COMING EVENTS

OCTOBER

Friday 14th
• CURRICULUM DAY
  STUDENTS DO NOT ATTEND SCHOOL

Monday 17th - 31st
• Life Education Van

Monday 17th
• Bendigo Bank student banking sign up day
  2.30pm at school
• Dyslexia & Learning Difficulties Parent Workshop with Karen Starkiss in Staff Centre
  6.30 - 8.30pm
• Parent Life Education Session in Life Ed Van
  9.30am - 10.30am

Tuesday 18th
• Year 3 Professor Bunsen Incursion

Wednesday 19th
• Year 5 Scienceworks excursion

Thursday 20th
• Year 6 Bike Education

Friday 21st
• Year 6 Bike Education

Saturday 22nd
• MMPS Working Bee

Tuesday 25th
• Whole School Assembly in gym 9.10am

Wednesday 26th
• Year 5 Bike Education
• Nude Food Day
• Rubbish Free Lunches

NEXT SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday November 10th at 6.45pm
in the Staff Centre

Principal Report

Pupil Free Day - A reminder that our next Pupil Free Day is tomorrow Friday 14th October. No students are required to attend school unless they are participating in the Out of School Hours Care program. Staff will be focussing on the Primary Connections Science Program to improve our curriculum and teaching of this important area.

Life Education Program - Term 4 is well underway at Mount Martha Primary School with a wide range of learning experiences and challenges ahead. Next week students across the school commence the Life Education program with year level specific learning activities focussed on social and wellbeing education. A parent information session will be held on Monday 17th October from 9.30am to 10.30am.

School Banking - learning about saving and budgeting and developing a regular saving pattern is an important life skill for our students. We are seeking to assist this through further development of the school banking program. Our local bank, Bendigo Bank, will be at the school from 2.30pm on Monday 17th October to assist in opening accounts. More information is included in the newsletter.

Working Bee - Saturday 22nd October 9am to 12pm is our Term 4 Working Bee. We have some specific jobs on the agenda across the school including tasks in the Sensory Garden. There is more information in this newsletter. The school always looks better after our working bees!

Update Contact Details - a reminder to please notify the Office should your personal or emergency contact details change. Having accurate up to date details improves our communication with you. Thank you for your assistance.

2017 Prep Transition - This term we have a program of transition activities for our 2017 Prep students all aimed at making the start of school as seamless as possible. Last night we held a Prep Information Evening for parents of our 2017 Preps providing valuable information about Mount Martha Primary School and strategies for a successful start to school next year. There are three more transition visits planned this term on Thursday 24th November, Wednesday 30th November and Tuesday 6th December. All sessions are held at the school starting at 9.15am with our 2017 Preps participating in a range of classroom activities. We are also holding a 2017 Prep Afternoon Tea on Thursday 10th November to welcome families.

Bike Education - Bike Education for students in Years 4, 5 and 6 has commenced and runs this term. The program educates students about the essential elements of a "safe" bicycle before practising skills to become a safe rider. Thanks to the teachers and parents who are assisting in delivering this most worthwhile program.

Nude Food Day - Wednesday 26th October is Nude Food Day. The focus is on reducing food wrapping and considering healthy options for snacks and lunches. Give it a try!

Leaving Mount Martha Primary School in 2017? - Please let the Office know as soon as possible if you are leaving Mount Martha Primary School next year. Teachers are commencing the task of allocating students to classes for next year. Thank you.

Kind regards

Martin Page
Principal
Dear Parents

As part of our drug and health education this term we are offering you the opportunity to visit our Life Education mobile classroom, while it’s here at our school.

Have you ever considered the following?

What is my child learning in Life Education?
Have you seen inside the Life Education mobile classroom, or know of Harold?
What drug education is appropriate for primary school students?
Why do we have health and drug education?
How is health and drug education integrated into your school’s curriculum?

The Life Education mobile classroom will be at our school

Parent Information Session **Monday 17th October 9.30am-10.30am**

The session will be held in the Life Education Van.

Karen Walker

Assistant Principal
Karen Starkiss was principal of one of the top performing primary schools in England, despite the fact that she had the highest number of students with severe Learning Difficulties in the county. She has over 30 years of experience as a teacher of primary and secondary students in the UK. In 2006 she moved to Australia where she has since established the Dyslexia Assessments and Support Services. Karen has wide experience in assessing dyslexic children, teenagers and adults for learning difficulties and is currently providing in-service professional development to schools regarding creating and implementing dyslexia-friendly schools and practical sessions for parents in supporting children with dyslexia and other learning difficulties. Karen’s training is always in high demand across Victoria and the nation.

This workshop is aimed at assisting parents to understand dyslexia and other learning difficulties in children and to provide some practical ideas that parents can use to assist their children. Karen will discuss how to support your dyslexic child or a child with learning difficulties. It is estimated that around 10% of the Australian population is dyslexic. A dyslexic child who finds it difficult to read and write can also suffer a lot of anguish and trauma with the demands of school or when they compare themselves to their friends. Dyslexia is not a disease and therefore is not curable; however there is so much that can be done with appropriate treatment and support to help children who are dyslexic both at home and school. The workshop will explain to parents how to recognise dyslexia and how to support their child at home.

Date: Mon 17 October  
Time: 6.30 pm-8.30pm  
Location: Staff Centre  
Duration: 2 hours

Karen Walker
Assistant Principal

Please return this reply slip with the names of people attending by Monday 17th October to assist us with planning for the session.

I/we will be attending the Dyslexia and Learning Difficulties Workshop:

Name _______________________________

Name _______________________________

Child’s class: _____   Name   _______________________________
Mount Martha Primary School Student Banking Registration

Sign up for student banking ‘the Bendigo way’

Monday 17 October, 2.30pm
Mount Martha Primary School
Catch the savings bug
Bendigo Student Banking

Whether it's for the latest craze in computer games, for a new bike or just for a rainy day, we all know it's never too early for our kids to start learning about budgeting and saving.

That's why at Bendigo Bank we've introduced our Student Banking Program and Bendigo PiggySaver Account – perfect for primary school aged savers.

With no account keeping fees, no transaction or government fees and no deposit restrictions – plus a host of fun games and rewards for young account holders – a Bendigo PiggySaver Account makes saving easy.

Opening an account is simple. All you need is your child's birth certificate and Medicare card. Representatives from the Bank will be at the school on Monday 17 October at 2.30pm or alternatively drop into your nearest branch at 5A Bay Road, Mount Martha or phone 5974 4518.

The parent of guardian will need to satisfy the infrared for the 100 point identification check. The Bendigo PiggySaver Account is issued by Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited, The Bendigo Centre, Bendigo 3550. This material contains general advice only. Please consider your situation and read the Terms and Conditions available from any Bendigo Bank branch, or visit www.bendigobank.com.au before making any decision.

ABN 11 068 346 173 AFSL 231879. SCNR (326532-E) (14/09/2016)
WORKING BEE at MMPS!

Prep, Yr 3 & Yr 4 parents - we are asking for your help at our Term 4 Working Bee!

Date: Saturday 22 October 2016
Time: 9am - 12pm.

If you can bring along useful tools like a wheelbarrow, spade, pitchfork (for mulch), shovel, gloves etc that would be very helpful. We do have some equipment but it would be helpful if you bring some too!

Thanks.

There will be a list of tasks to complete around the school.

All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Morning tea is provided.

Please complete this attached slip and return to the office so we can plan and organise the tasks on the day.

Yes, I am able to help out on Saturday October 22 at the school Working Bee.
My name is ___________________________ and my child/ren’s names are ___________________________________

Please return to the office as soon as possible.
Dear Parents and Carers,

Currently our staff, parents, carers and students are being surveyed about the KidsMatter initiative, to ensure that our programs are targeting the needs of our school community. We need as many parents and carers as possible to complete the survey to assist us with our planning and ongoing work in this important area.

By completing the KidsMatter Parent Survey, your constructive feedback and valuable suggestions will enable us to set the future direction for KidsMatter at our school.
Through Component 3, we aim to strengthen home-school collaborative partnerships and provide practical and supportive information to families.

Please support our commitment to improving student mental health and wellbeing at Mt Martha Primary School by completing the survey and adding your comments.

The KidsMatter Parent Survey is now available to complete online, for a period of one month, from Thursday the 6th of October. Paper-based surveys will also be available from the office as required. We will continue to provide reminders and links in the Banksia Bulletin over the next few weeks. You can access the survey at:

A direct link will also be available on the Mt Martha Primary website home page.

To select our school you will need to type in:
**Mount Martha Primary School, MOUNT MARTHA, VIC** – The schools should appear as you type. This sometimes takes a minute to load.
**Select - 2016 Q4: Oct-Dec**
**Select the language and Year level.**
**Complete the survey and add comments at the end.**

During the next few weeks, teachers will be asking students to complete the KidsMatter Student Survey online during class time. Please read the attached information about the Student Survey. If you wish to have a look at the types of questions students will be asked, you can go to the KidsMatter website and click on Student Surveys to view the format. The KidsMatter Team will use feedback from the student responses to guide our KidsMatter approach at Mt Martha Primary and to address areas of need identified by students.

We thank you for your great support of both the Parent Survey and Student Survey. If you require further information please don’t hesitate to contact Karen Hodgkins, a KidsMatter Team member or your classroom teacher.

Kind regards,
Karen Hodgkins and the KidsMatter Team.
Student Survey

Information for students and their parents and carers

What is KidsMatter Primary?
Our school is participating in an initiative called KidsMatter Primary to further improve the mental health and wellbeing of students at our school.

What is the survey about and how long will it take?
The survey asks for your views about aspects of the school that relate to supporting student mental health and wellbeing. We expect that it will take about 10 minutes to finish.

Why am I being asked to complete this survey?
It’s good for schools to think about how they are doing things and to hear from all members of the school community. This includes staff, parents and students. All the information plays a part in improving our school.

How is my privacy protected?
Your responses are completely anonymous and it will not be possible to identify you from your answers. The information you provide will be stored electronically in a password secured database, in accordance with the Australian Privacy Act 1988.

What happens to the answers?
Only summarised results are available and will be used by the school to assist with school planning. These results may also be used to inform the national development of the KidsMatter initiative. Please feel free to discuss with your teacher any questions you may have about this important classroom activity.

What choice do I have?
Completing this anonymous survey is entirely your choice and you can choose not to answer some or all of the items. Please feel free to discuss any concerns you may have about completing this survey with your teacher.

What do I need to do to participate?
Please read this information statement with your parent or carer and be sure you understand what it’s about. Your teacher will give you instructions about how to participate or you can visit www.kidsmatter.edu.au/primary/studentsurvey

If there is anything you or your parents do not understand, please talk to your teacher.

Thank you for your support.
It is still *Walk to School* month! There will be certificates for those who walk even once during the month of October.

To receive a certificate all you need to do is walk to or from school once! If you live further away or in a tricky location try one of the two Park and Stride spots and walk the rest of the way (Walara Shops and Mt Martha House). You can walk, ride, skate or scoot during this time. If you choose to skate, scoot or ride please remember to wear the correct safety equipment.

At school students will be encouraged by their teacher to fill in the class calendar on a daily basis, recording the way they travel to and from school.

This is a great time to teach your child to walk to school. Find a route and make it a habit!

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**We are participating in Nude Food Day 2016!**

Nude Food Day, supported by Nude Food Movers and in partnership with Nutrition Australia, creates a globally recognised day in which we can all come together and show our support towards healthy eating and waste reduction.

On **26\(^{th}\) October** we are encouraging all students to bring fresh, healthy, rubbish free lunches to our school in support of Nude Food Day.

Nude Food Day is a chance for our students to realise what they can do for their health and the health of the planet. An event like this can give all of us at Mount Martha Primary School a taste of the benefits, ease and fun involved in packing a healthy, wrapper free lunch!

From Zara and Lily (Yr 6 Nude Food Leadership Group)
HI MMPS FAMILIES,
Welcome back to Term 4 from the PTA Team. This term we are “winding down” with one BIG event!! So we are well and truly in the throes of organising our First Saturday Carnivale”. It is going to be a bonanza with lots of fun activities for all on the day. Our Carnivale’ Rides will be operating for double the usual time, excellent value.
If you have any free time leading up to the day, and especially on the day please fill out the attached slip. Even if you can spare just one hour we would appreciate it. We will be sending out a separate Carnival Flyer each fortnight to keep you up to date.
Also this term we will be welcoming our new families and peeps for next year with an afternoon tea on Thursday 10th November. We are looking forward to meeting and welcoming new families to our lovely community.
Did you buy or sell raffle tickets in the Scouts Monster Raffle? If so a big thank you as this is a good fund raiser for us and of course a chance to win some great prizes. We raised over $1300.00, so thank you to those families who sold your raffle books. If you want to see the raffle results and check your tickets to see if you have been lucky enough to win one of the 100 prizes please go to the Victorian Scouts website – www.vicscouts.com.au/monster-scout-ralle.html Good luck!
Cheers, ELLE & THE PTA TEAM

FOLLOW US ON
Mt Martha PS. Social Noticeboard
mmpsplablog.wordpress.com
or via the school website

NEXT PTA MEETING
Wed 2nd November
7pm in Staff Centre

HELP MAKE IT GREAT!
All help and volunteers would be appreciated. Please complete and return this slip if you can help in any way in the preparation or on the day.

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Mobile:

email:
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