.

| Notice of election and call for nominations | Monday 16th February 2015 |
| Closing date for nominations | Monday 23rd February 2015 at 4pm |
| Date by which the list of candidates and nominators will be posted | Wednesday 25th February 2015 |
| Date by which ballot papers will be prepared and distributed | On Monday 2nd March 2015 |
| Close of ballot | Tuesday 10th March 2015 at 4pm |
| Vote count | Wednesday 11th March 2015 |
| Declaration of poll | Wednesday 11th March 2015 |
| Special council meeting to co opt Community members (the principal will preside) | Thursday 12th March 2015 |
| First council meeting to elect office bearers (the principal will preside) | Thursday 12th March 2015 |

School Council Election Process and Timetable Mount Martha Primary School
Meet The Teacher - It was great to see the quick uptake for appointments on our “Meet The Teacher” evenings next Tuesday 17th February (Grades 4, 5 and 6) and Wednesday 18th February (Year Prep to Three). If you haven’t booked a time please follow the directions below.

Please visit our school website at http://www.mtmarthaps.vic.edu.au/ and click on the Parent Teacher Online (PTO) link found on the home page (see image). Use the password you have been given to access the system. If you do not receive a password you should ring Hugh O’Brien on 5974 2800. Online bookings will close at 4pm on Monday 16 February.
Parking - While students are settling back in to school at the start of the year many parents opt to drive students to and from school. The Mornington Peninsula Shire have advised the school that they will be conducting a “Parking Awareness Program” around schools. The program aims to address illegal parking around schools during pick up and drop off times.

The main areas of concern as noted by the council 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, even for 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, even for 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.

Student Health - We try our best to look after the health needs of our students. To assist us with this is a reminder to update the school if any contact details have changed eg. telephone numbers, emergency contacts, etc. Also, please contact Lorraine in First Aid to supply updated asthma, anaphylaxis or other medical condition plans and current medication as required. A reminder that students should not be sent to school if they are unwell. They may not be well enough to participate in the learning program and there is a possibility that their illness may be spread to others. Thank you for your assistance.

Victorian Auditor General’s Report
You may have read in the press that the Victorian Auditor-General has released a report on school costs for parents. In response to the report's findings, the Minister for Education has asked the Department of Education and Training to review its parent payment policy. As a result of any changes to the Department's policy, we will work with our school council to update our own policy. We don't expect any changes until later in 2015 and we will let you know well in advance.

The Department's parent payment policy is what we use to guide us in deciding what we will ask you to pay each year. We review our own parent payment policy, in conjunction with our school council, on a yearly basis and notify you of any changes through our newsletter. Our aim is to ensure our policy meets parents' expectations, while also ensuring that all of our students are able to participate in the programs we offer. Our policy sets out what we ask parents to make in relation to voluntary contributions to, and where these funds will be directed (for example, to assist with repayments for our oval and additional ICT/Multimedia equipment)

As always, if you have any queries, or would like to discuss how the school can support you in financial matters, please call me.

After School Hours Use of the Gym - a reminder that the gym is only available for use with the permission of the Principal. We have hirers who have booked it for training and other uses and there may be insurance ramifications or damage liabilities for unapproved use. Thanks for your cooperation.

Kind regards
Martin Page
Our school purpose is to ensure a high quality and engaging learning program that builds on the capability of every student.

Mt Martha Primary School
Glenisla Dve
Mount Martha  3934

Phone: 5974 2800    Fax: 5974 3634

Absence Line 5973 7700 or visit the school website
E-mail: mount.martha.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au
Website:  www.mtmarthaps.vic.edu.au
Office Hours 8.30am-4.15pm Monday - Friday

OSHCP:  0407 438 858
Uniform Shop:  1800 337 396
Tuesdays:  8.45am—9.45am
Thursdays:  3.00pm—4.00pm
Cash, credit card & EFTPOS facilities.
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PSW Frankston
21 Playne St, Frankston
(03) 9769 6510
Shop Hours Sun & Mon Closed. Tue to Fri 8.30am-4.30pm & Sat 9am - 2.30pm.

SCHOOL TERMS 2015
TERM 1  30th January to 27th March 2015
TERM 2  13th April to 26th June  2015
TERM 3  13th July to 18th September 2015
TERM 4    5th October to 18th December 2015

A friendly reminder to families and friends that Melrose Dve is reserved for STAFF PARKING. Please use Eco Park or Glenisla Dve.

Mt Martha Primary School strives to provide a safe environment for students, staff and visitors. Please alert the office to any hazards.
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Mark Renouf
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Call Simon on 0410 536 637
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www.mountmarthaiwamaryuaikido.weebly.com

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