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

Principal Report

Welcome Back to Mount Martha Primary School for 2017. I hope everyone had a very enjoyable and restful holiday! 2017 promises to be another fantastic school year and I am really pleased with our very smooth start. The students have quickly settled in to their new classes. Organisation is a real focus for the first few days as students become familiar with the class and school routines. On the first two pupil free days, the staff started with a professional development day focussed on the VCOP/Big Write program to further develop their teaching of writing. Staff also updated their skills in the management of anaphylaxis and made the most of valuable curriculum planning and preparation time.

For 2017 we have new staff join Mount Martha Primary School. Welcome to Miss Alice Eadie, Ms Sarah Bell, Mr Daniel Vercoe and Ms Laura Burgess. Welcome back Mrs Lucinda Cooper, Mrs Alicia Latify, Mrs Jess Dixon and Mrs Anne Marie Paterson who have returned to the school after being on leave in 2016. Attached is a staff list for information.

Our 2017 Preps start in their Prep class next Monday and have been participating in the Prep Interview process this week. The first day of school is always a very exciting day and we wish them a wonderful time at Mt Martha Primary School!

A huge welcome to our new students and families who are joining our school community for 2017.

Year 2: Harry, Danil, Capri, Raphael, Alex, Jack,
Year 3: Romily, Elwood, Charlie, Charli
Year 4: Ella, Noah, Frazer, Ciara, Ava, Eva,
Year 5: Indiana, Charlie
Year 6: Alexander, Archer, Oscar

Meet The Teacher - Establishing a relationship and lines of communication with your child’s teacher is an important part of their education. To assist this we are having two “Meet The Teacher” evenings. The first is on Wednesday 15th February for Years 4, 5 and 6 and Thursday 16th February for Years Prep, One, Two and Three. Booking will be via the PTO online booking system. Individual log in codes and information will be sent home in the near future.

Keeping Up To Date - There are always many things happening at Mount Martha Primary School and there is always a need to keep informed. Communication of these events is important allowing everyone to know not only the event but also if any action is required at home eg returning permission slips or if there is an opportunity to be involved. Classroom teachers will let you know of events via notes, classroom blogs or notices at the classroom. Please sign up to the classroom blogs as they give a great insight into the work occurring there. The Banksia Bulletin is sent home and is also available via the website which also is another source of important school information. The Skool Bag app is used for reminders and links. It is well worth downloading to your device and is free. We will also continue to use the SMS messaging system. Please ensure we have your latest contact details. We encourage the sharing of information which is relevant to your child’s program or requirements with the classroom teacher. Of course questions can also be directed to the Office or Hugh, Karen or myself.

Being Involved - There are many ways to be involved in the school. This may be as a helper in the classroom or at activities or in the PTA or School Council. Your help is always appreciated, your children love to see you involved and many long term friendships have been formed at school events.

I am really looking forward to an exciting year in 2017!

Kind regards

Martin Page
Safer Internet Day

Tuesday 7th February is Safer Internet Day and is a good time to discuss Internet Safety with your child. We will be discussing Internet safety at school and reminding students of our school acceptable Internet use agreement, which is signed by families and students upon enrolment at our school. We have a Prep – Year 2 and Year 3-6 internet acceptable use agreement. Copies of the agreements are available in the office foyer and can also be downloaded from the ICT blog. The internet agreements will also be posted on class blogs along with some videos to promote class and family discussion for International Safer Internet day.

Class blogs will be updated for the new year and ready for families to subscribe to in time for our school Meet the Teacher interviews. We would love our school and wider community to follow our class blogs and interact with them by posting comments. We encourage you to share your thoughts as they relate to the learning showcased on our blogs. Commenting is what makes our blogs come alive. It allows the opportunity to connect to a wide and authentic audience, and improve literacy skills. Please be sure to leave a comment if you visit our blog! We look forward to receiving and replying to your comments.

There are many excellent resources and games for students of all ages and also informative parent information about Cyber safety available on the Children’s eSafety Commissioner website. The school ICT blog has a parent page with links to parent information. You may also like to have a look at the video that the Student ICT leaders created last year about how we celebrated Safer Internet Day.

Scan the below code to view parent information about Cyber Safety.

Sarah Forward
Digital Technologies Specialist Teacher
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, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach 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

MORE INFORMATION

For the CSEF application closing dates and more information about the fund visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef
Can Saver Plus assist you with school costs?

Join Saver Plus and match your savings, dollar for dollar, up to $500 for education costs including:

- school uniforms and textbooks
- computers, laptops, and tablets
- excursions and camps
- sports equipment, uniforms and lessons
- music tuition and instrument hire.

You may be eligible if you have a Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card, are at least 18 years old, have some regular income from work (you or your partner), such as full-time, part-time, casual or seasonal work, and have a child at school or study yourself.

Contact Angie O'Toole or Terri Fallows, your local Saver Plus Coordinators:
(03) 8781 5937
angie.otool@bsl.org.au / terri.fallows@bsl.org.au

Saver Plus was developed by ANZ and the Brotherhood of St. Lawrence and is delivered across Frankston and Mornington Peninsula by the Brotherhood of St. Lawrence. The program is funded by ANZ and the Australian Government.