



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**
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Mt Martha Vic 3934

Reception
5974 2800

Fax
5974 3634

Absentee Reporting
Lodge via Compass parent portal

Website
www.mtmarthaps.vic.edu.au

Email
mount.martha.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Office Hours
8.30am - 4.15pm
Monday - Friday

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Coordinator - Gillian Reid



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BANKSIA BULLETIN - Thursday 8 October 2020

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

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Dear parents and carers

On behalf of our school, I want to say a big thank you to all our students, parents and carers for your continued resilience and support throughout this year. I know remote and flexible learning has not always been easy, but through our collective efforts, our students have continued to make valuable progress in their learning. You can be confident that our school will support any student who has fallen behind to catch up.

Term 4 is important for every Victorian student, and our teachers will strive to deliver high-quality learning for everyone. Whether we're teaching remotely or face-to-face, our focus for Term 4 is on making sure that every student is supported in their wellbeing, learning and transition needs.

The Victorian Government has outlined the staged return to on-site schooling for all students as part of its gradual roadmap towards reopening.

Term 4 on-site schooling arrangements for students

Following advice of the Victorian Chief Health Officer, the Victorian Government has released a staged approach for students to return to on-site schooling.

The purpose of the plan is to get students back in the classroom as soon and as safely as possible without putting at risk all that has been achieved through the period of restrictions to reduce the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

For our school, all students and year levels will return to onsite from Monday 12th October. The existing remote learning program will not continue.

Following recommendations from Victoria's Chief Medical Officer and DET there are some changes we need to make in how we do things at school. There are similarities with changes that were made for the return to school in Term 2. Parents/Carers will receive a handbook that outlines and gives direction on these changes. These may require adjustment as we receive updated information from DET and the Chief Medical Officer.

Health and safety measures

The Term 3 remote and flexible learning arrangements were put in place to significantly reduce the movement of more than one million students and their families across Victoria, to help slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). Thanks to you and your family for contributing to this on behalf of our school community.

As on-site schooling resumes, we will continue to have in place strong measures to protect the health and safety of students, staff, families and the community. This includes staggering finish times, restricting parent access to school grounds and continued emphasis on hand hygiene and physical distancing where possible.

Continued....

Our Mission is to ensure high quality and engaging learning program that builds

Principal's Report continued...

Please give particular attention to reducing the risks associated with congregation at school gates and taking steps to contribute to physical distancing within the school.

We will be focused on three key priorities in Term 4:

Mental health and wellbeing

Our highest priority will be the wellbeing, particularly the mental health, of every student and member of staff. This means effectively mobilising available resources to support our most vulnerable students and enabling staff to access the relevant support services.

Learning and excellence

Some of our students have thrived in the remote and flexible learning environment, others have maintained their learning progress, and some have fallen behind, despite their best efforts and those of their families and teachers. Our priority will be supporting both those who need it to catch up and those who have progressed to continue to extend their learning.

Transitions

We will make every effort to ensure successful transitions for children moving from kindergarten into Prep, the Grade 6s moving into Year 7.

We know some families are worried that their child may have to repeat a year due to the disruptions of coronavirus (COVID-19). There is little evidence to support the benefits of repeating a year to catch up. Instead, schools will use teaching strategies that draw on the best evidence available to help students meet their learning needs.

Parents, families and carers can be confident that the best option for almost every child is to stay with their peer group, whether that is moving from kindergarten into Prep, moving from Grade 6 into Year 7 at secondary school, or students moving up any year level in between.

Our school, working with you, has shown it can be flexible and adaptable in responding to the challenges of coronavirus (COVID-19) and will continue to meet student needs as we look towards the end of the 2020 school year and ahead to 2021.

Kind regards

Martin



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A "Transition to Onsite Parent/Carers Handbook" will be distributed. It contains information to assist the transition back to school in Term 4.

Some points to note:

1. The school day will commence at 9am as usual with students usually arriving at different times from about 8.30am. 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 2 will finish at 3.30pm. 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.
2. 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 or medical reasons. For those families, please contact us so we can make an appropriate plan.
3. 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.
4. Students should bring their own named water bottle as drinking fountains are not available. Drinking bottles can be refilled from taps during the day. Food is not to be shared.
5. 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.
6. DET have funded enhanced cleaning with high touch points and toilets provided with additional cleans throughout the day. Playground equipment will also be cleaned.
7. The Chief Health Officer has highlighted the importance of social distancing between adults as a key control measure. Social distancing is not required amongst students onsite. For our parents this will result in some of the more obvious changes parents see. 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 practice social distancing. We have also made changes to the way our staff work and have breaks to ensure social distancing as well. 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.
8. 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.
9. To return to our normal teaching program borrowed computer equipment must be returned.
Loaned equipment can be returned between 1pm and 4pm on Friday 9th October and from 9.30am on Monday 12th October.
10. If a student or staff member is diagnosed with COVID-19 the school will contact the Department of Health who will advise the next steps. It is likely the school will be shut and reopen after a deep clean has occurred.

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/departments/Pages/coronavirus.aspx>

SCHOOL NOTICES

Dates to Remember

Coming Events



OCTOBER

Friday 9th

2021 Student Supplies—last day for orders to be completed.

Return of borrowed school laptops between 1pm - 4pm.

Monday 12th

Prep to Year 6 Students return to onsite learning. 9am Start.

Until further notice:

Year 3 to 6 finish at 3.30pm.

Prep to Year 2 finish at 3.30pm.

Return of borrowed school laptops from 9.30am.

Friday 23rd

Public Holiday - Students do not attend school on this day.

COMPASS EVENT PAYMENT/CONSENT CALENDAR



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.

EVENTS 2020	COST	CLOSING DATE
<div style="background-color: #90ee90; border: 2px solid yellow; border-radius: 50%; padding: 20px; display: inline-block;"> <p style="margin: 0;">2020 EVENTS POSTPONED</p> </div>		

TERM DATES: 2020

Term 4 5th October to 18th December

TERM DATES: 2021

Term 1 28th January to 1st April

Term 2 19th April to 25th June

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