Principal Report

School Council - Our School Council membership for 2016 is as follows. Parent Representatives are Samantha Abbas (President), Trudy Mason (Vice President), Sarah Fountain (Treasurer), Alana Allain, Andrew Frood and Bronwen Hocking. DET representatives are Karen Walker, Hugh O’Brien, Justin Whelan and Donna Gadsby. The PTA will be represented at School Council meetings by Elle Baker. Thank you all School Councillors for volunteering your time, energy and ideas for the school.

Parking - In the interests of traffic flow and, most importantly, the safety of members of our school community, parents are reminded to follow the parking restrictions applying to streets near the school. Parking Officers regularly patrol schools at the start of the school day, at pick up or when events are held. Please note also that the staff car parks in Melrose Drive and Glen Isla Drive are not drop off and pick up points for children. This is a potentially dangerous practise as staff members are trying to enter the car park between 8am and 8.45am and are finding that there are cars reversing out and children alighting from vehicles and walking across the car park. Altering a drop off or pick up time by a few minutes to a slightly less busy time or parking further away and sharing some “park and stride” time with your child may be options to explore. Thank you for your assistance.

Year 6 Camp - Our Year 6 students are currently at urban camp and return tomorrow. They are having a great time enjoying the sights and sounds of the city as they navigate their way around the city on public transport and enjoy a wide variety of activities.

End of Term One - A reminder that Thursday 24th March is the last day of Term One with students dismissed at 2.30pm. Please note the earlier dismissal time. Friday 25th March is the Good Friday public holiday. Our end of Term 1 assembly will be on the Thursday commencing at 9.10am. School resumes for Term 2 on Monday 11th April.

Kind regards, Martin Page.

Lunch Orders

Next week is the last week of Term 1. We normally have lunch orders delivered to school on a Friday but given that the Friday next week will be a public holiday lunch orders will be available on Thursday 24 March.

Thanks to Jon at Bakery Made, our online supplier, for making this change on our behalf.

Admin

COMING EVENTS

MARCH

Tuesday 22nd
• Year 4 Dance

Thursday 24th
• Whole School Assembly
  9.10am in Gym
• Last day Term 1.
  Students dismissed at 2.30pm

APRIL

Monday 11th
• TERM 2 COMMENCES

Tuesday 19th
• Year 5 excursion to Cranbourne Botanic Gardens

Wednesday 20th
• Year 3 Cultural Infusion Day at MMPS

Thursday 21st
• Year 2 Gould League Excursion 9am - 2pm

Monday 25th
• ANZAC DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY
  Students do not attend school

Wednesday 27th
• Year 4 visit to Mornington Secondary College
  9.15am - 2.30pm

Friday 29th
• Year 5&6 Summer Lightning Premiership

MAY

Tuesday 3rd
• Whole School Assembly
  9.10am in Gym

Wednesday 4th
• School Cross Country

Thursday 5th
• Mother’s Day Stall

NEXT SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING
May 12th
at 6.45pm
in the Staff Centre
On a stormy but warm day, Mietta, Billy, Jemma, Hugh and Ms Gadsby took a trip to Sorrento to hopefully swim with some dolphins but to also snorkel and explore the marine life in the bay. The whole point of this expedition was to take part in the Dolphin Research Institute’s ‘I Sea I Care’ program as ambassadors for our school.

The team began their adventure by sailing on Moonraker to Chinaman’s Hat to swim with the seals. Despite the horrific smell, they all had an amazing time. All four students thought it was an extraordinary experience (Billy was even speechless). They then took a half hour cruise around the bay looking for dolphins. Unfortunately none were to be found so they stopped at Portsea Pier and searched for Weedy Sea Dragons. Not only did they see several but they also saw a stingray and jellyfish.

Then aboard the Moonraker there was great excitement as dolphins had been spotted further along the coast. Everyone was watching and waiting when Hugh and Jemma announced with great excitement… DOLPHINS!!!!

Everyone stood on the deck of the Moonraker watching the dolphins and hoping that they would be playful enough for the ambassadors to swim with. They had struck gold, it was decided that they were going to swim with the dolphins…

Wearing their masks and snorkels the ambassadors slid back into the chilly water. Hanging onto the rope, they watched in awe as the dolphins swam and twirled around them, gracefully moving through the water like sea angels. As the dolphins swam underneath them, the swimmers watched in glee as they were so close you could almost touch them.

This was over all too soon as the pod moved gracefully off again.

The ambassadors returned to the boat as the other group swam. They were so lucky that they were able to watch the dolphins swimming around the boat. Much to their disappointment, eventually the dolphins swam away and the boat returned to the Sorrento Pier.

Mietta & Billy Year 6

Jemma & Hugh Year 5
Mt Martha Primary School is taking a stand against bullying and violence in 2016.

Dear parents,

At our school we aim to create a safe and supportive school community for everyone.

Sometimes, it can be difficult for parents or carers to know what to do when their child talks to them about bullying.

You are an important part of our work to prevent bullying and to respond effectively if it happens. Stopping bullying involves everyone.

If your child talks to you about bullying:

1. **Listen** calmly and get the full story. Your calm response is important to allow your child to tell you all about the situation. After they’ve told you their story, ask questions to get more details if you need to: who, what, where, when. Although you may feel some strong emotions about your child’s experience, try to keep calm to avoid more distress to your child.

2. **Reassure** your child they are not to blame. Many children blame themselves and this may make them feel even worse. You could say things like, ‘That sounds really hard to deal with. No one should have to put up with that.’ or ‘I’m so glad you told me. You should be able to feel safe at school; that’s not fair at all’.

3. **Ask** your child what they want to do and what they want you to do. A critical part of your response is to avoid jumping in to solve the problem. While it is natural to want to protect your child, helping them to find their own solution is a better option. It helps them feel they have some power in the situation.

4. **Visit** www.bullyingnoway.gov.au to find some strategies. The website has tips and ideas for different bullying situations. One idea is to practise strategies at home to help your child feel more confident.

5. **Contact** the school. Your child may be reluctant for you to do this, so discuss the idea and reassure them that the school would want to know and is able to help. Make an appointment to meet with your child’s teacher and, if you need to, ask to talk with the principal. Contact the school immediately if you have a concern about your child’s safety.

6. **Check in regularly** with your child. Keep the conversation going. It can take time to resolve issues, so check in regularly with your child about their experiences and their feelings. Your ongoing support is important.
When our child is the bully

Be thankful someone has told you - Whether it’s a text from a friend, phone call from another parent, or an email from the teacher, be thankful that someone has told you that bullying is happening, and your child may be the perpetrator. Thank that person for making a difficult call. Assure them you will follow through.

It’s never easy to receive information that suggests our child is not behaving appropriately towards other kids in their class. A child who bullies is not necessarily a reflection on our parenting skills, nor is bullying behaviour something we need to be defensive about. We need to ensure the information we’ve received is credible and then ask ourselves if there may have been tell-tale signs we’ve missed, such as our child being in the possession of things that don’t belong to her, or fewer friends, or negative talk about school.

Talk to the school
Most schools today have policies in place to help combat aggressive and bullying behaviour. The focus of these policies is usually to involve a teacher or school representative to help the bully confront the student they’ve bullied. Relationships then have a chance to repair and the bully can see and hopefully understand how their aggressive behaviour has impacted another student. Once notified of a problem, we can speak to our child’s teacher about any aggressive or stand over behaviour. Getting all the facts is important, and teachers are in the best position to monitor classroom and playground behaviour. Our child might be having problems with schoolwork, or making friends, or have been bullied themselves.

What parents can do about their child’s bullying behaviour

- **Have the conversation**: ask your child if they can explain what has happened, why, and to whom.
- **Encourage empathy**: can your child understand how the victim felt?
- **Try not to be judgmental**: there can be many reasons why a child bullies. Reject the behaviour but not the child.
- **Check for any underlying bullying behaviour at home**: this includes threats and intimidation by an older sibling.
- **Support the child to accept responsibility**: don’t allow the child to gloss over or justify aggressive behaviour.
- **Help to build social skills**: work on strategies for developing self esteem and confidence.
- **Community involvement**: encourage participation in sport, hobbies, or activities that mean the child has to integrate, cooperate and work as a team.
- **Identify the motivation**: try to get to the source of any anger or resentment. Talk to the teacher or sports coach, to identify poor performance, lack of confidence or comprehension, or any jealousy that seems apparent.
- **Make it clear bullying behaviour is not acceptable and must stop**: be firm and perfectly clear that bullying behaviour is not acceptable any time or place; it will not be tolerated at home and it has to stop. Ensure your child knows their behaviour will not be defended nor accepted by you if they continue to bully.
- **Emphasise confidence**: tell your child that you believe they are capable of being respectful, kind, considerate and helpful. Let them know you have full confidence in them to change their behaviour.

From the Kids Matter Team
Big Write update!

There has been some wonderful writing being done in classes over the past weeks as part of our Big Write and VCOP Writing program. Teachers have been gradually introducing their students to the components of Big Write and one of these is Talk Homework. This week’s Literacy Loop article summarises what this is and why it is such an important focus for our students today.

The premise of Big Writing is: “If the kids can’t say it, the kids can’t write it.”

Schools need to be proactive in the development of language and oracy in order to compensate for the deprivation that some children are suffering due to growing up in isolation in front of game consoles, personal computers and televisions. We now have a whole generation of young adults who also suffer from forms of language deprivation and who do not find it easy to develop an extended conversation with their children. Talk Homework is an approach developed through Big Writing that promotes the development of such conversations.

What is Talk Homework?

If not already, students will soon begin to talk to parents about the topics that they are to write about at school. Topics may be written on a slip of paper or the children will remember them as discussion has already been had at school. At regular intervals, a writing stimulus or topic will be chosen by teachers that may enhance the class’ inquiry topic, support a literature focus or just because it is a great writing idea!

Tips for Parents

To help your child get the most out of their talk homework task, it is suggested that parent try to do the following:

- Encourage as many family members as possible to be involved in Talk Homework, possibly around the meal table!
- Switch off the T.V.! Try to ensure this is dedicated talking and listening time.
- When giving your opinion, use the ‘because’ word to explain why you think that.
- Give the possible opinions of two contrasting family members who are not present for the talk, and use the ‘because’ word to explain why they may be different.
- Ask others around the table to give their opinions and to use the ‘because’ word.
- Ask your child his / her opinion and ask them to use the ‘because’ word.
- Link the topic you are given to discuss back to something you remember from when you were a child and say why things may be different now. Project forward to how things may be different in the future.

The children then have a range of ideas and vocabulary to use in subsequent Big Write sessions. They will analyse and edit this writing to set goals for their next piece and seek peer and teacher feedback on improvements that can be made. Parents may like to ask for a copy of the written piece to discuss how the writing actually went! Feedback from parents and students has been very positive.

Julie Moncrieff, Literacy Coordinator.
Makai and his family here and in Fiji would like to say a very special thank you for all the support that was received from the teachers, parents and the Mt Martha Community last week at the Sausage Sizzle. The funds will be much appreciated by the Red Cross on the ground in Fiji in getting food and medical supplies to those in desperate need following on from Cyclone Winston. Vinaka vakalevu!

**Items Urgently Required**

Donations of the following items can be left in the Fiji Friends Box at the school Office.

- Baby & children’s clothing
- Linen
- Feminine products
- Baby formula & nappies
- Tarpaulins
- Teabags, sugar, flour
- Cooking oil, dry and sweet biscuits

Collection finishes last day of term.

Thank you for your help!

Monetary donations can also be made and will support the cost of shipping goods to the affected areas in Fiji. This can be left at the school office.
UPCOMING PTA EVENTS

This year we have some really great events to look forward to. Some old favourites we have had in the past and also a few new ones to offer a bit of variety. For Term 2 please save the dates for these events:

PARENTS MOVIE NIGHT
WEDNESDAY 20TH APRIL
Starting with drinks and nibbles at 7.30pm at Merrington Cinemas. Movie will be confirmed this week. The last two years this has been a great midweek night out. Tickets will go on sale as soon as the movie is confirmed……keep your eye out and don’t miss out!! (wheelchair access available).

MOTHER’S DAY STALL
AND RAFFLE
5TH AND 6TH MAY
This stall is always a big hit with the students each year and I am sure they will look forward to buying their gifts again. We are in the process of organising and will be sending out rosters for helpers early next term.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR
TBA
Another great annual fundraiser for the school and great opportunity for the students to peruse and purchase new books.

Some exciting new events we are organising for Term 3 & 4 – Student Disco, Parent’s Trivia Night and a Saturday Carnivale!!

Come along to the next PTA meeting and join in the fun of organising some of these events. It’s a lovely way to meet people and get involved in our wonderful school community and your kids will love you for it!

Cheers
ELLE AND PTA TEAM

JOIN US FOR THE NEXT MEETING
Wednesday 13th April
7pm in the staff centre
An Invitation to the 2016 Dromana College Open Night

It is a privilege to be the Principal of Dromana College and I delight in the opportunity to share with the wider community our success.

I would like to begin by congratulating the whole college community on a fantastic 2015, with our students having achieved excellence in a diverse range of learning programs and co-curricular activities. All of our students are challenged, motivated and engaged by an interesting, exciting and relevant curriculum that caters for their needs.

As I reflect on the year, I again return to the greatest strengths of our school; the relationships between staff and students and the sense of belonging that our community fosters. The learning relationship of our students with their teachers and vice versa is elementary, built on the college values of respect, integrity, personal best and responsibility and underpinned by clear learning intentions.

The College’s well established vision continues to deliver excellent outcomes for all our students. In 2015 Dromana College students out performed all other local secondary providers. For the sixth year in a row we have improved our VCE median score, our average is now 30, and more that 50% of our Year 12 students achieved above the state mean.

A recent independent review of the college programs, relationships and achievements, determined Dromana College to be a high performing school of academic excellence. The report also commended the expansion of our school’s extra curricula enhancement programs to include Athletics, Dance, Science and Technology adjacent to the school day.

The outlook for 2016 is outstanding. Our focus continues to be delivering the best academic outcomes for all our students. At the same time, we have committed some $3 million to the redevelopment of our new, innovative Year 7 learning area. The College values are at the core of this commitment and underpin the strong sense of wellbeing and community that our school enjoys.

I would like to extend an invitation to all members of the community to attend our Open Night on Wednesday 27 April 2016 commencing at 7:00pm to come and see first-hand all that Dromana College has to offer your child. Tours of the college are also available on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 9:30am. If you wish to book a tour or for further information on any of our programs, please do not hesitate to contact the college on 03 5987 2805 or visit our website. www.dsc.vic.edu.au

Alan Marr
PRINCIPAL
School Holiday Programs

MPRG Kids!
Holiday Programs
March-April 2016

Age 5–8, 10am–12pm
$12/student, adult supervision required:
Bookings: http://www.trybooking.com/KJKQ

Tuesday 29 March
CREATIVE CREATURES Using oil pastels and coloured pencils, cut paste and create your own hand-print crab and make an art rock pool for it to live in.

Tuesday 5 April
FISHY FANTASIES Go crazy with cardboard, colour and creativity to fabricate a fantastic fish.

Age 9–12, 10am–12pm
$12/student, adult supervision welcome but not required:
Bookings: http://www.trybooking.com/KJJC

Wednesday 30 March
CREATIVE CONSTRUCTION Inspired by works in Saltwater Country build your own cardboard creation celebrating everything cool in your life.

Wednesday 6 April
WACKY WEARABLES Be inventive with pattern and shape to design, create and decorate wearable art that says who you are and where you belong.

VCE ART & STUDIO ART 1-3pm
$12/student
Bookings: http://www.trybooking.com/KJQY

Wednesday 6 April
FOLIO DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP
Working with experienced VCE teacher, artist and MPRG Educator Jill Anderson, gather fresh inspiration and ideas to enrich your first term folio. Explore creative ways to develop new perspectives on your chosen theme as you allow the material, techniques, meanings and messages of other artists to expand your thinking.

MPRG: T: 03 5975 4395, Civic Reserve Dunns Rd, Mornington www.mornpen.vic.gov.au

FREE DAILY DROP IN ACTIVITY:
FISHY FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY!
Let your imagination go wild as you fashion and pattern your own designer fish!

Laurie Nilsen
Once were Fishermen 2014 Detail
Easter School Holidays - Moonlit Sanctuary Junior Ranger Program

Kids enjoy environmental activities, animal encounters and native animal care.

Day includes: interactions with dingo, python, off-limits animals, feeding animals & food prep, animal enrichment activities, fun and games for ages 7-14 years.

Easter school holiday dates:

   Week 1: Tuesday 29th March to Friday 1st April 10am – 4pm
   Week 2: Monday 4th to Friday 8th April 10am – 4pm

Cost: $65.00 per day, or $175 for 3 days (pro rata for additional days). Maximum 16 children per day.

Bookings essential as spaces are limited!

Dress for the weather and wear closed-toe shoes, long pants and remember your hat or raincoat. BYO lunch or purchase at the café.

Moonlit Sanctuary

550 Tyabb-Tooradin Rd, Pearcedale
Phone 5978 7935

Open daily between 10am and 5pm
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 Easter 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

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

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 2016
TERM 1 29th January to 24th March 2016
TERM 2 11th April to 24th June 2016
TERM 3 11th July to 16th September 2016
TERM 4 3rd October to 20th December 2016

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.

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