



# Mt. Martha Primary School

Mt Martha Primary  
**Principal**  
Mr Martin Page

**Assistant Principals**  
Mr Hugh O'Brien  
Mrs Karen Walker

**Mt Martha Primary  
Contact Details**  
37-55 Glenisla Dve  
Mt Martha Vic 3934

**Reception**  
5974 2800

**Absentee Reporting**  
*Lodge via Compass parent portal*

**Website**  
[www.mtmarthaps.vic.edu.au](http://www.mtmarthaps.vic.edu.au)

**Email**  
[mount.martha.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:mount.martha.ps@education.vic.gov.au)

**Office Hours**  
8.30am - 4.15pm  
Monday - Friday

**OSHCP - Out of School Hours Care  
Program**  
0407 438 858  
Coordinator - Gillian Reid



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## BANKSIA BULLETIN - Thursday 18 November 2021

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

### PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

**Onsite Learning Update** - The school is moving into another phase of having students onsite. We are still implementing our onsite strategies to limit COVID transmission - I have included this information again.

The government has announced some easing of COVID restrictions today. Some will impact on schools. DET will provide updated advice to schools which we will then communicate with you.

The rapid antigen testing (RAT) program has been introduced this week. It is now an additional strategy in the event of a COVID exposure at school. There are some conditions around students identified as primary close contacts being eligible to opt in. The program has the potential for reducing quarantine from 14 days to 7 days following a negative day 6 PCR result and subsequent negative results in the rapid antigen test from days 8 to 14 supplied daily to the school. Information is again included in the newsletter. More detailed information on the RAT program is provided to parents whose child has been identified as a primary close contact at the time.

Our best wishes to the students and families of one of our Year 3 classes where students were required to re enter remote learning this week. We look forward to seeing you back onsite soon.

**Reminder: Final Pupil Free Day 2021** - A reminder that **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December** is a Pupil Free Day for Mount Martha Primary School. No students are required to attend. Out of School Hours Care are running a program on the day with information provided in the newsletter. Bookings are required.

**Japanese Day** - Yesterday was Japanese Day. This year was a little different from previous years but the students still enjoyed participating in the Japanese themed art/craft and sport activities for the day. Thank you Mr Nickeas for organising the day.

**Choc Top Day** - Last Friday was Choc Top Day. Again another fun day for our students. Thanks to the SEC for organising this event!

**Year 6 Market** - Year 6 Market is on **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November**. A great day for all our school as well as providing important learning opportunities for our Year 6 students. Please refer to the important information in this newsletter. Parents would have received a Compass notification regarding the purchase of "Market Packs" as this year the Year 6 Market is a "cashless" event. No cash will be handled on the day for purchases.

**Book Pick Up Day** - A reminder that Book Pick Up Day is **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December** from **8am to 6pm** in the Staff Centre. Hygiene and social distancing practices will be in place.

**Prep 2022 Transition** - Transition visits for our 2022 Preps commenced today. We always look forward to meeting new members of our school community. Thank you to our Year 6 Transition Leaders in helping the days run smoothly.

**End of 2021 School Year** - The year is drawing rapidly to a close with the last day of this year not too far away. School finishes for 2021 on **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December** with a **1.30pm dismissal time**.

**Start of School 2022** - A note for your calendar that students in Year 1 to Year 6 commence school for 2022 on **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February**. 2022 Prep students will have individual interviews scheduled for Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February to Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> February inclusive. 2022 Preps start in classes on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February from 9am to 2.15pm. Teachers will be at school on the Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January and Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January undertaking important professional development and planning to ensure a successful start to the year.

Kind regards, Martin Page.

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



The Mount Martha Primary School community acknowledges & pays respect to the Boon Wurrung/Bunurong people of the Kulin nation, the traditional custodians of these lands & waters.



## RAPID ANTIGEN TESTING PROGRAM

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) approved the use of rapid antigen testing for home use from Monday 1 November.

The Department of Education and Training (DET) has been currently working with the Department of Health to roll-out a state-wide program for any new COVID-19 exposures on school sites from Monday 15 November. This program helps unvaccinated or partially vaccinated students to return to school as quickly as possible after being identified as a primary close contact (PCC) after a seven-day quarantine, instead of a 14-day quarantine.

### How the rapid antigen testing program will work

Following an exposure at our school, you will be notified that your child (who is unvaccinated, or partially vaccinated) has been identified as primary close contact (PCC) of a confirmed COVID-19 case.

The at-home rapid antigen testing program is an opt-in program for unvaccinated, or partially vaccinated, students. Our school will provide you with rapid antigen test kits. You do not need to buy these test kits.

If you want to take part in the at-home rapid antigen testing program, your child must quarantine at home for seven days. Day one of quarantine is first day of quarantine after your child's last potential contact with a confirmed case. On day six of quarantine, your child must get a standard (PCR) test at your local COVID-19 testing site. If the test is negative, you must provide the results to your child's school, and your child can then return to school on day eight after completing seven days of quarantine.

Students will then be required to return a negative rapid antigen test result each morning from days eight to 14 on school days, which must be reported to the school by 8:30am before they arrive at school.

If you do not opt into the Rapid Antigen Testing Program or your child is a close contact to a COVID positive family member your child must quarantine at home for 14 days. On day 13 of quarantine, your child must get a standard (PCR) test at your local testing site. If the PCR test is negative, you must provide the results to school. Your child can then return to school on day 15 without undergoing a rapid antigen test.

Parents should continue to follow current school policy and public health advice. If your child is unwell, even with the mildest of symptoms, they must stay at home and get tested for COVID-19 with a standard (PCR) test, regardless of a negative rapid antigen test result.

Our school will communicate with you as soon as we are able that we have a confirmed COVID-19 case, including with instructions on how to conduct these tests, how to report the results, and support available if needed.

The statewide roll-out of rapid antigen testing is one of many strategies currently in place to support schools during the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information about what strategies are in place, please visit the [department's website](#) or call the department's COVID-19 hotline on 1800 338 663.

## IMPORTANT COVID INFORMATION - ARRANGEMENTS FOR ONSITE LEARNING

Some important points to note:

1. A critical measure in control of COVID-19 in schools is that unwell students should not be sent to school or remain at school if symptoms appear during the day or they become unwell. Parents will be contacted to collect unwell students who will be supervised while isolated from other students.
2. Face masks must be worn by students in Years 3 to 6 when indoors at school and recommended for students in Prep to Year 2.
3. If a student or staff member is diagnosed with COVID-19 the school will contact the Department of Education and Training (DET) who will direct the school in the next steps including provision of timelines and communication templates. The Regional Director determines whether the school will be shut to allow time for contact tracing and cleaning. Schools are required to follow the direction of DET in for action required, communication and timelines. Department of Health provides health advice to families. Testing and isolation of primary close contacts for a period of time is usually required.
4. The school day will commence at 9am as usual with students usually arriving at different times from about 8.30am. Please follow the "Kiss and Go" rules. This staggered arrival allows for a flow of students entering and easier physical distancing. **At the end of the day, students in Prep to Year 1 will finish at 3.30pm. Year 2 will also finish at 3.30pm when back onsite. Years 3 to Year 6 will finish school at 3.20pm.** A slightly earlier finish will allow an improved flow of students off site while still allowing siblings to meet if required for the walk home.
5. Siblings should have a pre-arranged and clearly understood outside meeting place if travelling home together.
6. Once a year level has returned, all students will be expected to attend school as normal. This means if a parent/carer chooses to keep their child/children home after their year level has returned to on-site schooling, the remote learning program does not continue. This does not apply to children who need to be absent for health, medical reasons or exceptional circumstances. For those families, please contact us so we can make an appropriate plan.
7. Students may choose to bring their own named water bottle. Drinking bottles can be refilled from taps during the day. Food is not to be shared.
8. A rigorous approach will be used by teachers to ensure all students wash/sanitise their hands each time upon entry and exit of rooms, before and after eating, after using the toilet and after coughing or sneezing. Students will be reminded of the need to cough or sneeze into their elbow and use tissues. All classrooms have handwashing and/or sanitiser available, tissues and antiseptic wipes. Parents may choose to supply their own child with sanitiser and tissues. Increased ventilation strategies are applied.
9. Enhanced cleaning of the school particularly including high touch points and toilets will be undertaken.
10. The Chief Health Officer has highlighted the importance of social distancing between adults as a key control measure and must continue to be practiced. Social distancing is not required amongst students onsite. Parents are encouraged to only be onsite for essential business. Parents must not enter classrooms or corridors. Communication with teachers will continue to be via gmail and telephone. The Office is open but social distancing is required. Early pick ups or late arrivals will be organised from the Office. Parents must not congregate at the school gates and must practice social distancing. Parents are encouraged to wait offsite at drop off and pick up. We recognise that in the initial days of returning to school some students, particularly Preps, may require a parent to walk them in to school or a pick up but over time we should all be working to minimise this.
11. Essential visitors to school grounds must comply with density limits, face mask requirements, QR code/Compass Kiosk/manual check ins and practise respiratory etiquette and good hand hygiene.
12. Parent volunteers must show proof of being double vaccinated prior to their assistance in school events.
13. We have also made changes to the way our staff work and have breaks to ensure social distancing as well.
14. Designated play equipment and areas already exist for our students and oval use is timetabled. This together with a large play area will mean that recess and lunchtimes will remain at their usual times. Close contacts are also now defined as accumulated close contact of greater than 2 hours.

More information about the return to school and coronavirus (COVID-19) can be found on the Department's website, which will continue to be updated:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/department/Pages/coronavirus.aspx>

The COVID Hotlines remain another important source of information:

Dept of Health- 1800 1800 675 398

DET- 1800 338 663 (available 8:30am to 5pm, Monday to Friday, and 10am-3pm Saturday to Sunday, excluding public holidays).

## SCHOOL NOTICES

### Dates to Remember Coming Events



#### NOVEMBER

**Wednesday 24th**

**2022 Prep Transition Session 2**

9.15am - 10.30am

Please meet at the outdoor amphitheatre near the back of the gymnasium



**Friday 26th November**

**Year 6 Market Day**

\$10 Market Pack now available on Compass  
Includes 14 tokens, Sausage in Bread & Juice

**Tuesday 30th November**

**Year 3 Professor Bunsen Incursion**

#### DECEMBER

**Wednesday 1st**

**2022 Prep Transition Session 3**

9.15am - 10.30am

Please meet at the outdoor amphitheatre near the back of the gymnasium



**Book Collection Day** 8.00am - 6.00pm  
in Staff Centre

**Friday 3rd**

**PUPIL FREE DAY STUDENTS DO NOT  
ATTEND SCHOOL TODAY**



**Wednesday 8th**

**Prep Enchanted Garden**

9.00am - 3.00pm, Arthurs Seat

**Year 2 Reptile Encounters Excursion**

9.00am - 12.30pm

**Friday 10th**

**Year 3 Moonlit Sanctuary**

9.00am - 1.30pm, Pearcedale

**Wednesday 15th**

**Year 6 Gumbuya World**

8.45am - 3.30pm, Tynong

**Year 1 Dinosaur World**

9.00am - 12.45pm, Somerville

**Year 4 South Beach Lunch**

10.30am - 3.00pm, Mount Martha

**Year 5 Sausage Sizzle**

10.45am - 1.00pm, Mount Martha

### COMPASS EVENT PAYMENT/CONSENT CALENDAR



With restrictions permitting, the below Events will be published to Compass once confirmed.

Parents are reminded to log into the Compass Parent Portal to consent and/or pay by the due date.

Please let the office know if your child will be away and/or will not be attending the event.

Thank you.

SCHEDULED EVENTS (TO BE CONFIRMED)	PROPOSED DATE	COST
Year 3 Professor Bunsen	30th Nov	\$12
Years 5 & 6 Swim Sports Years 3 & 4 Swim Sports	Cancelled	\$6 payments will be credited to
Prep Enchanted Garden	8th Dec	\$28
Year 2 Reptile Encounters	8th Dec	\$15
Year 3 Moonlit Sanctuary	10th Dec	\$21
Year 6 Gumbuya World	15th Dec	TBC
Year 1 Dinosaur World	15th Dec	\$28
Year 4 South Beach Lunch	15th Dec	\$10
Year 5 Sausage Sizzle	15th Dec	\$2
Year 3 Max The Magician	16th Dec	\$3

#### TERM DATES: 2021

**Term 4** 4th October to 17th December

#### TERM DATES: 2022

**Term 1** 28th January to 8th April  
Students in Years 1-6 commence  
1st February 2022  
*(Prep Interviews 1-3 February  
to be confirmed)*

**Term 2** 26th April to 24th June

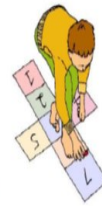
**Term 3** 11th July to 16th September

**Term 4** 3rd October to 20th December

PUPIL FREE DAY— OSHCP PROGRAM



MOUNT MARTHA PRIMARY SCHOOL  
OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE PROGRAM



PUPIL FREE DAY – FRIDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER 2021



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BOOKINGS CLOSE FRIDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER





## SEC CHOC TOP DAY



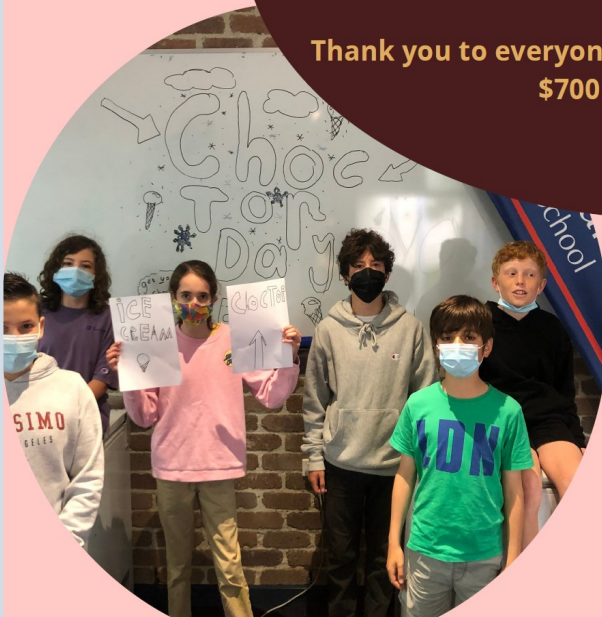
*thank you!*

*Even though the weather was more like winter than spring,  
the lack sunshine did not stop the fun that was had on  
Choc Top Day!*

**There was dancing in classrooms, choc top eating  
races & lots of smiles.**

**Big thanks to all the Yr 6 helpers. The heroes below  
were the set-up crew. We had an army of 14 Yr 6's  
who managed to hand out 675 choc tops in 5 minutes!**

**Thank you to everyone who ordered, we raised about  
\$700 for our school.**



## The Year 6 Market - 2021

The Year 6 Students are currently undertaking an exciting Cross Curriculum based Project, 'The Year 6 Market 2021'.

The project covers many curriculum areas including:

- Economics and Business
- Critical and Creative Thinking
- Personal and Social Capability
- Design and Technology
- English
- Mathematics.

This year's market will be held on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November during school hours and will predominately be an activity based market. The Year 6 students are very much looking forward to showcasing some new games and activities that will allow all students to have an awesome time, and win some fun prizes!! In addition to the activity stalls there will be a sausage sizzle, food stalls offering fruit, icy poles and sweet treats and stalls offering a selection of craft.



The crew from 'Drop It' hard at work creating their game. Will it be for the skilled or lucky? Come to 'Drop It' to find out

### **CASH FREE**

Due to COVID restrictions placed on the school we are continuing with the token system that was introduced last year. This not only allows for safe payment, it also provides the school community with many rich learning tasks around money, budgeting and equity.

Here is how it works:

Students will be able to purchase a "\$10 Market Pack" via Compass. The Pack will be for a Sausage in Bread (or equivalent if diet doesn't permit), a juice and 14 tokens with a value of 50 cents per token. Students will be given these tokens and will use these at the various stalls. Simple!!



## YEAR 6 MARKET

All activities, additional snacks (Fruit, Icy Poles and sweet treats) and most craft will be either one, two or three tokens.

You will be able to purchase these Market Packs via 'Compass' shortly.



The students from 'Level Up' painting their game. What awesome prizes can you win?

### MARKET PROFIT

All profits from the market are split between 'The Cancer Council', leaving a legacy item (such as a piece of art) for the school that will allow the 2021 Students to be remembered, and helping the Year 6 students fund their 2021 graduation celebration.

Thank you for your support of the Year 6 Students as they complete this learning.

**Look forward to seeing you all there!**

### The Year 6 Students



Students from prior years enjoying some market activities.



## YEAR 6 MARKET

### ***Handy Market Hints:***

- *Bring along a reusable bag to carry any products or prizes and a pouch/wallet for their tokens.*
- *Encourage your child to do some extra jobs around the house to earn the \$10 to buy their Market Pack on Compass.*

### ***Frequently Asked Questions:***

Q: Have all Covid safety measures been addressed?

A: In this ever changing environment, if anything falls outside the scope of a permitted activity, that activity will be cancelled. Each activity will have a Covid Safety Plan (where appropriate this will include masks, gloves, sanitiser etc.), Classes will be remaining in their Year Level Bubble. The cooking of food will be supervised and served from the canteen window.

Q: What sort of prizes can be won?

A: Occasionally the prize is simply participating! For example one stall allows you to race a friend through an obstacle course allowing the winner to reach a water pistol first, and you guessed it!! They get to squirt their friend!! Many other stalls have prizes ranging from things such as tattoos, basketballs and some great surprises!

Q: I heard there will be a stall offering Pet Rocks. Will they sell food to feed their Pet Rocks?

A: Pet Rocks live on a diet of soil and SodaStream Soda. Providing your soil at home isn't too saline you will be able to simply feed it from your garden bed. We do not sell SodaStreams.

Q: Can I purchase additional tokens.

A: No. Each year level will have the opportunity to visit the market for about 50minutes. The allocated amount of tokens per Market Pack should be enough for them to enjoy throughout this time. Talk to your child about using 1 or 2 tokens to purchase a treat, 1 or 2 for a small item of craft and then to use the remaining 10 on their favourite 5 activities! LOOK OUT THOUGH!! SOME TEACHERS AND YEAR 6 STUDENTS MAY BE HANDING OUT SOME ADDITIONAL TOKENS TO THOSE SHOWCASING THE SCHOOL VALUES ☺

Q: Please can I purchase additional tokens?

A: No. See previous answer☺

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