Next week is December and the end of the school year is rapidly approaching. Our students and school community has had much to celebrate this year with a full and engaging curriculum and activities.

Our 2015 Prep students enjoyed their second transition visit last Wednesday. It is great to see the students building familiarity with the school and enjoying themselves. You can almost see their confidence building. Parents have participated in information sessions while their children are in the classroom (gaining information on our English and Mathematics approaches). Our final transition visit is next Wednesday 3rd December. At the upper end of the school our Year 6’s are starting their preparations for finishing at Mount Martha Primary School with the secondary college Orientation Day on Tuesday 9th December and planning for Graduation well underway.

Thank you to students, parents and staff for their assistance at the Working Bee last Saturday morning. While numbers were low we achieved a great deal with gardening and tidying of the grounds. The school looked much better as a result.

A reminder that next Wednesday 3rd December we have Student Supply Pack collection day from 8.30am to 5.00pm (prepaid processing will be completed on Monday 1st and Tuesday 2nd December). Please go straight to the Staff Centre to collect your student packs if you have prepaid. For payment on the day please proceed to the office before collecting packs from the staff centre. Our onsite PSW Uniform shop will be open on Wednesday 3rd December from 8.30am to 4.00pm.

We certainly have some very talented performers at Mount Martha Primary School! Our Prep concert last Tuesday afternoon was terrific with the students performing songs, poems and dances in some great mini beast costumes. Great work Prep students and teachers! Thank you parents for your assistance and support! Tonight we have another instrumental music concert and a Piano Concert on Wednesday 3rd December. These performances give our students the opportunity to showcase their progress and talent with their instruments in front of an audience. Should be a very entertaining evening given the standard shown in some of the rehearsals and assembly performances!

Thank you PTA for organising a Sausage Sizzle and Cake Stall this Saturday 29th November. The school is a polling booth providing the opportunity to both cast your vote in familiar surroundings and support your school’s fundraising.

With the end of the year rapidly approaching now is the time to check your child’s belongings. We have quite a collection of lost property which we would love to return to the owners. The lost property is mainly un-named jumpers but we do have other items as well. Checking lost property is a great way to save some of the expense of replacing uniform, lunchboxes, drink bottles, etc for the 2015 school year.

Kind Regards

Martin Page, Principal.

FIRST AID NEWS - Chicken Pox

Several cases of Chicken Pox have been reported within the School Community. Chicken Pox generally presents with a low-grade fever, lack of energy and a rash which then transforms into blisters. Children must be kept home from school until all blisters have dried. Please be aware that children who have been immunised against Chicken Pox may still contract a milder form of the disease.

Lorraine Stuart, First Aid Officer.
TravelSmart - Travelling safely

A safety concern has been brought to our attention by a parent. Those concerns relate to the collection/pick up of students after school at the Glenisla Drive and Normanby Terrace intersection. It is great that people are encouraging children to walk to this pick up point as it does assist with decreasing congestion around the main school exits up on Glenisla Drive.

However, it can be difficult entering and leaving Normanby Terrace as visibility is not great due to foliage and vehicles travelling in both directions on Glenisla Drive. Please take care there when reversing your vehicle. Children don’t have the same ability to judge distances and/or the speed of vehicles as adults do. They can also be oblivious to you as you try to negotiate your way in to or out of Normanby Drive. Thank you for taking the time to read this. We all want to make sure that the children in our community are able to travel safely to and from school each day.

After the fantastic effort during ‘Walk to School in October’ cars once again appeared to be increasing in numbers at the front of the School. Walking/riding is possible, as October proved, please continue to make an effort to allow your child/ren to walk or ride with you or on their own. Use the two Park ‘n’ Stride locations where there is ample parking available and it is only a 10 minute walk from the School!

In the 1970s only 16% of children were driven to School. That number is now 63%, according to the Heart Foundation. Let’s create a School community which walks rather than drives! We live in a beautiful part of Victoria where our children are able to move about their Community with friends and family without the city traffic. Maybe one day a week, maybe twice a week allow an extra 10 minutes in the day to enjoy the huge benefits of walking & riding to School.

TravelSmart Committee

Library News!

It has been delightful to observe students visit the Library at lunchtimes to enjoy reading for pleasure and partake in a range of games available for small group use.

Each week classes are scheduled to visit the Library for the purpose of student borrowing of books and sharing authentic literature with teachers and peers.

The number of books on loan at any point in time might be between 800 and 2000. We have been adding to the collections this year. The students have provided feedback by filling in Wish Lists of authors and/or titles of books in demand to guide future purchases.

At this time of year we request all books to be returned to the Library for processing and maintenance.

- The last week for book loans will be from Monday 24th to Friday 28th November.
- Students are requested to return all books during their class visit to the Library from Monday 1st December to Friday 5th December.

Remember to visit our local community library over the school vacation to borrow books for reading pleasure. Also check the breadth of Holiday Program activities that might be of interest to your children.

Enjoy reading!

Steph @tte, Library.

Environment News

Please support our major sponsor for Gold for Green Day.

Ray and Kylie are parents at our school who donated many of the 700 plants for the students to plant in June this year.

Ray also gladly gives his expertise whenever we are planning and developing garden projects around the school.

Thankyou again.

Jenny Spiridis, Environment Group Leader.
Banjo

"Amber! Amber! Come on!"

I saw Jaime down at the Great Barrier Reef on her kayak so I grabbed my wetsuit and snorkel and bolted down. As I looked back at the house from my kayak, the glass panes caught the sunlight so that everything looked like a tiny fire. I fell into the water with a cold crash; a pool of bubbles surrounding me, clinging to my skin like pearls. Jaime lowered our little anchor and jumped in as well.

We looked at the underwater world around us, tiny fish hung in nervous schools, seaweed trembling in the gentle current, yellow plates of coral and orange starfish glowed even from the deepest parts of the underwater city below us. But, all of a sudden a great big creature appeared to be struggling in a fisherman's net, his pupils were black as coal, ripples of blue and indigo filled his back with colour. The fins were glittering from the reflection above, fish darted about us as the gentle beast stayed stuck in the net. It was a whale shark!

"We must help it", said Jaime as we popped our heads out of the water. So Jaime and I got a closer look at it to see how much it has been tangled. Something caught my eye down in the water, something sharp, something metal and something like a spear!

I showed Jaime and we moved closer to the whale shark. It was magnificent. I started to cut away the net with the spear. When it was finally done, with a flick of a tail I was flung back by the pressure of the water as the beast swam away into the ocean.

Jaime and I were blown away by the astonishing sight of the whale shark. We also decided to make a law that you are never allowed to take catch anything from the Barrier Reef again. P.S. We named him Banjo!
Students in Years 5 and 6 have been completing a series of online games and activities this term to learn more about staying safe online. Year 5 students are currently completing the Budd:e Cybersafety unit and will receive a certificate with their report at the end of the year once they have successfully completed all of the activities. Students from Year 6 are working on earning their digital passport which is hosted on the Common Sense Media website and will also receive a certificate when they have passed all of the online modules. The Common Sense Media website is a great resource for parents and it rates and reviews apps, movies, games and websites for children of different ages. There is also advice on a wide variety of parent concerns.

Sarah Forward
ICT Specialist Teacher

Advice to help manage children’s time online

A child’s life is full of opportunities for them to spend time out of school with community groups, sporting clubs and their friends. Spending time online is also a regular activity for many children who enjoy communicating with friends, sharing information and playing games.

Whilst there are no guidelines for the ‘right’ amount of time someone should spend online or gaming, if your child is being negatively impacted by excessive use it may be time to discuss how they can take action to maintain a healthy balance.

- Look for indicators that your child may be spending too much time online, such as a declined interest in other activities, talking constantly about an online game or activity, a decline in grades, or irritability.
- Discuss how other aspects of their life are being affected. Excessive use can impact on someone’s health and wellbeing, family, relationships, work or education.
- Consider establishing rules about when your child can play games or use the internet and how long they can play for. You might make a mutual agreement to set a balance of online and offline activities. You may need to establish consequences for rule breaches. Depending on the age of the child you may also set passwords that they do not know.
- Locate the computer in a shared or visible place in the home so you know how much time your child is being spent online and what they are doing online.
- Seek support if you have concerns. Visit the Cybersmart Online Helpline to access free, confidential counselling for children and young people.

If you or someone you know wants to talk about online issues, visit the Cybersmart Online Helpline (www.cybersmart.gov.au/report.aspx) or call Kids Helpline on 1800 55 1800.

DEECD resources can be found http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/bullystoppers/Pages/parents.aspx

Working Bee November 22 2014

A small but enthusiastic group of parents and teachers attended our last Working Bee for this year. Some serious pruning of the plants in the Sensory Garden took place under the watchful eye of Jenny Spiridis whilst other helpers pulled weeds, swept tan bark off paths and applied mulch to gardens. Well done everyone.

Thanks to the 3 parents who attended – Anthony Liddell, Louise Den Hollander and Vicki Lawrenson (and of course their children!). A big thank you to our staff members - Jenny Spiridis, Darrel Hartwig, Cameron Sweatman, Martin Page and Justin Whelan who gave up their Saturday morning to help out during a busy time when they are writing student reports.

Hugh O’Brien
Facilities Sub Committee Convenor
The year six market was a great way to show us what it’s like to own a business. I was always sweating from the kids swarming the stall or the sun beating down on my back.

In the first 10 minutes the preps and their Year 5 buddy’s gave us $20 for a 1 dollar frog. We found it hard because I felt that I needed to get change quick or the people in the line would leave but mistakes will set you back. Before the market started I thought we had too much and we were not going to sell it all but after 45 minutes we needed more!

Every time there was a gap in customers I’d rush to the fridge and grab a stack of jellies and give them to Ethan. Ethan had a great idea, he said he had a little foam box so he went around the market and sold jelly on the spot. Max would help him. Zak and I would sell at the stall. I sold lime and blue heaven (they were the first to go) and Zak sold bubble gum and strawberry.

When we sold out I felt like dropping, all that work payed off. Our 4 sponsors, our advertising, our planning and that meant I could slack off and get a break from the pressure.

I explored the market; I was super lucky to grab the last slushy. The cold cup made my mouth explode and I’m not joking my tooth made the flavour dance in my mouth because of its tingling.

Every stall had its own beautiful scent; the smell of popcorn made me almost certain to buy it. I also got a crazy drink full of different soft drink. I had a thought from the laughter of kids, must be the best market ever.

As soon as we started the market we were all individuals but we realised if we worked together and helped each other the more money we would raise, because of this, the market ran smoothly with no major disasters.

Year 6 Students.

Early Friday morning I see everyone getting their stalls ready for our fabulous Year 6 Market. My eyes gaze around the busy basketball courts and I see the bright and colourful stalls, which really creates the “market atmosphere”. I see our stall ‘Slurpie Burpie’ filled with Slushy’s, popcorn, lollies and toffee apples, it looks brilliant. Everyone is buzzing with excitement because we’ve been waiting for this day for so long. “30 minutes till the market starts!” Mr Whelan yells. Our stall members which include Mia, Willow, Bella, Max, Brodie, Dustin and I make the last adjustments to our stall making sure the stall is going to be prepared.

“5 minutes till market” Mia tells me in a hurry. Our group makes sure the slushy machine is going to be ready because we all knew that was going to be the “big hit” from day one. The bell rings and hundreds of kids come racing down to the basketball courts with big smiles on their faces ready to see what we have for offer. With no surprise we already have a line forming at the front of our stall, filled with kids waiting to be served. “One raspberry slushy please” that’s all I’ve heard for the last 20 minutes I think to myself.
We sold out of all our slushies from the first machine within 20 minutes. I am very honoured to hear lots of little and big kids saying to their friend “Look there’s Slurpie Burpie!”

“1 mango slushie please” a small girl asks me, she dumps a sack of 5 cent coins onto the table. “I need some help” she says. I count out $2.00 worth of 5 cent coins and pass the slushie to her. I look directly across to WOW.COM and their stall looks superb. They have stuck to the Halloween theme with a giant inflatable WOW.

The market soon comes to an end and we are all very pleased with what we have accomplished. We clean up the mess, our sponsors take away our slushie machines and the market is over. I had a great time at our year 6 market and if I could do it again I would!
Thank you to all our generous and Amazing Year 6 Market sponsors!

Elgee Park  
Amart Mornington  
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Greg’s family Butchers  
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The Lens Group  
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Cliffex Meats  
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ALDI  
Motor One  
Chocolate Kettle  
Party place  
Wendys  
Sweet 1  
Biscotti  

Mt Martha Lion’s Club Annual Christmas Raffle.

As a further incentive to sell all your raffle tickets Mt Martha Lion’s Club sponsors have kindly donated the following prizes:

1 x $50 KFC voucher & 1 x $30 Cold Rock voucher.

If you require any extra books of tickets please call at the School Office.

All tickets sold or unsold need to be returned to the school by 
Friday 5th December to be eligible for the draw on December 20th.
Parents' and Teachers' Association Noticeboard

Term 4 Events -

A massive thanks to those who attended the first 2015 Carnivale Meeting last Wednesday night. It was great to have the support of those parents and a special thanks to Sari Kimpton who will be managing the event. If you would still like to be involved, please do not hesitate to contact the PTA as we would love to have your contribution.

The Mt Martha Primary School Gym is to be a voting booth venue for the coming State Election.

PTA is organizing a cake stall Saturday 29th November from 8.00am to 12:00pm as our FINAL FUNDRAISING EVENT FOR 2014!

We are asking for your favourite home baked cakes, slices, muffins or biscuits to sell at the Cake Stall. Due to the lack of refrigerated storage we request that NO CREAM be used in the decoration of your cake/slice.

All bakery creations are required to be named and ALL ingredients listed on the label provided. If wrapping or packaging your creation individually an ingredient list must be placed on each package.

(Please note that we are unable to sell your bakery creation if it is not labelled correctly).

You should have received your plate and requirements and we please ask that you deliver your items to the Staff Centre on FRIDAY 28TH NOVEMBER either between 8.00-9.00am or 3.00-4.00pm.

We shall also be running a SAUSAGE SIZZLE from 10am – 1.00pm on Election Day, so head on down to MMPS to vote and snag yourself a sausage!

Jane Mogensen – PTA President

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There are now 5 LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES in Mt Martha!

- 35 Watson Rd (outside Mt Martha Pre-School)
- Scenic View Drive (cnr 2 Banksia Grove)
  - 42 Dominion Rd
  - 28 Morlyn Drive
- Mt Martha Primary School


Visit one soon or visit: littlefreelibrary.org to start one of your own.

Happy reading!
**Banksia Bulletin Advertising**

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