



Montmorency Primary School Newsletter

Issue 1: 5 February 2014

Principal's Report

Michael Otway | Principal

A terrific start to a great year

Welcome everybody to what promises to be a wonderful year. We should be at 180 students, an increase on last year, and have still managed to create small groups with a really good staff mix. Site meetings with our builders have indicated that we are on-track in terms of progress and are aiming to move in during the last week of Term 2 this year. The whole project should be finished by the end of the year – what a difference it will make! The building has been designed to support our sense of connection to quality teaching and learning and to each other, whilst retaining the ability to teach explicitly in a “home room” atmosphere. It will be unique in this area and will offer an alternative solution to the one-dimensional “open learning” environments created in such profusion during the BER (Building the Educational Revolution) program in 2009-2011. Plans are available on request and drawings are displayed in the foyer.

Welcome to Kevin Wilcockson, (Grade 4/5) and Margarita Strateas, (Grade 1/2). Welcome back to Rebekah Rentos (0.4 in Grade 5/6) and Anna Hayes (as our newest “Step Into Prep” Foundation teacher!). Our Stephanie Alexander Garden Specialist position is currently being advertised for a March start date.

Important Dates – Information Night, First Touch-Base Interviews

It is an exciting time for our school with the expansion to 10 class groups. We have a welcome **BBQ this Friday Night** where we hope to meet as many families as possible. We will hold a **Whole-School information night** on **Thursday 13 February**. The purpose of this evening is to outline our approaches to the year and also to give some building updates. There will be an opportunity to break into grade groups to hear about how the class works and plans for the year. Our **Touch-Base interviews** for **Grade 1-6** are on **Wednesday 26 February**. These interviews are about essential information that you need to communicate to your child's teacher. Our Foundation families have the Wednesdays in February to engage in more depth with their child's teacher.

School Council Elections

This year we have **one parent position** up for election and a **Community Member** up for co-option. I will call for **Nominations** on **Monday 10th February**. You may have specific expertise that you can offer to the school but the most important qualities we are looking for are the ability to work with people, understand and support school context, and focus on the best results for all students at Montmorency Primary School. Forms will be available from the General Office. Existing Council members are also eligible to re-nominate. Our Council is constituted as 7 Parents, 4 DEECD members and 1 Community member. Due to resignations from the six two-year terms elected last year, there are **two** positions up for co-option. Council meets on February the 11th and will make a decision whether to co-opt at its March meeting or whether to co-opt at a later date. From “The Principal's Guide to School Council Elections” *“Where a member resigns or is no longer eligible to complete the term of office, the position may be filled by the school council co-opting an eligible person for the remainder of the term of office.”*. In this case the co-options would be for the remainder of 2014 and until the declaration of the new poll in March 2015. If you are interested in being co-opted for Council you may pick up a form from the General Office after Monday the 10th of February.

Diary dates

- **Wednesday 5 Feb**
Swimming trials, select grade 3-6
- **Friday 7 Feb: 5.30 pm**
Welcome BBQ
- **Monday 10 Feb: 9.00 am**
First school assembly
everyone welcome
- **Monday 10 Feb: 9.30 am**
P&F ideas meeting and catch up
- **Monday 10 Feb**
School Council, nominations open
- **Tuesday 11 Feb: 7:30 pm**
School Council Meeting
- **Thursday 13 Feb: 5 – 8 pm**
Whole School Info night
- **Sunday 16 Feb: 10am – 12pm**
Working Bee
- **Wednesday 19 Feb**
Swimming Carnival, Northcote
- **Saturday 22 Feb: 9am – 1pm**
Farmers market
- **Wednesday 26 Feb**
Touch base interviews grades 1-6
- **Tuesday 4 Mar**
Division Swimming
- **Monday 10 March**
Labour Day, no school
- **Wednesday 12 March: 7pm**
Parent Information Night
- **Tuesday 18 March**
School Council AGM

Montmorency Primary School

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Code of Conduct

We have included our Student Code of Conduct at the very end of this Newsletter. This was codified last year and represents our expectations regarding Student Behaviour. It will work best if we are speaking the same language so that children experience consistency and, ultimately, accept responsibility for their own actions. Please read this with your child, at an age-appropriate level, and return it signed as soon as possible

Start of year – ‘Start-Up’ Program

Keryn Johnson | Welfare Coordinator

It is wonderful to see such a positive start to the school year with all of our 10 grades following our whole school ‘Start-Up Program’. This program is a great way to get to know one another and also helps students and their teacher to focus on their personal and class goals for the year while assisting to set a very positive tone both in the classroom and out in the school grounds. In the third or fourth week, each child will take home information summarising their ‘Start Up Program’. We believe that implementing our ‘Start-Up Program’ will assist all classes in establishing a positive start and outlook for the year. Keep a look out in your child’s school bag in the upcoming weeks for their Start-Up Program’ summary. More information can be found on our website (there is a link from our homepage).

Sound Waves Spelling at Montmorency Primary in 2014

Janene Worsam | Acting Assistant Principal, Curriculum and Welfare

The Sound Waves spelling program is a systematic, whole school word study program designed to develop spelling and reading skills using the phonemic approach. The phonemic approach focuses on the sounds of our language and is recognised as one of the most effective ways to teach spelling and aid reading.

We are excited to be implementing this first-class program across all Grade levels this year. For more information about the Sound Waves program, have a look at the website: www.fireflyeducation.com.au/soundwaves/ Happy spelling, everyone!

Out of Hours Care Room

Donna Barclay | OSHC Coordinator

Welcome to all our new families to the care room. We have lots of people wanting to use the room this year, so if you don't need a session please let us know asap either via email or call the school, so that others can use your place.

We are currently building a collection of xbox games, if anyone has any they no longer need, donations are gratefully received.

Physical Education

Donna Barclay | PE Teacher

Please note the following days of the week for PE. Please ensure that the children have sneakers on, hats and drink bottles. This is essential for children's safety.

- Monday: Foundation Prep (A and B) grades 4/5 & 5/6
- Tuesday: Preps Blue, Red and Green, Grades 1, 2 and 3

This Wednesday 5 Feb are the swimming trials for the interschool sports on Wednesday 19 Feb, for children in grades 3 to 6.

Uniform Shop

Michelle Duke | Uniform Shop Coordinator

Welcome back to the new school year. The majority of uniform orders placed prior to the end of 2013 have been filled, any outstanding items are on order with our supplier. Please monitor the office window for notification of your order’s arrival.

The uniform shop is now open 8:45 am to 10.00 am on Monday. In the midst of this heat it is easy to overlook the winter uniform items. These will need to be ordered soon in order to ensure we have the stock prior to the cooler months. Please start to consider your requirements; orders can be left at the office at any time. For those who would like to sell their Second Hand Uniform, please place an ad on the PFA notice board including your contact details.

Safety policies – no cars or nuts please

For staff and student safety, please note – parents and carers should not to drive onto the school grounds between 8:30 am and 4pm on school days. Also, because there are several children with nut allergies in the school, MPS has a nut free policy. We appreciate your cooperation in not sending your kids to school with any nuts or nut products.

Parents & Friends

Natalie Duffy (mum to Dominica & Valentino Scaffidi) | Parents & Friends Coordinator

Welcome to 2014

Parents & Friends of Monty Primary School, like the teachers and students are excited about the beginning of the new school year. The friendly feel at Monty doesn't just happen. It is a combination of beautiful children learning together, fantastic teaching staff dedicated to giving their best so our kids can excel and plenty of generous parents and friends contributing and supporting the school community in the ways they can. A big thank you to Reece Newey and Kay Morehu for all your P&F work last year as Co-ordinators.

I was inspired by the efforts of others and have put my hand up to be the P&F Co-ordinator for 2014. My daughter Dominica Scaffidi is in Foundation K, after having a wonderful year in pre-prep last year, and my son Valentino Scaffidi is starting pre-prep in Foundation Green.

Hopefully you might be inspired as I was to get involved in the school community. There are so many fabulous people to meet and rewards to gain just from being involved. Maybe you could cook cakes for the monthly Monty Farmers Market, maybe you are handy with a hammer or shovel or tree planting, or maybe you could help in the classroom with reading or excursions, or maybe you could simply come and have a cuppa with other parents and carers at our morning teas.

Thank you to everyone who shared in our informal cuppa under the Rotunda on Monday. It was lovely to share experiences and just relax after settling our "Preppies" in for their first day of school. Many thanks to the parents who set up, served cuppas and made cakes!

Over the next few weeks we will be seeking suggestions on the social things families would like to do to keep our school thriving and we will be posting opportunities for helpers.

Most importantly we look forward to catching up and celebrating our school and our kids together. Hope to see you at the Welcome BBQ this Friday 7 February.

What's coming up

- Friday 7 February – Welcome BBQ starts at 5.30pm.
- Monday 10 February – P&F Ideas meeting and catch up. After 9:00am assembly. All welcome.
- Saturday 22 February – 4th Saturday of every month. Bring the family along!

P & F Class Representatives

We are introducing a P&F Class Rep role for each class this year. [Why have a P&F Class rep?](#) We are aiming to establish a Parents and Friends Group model based on shared responsibility, communication, the building of friendships, a regular meeting or social time, the incorporation of new directions, the pooling of talent and the identification of community members willing to be called when special events are planned.

The aim of the class rep is to help foster engagement, belonging and communication among parents and carers. There are so many fabulous ideas that come from parents and we are keen to set up easy channels to feed these into the P&F Coordinator and School Council. As the class rep you would start by asking your child's teacher what help they need. It could be by simply coordinating a parent list of phone numbers, arranging a mum's dinner, even facilitating a fundraising idea. If you think this is a way you would like to get involved please let your teacher or Natalie Duffy know. It's OK to share the role with another parent from your class. The more the merrier!

Monty Farmers Market

The Monty Farmers Market is a festive community market held in the school grounds 4th Saturday of each month from 9am to 1pm. The MPS Parents & Friends group run a school fundraising Cake Stall at the market selling donated baked goods. If you would like to contribute your favourite baked treat we know there will be someone who will love to buy it.

From March, each grade will be allocated a market to host. Please keep your eyes out for the market your grade will be responsible for running. A fun morning will be had.

Healthy Snack Basket

Monty P&F have provided a fruit basket at the front office which will be filled with fresh seasonal fruit & veggie snacks for purchase. Items are \$1 and funds raised will go towards school programs. Perfect for those mornings when you may have forgotten your Healthy Snack or are feeling extra hungry!

Building & Grounds

Michael Mark | Buildings & Grounds Coordinator **M** 0411 476 224 **E:** michael_mark@hotmail.com

I am looking forward to seeing many old and new faces at the next Working Bee held on Sunday, 16 February. MPS does not have a 'groundskeeper' and there is no maintenance staff, every tiny piece of improvement or repair you see (or suggestion you might have) has been done, or will hopefully get done, by an MPS parent, grandparent or caregiver. Collectively, we have a great number of skills: architects, welders, designers, chippies, artists and gardeners are just some of the professions we are able to draw upon when the need arises. Please let the Principal know if you have particular abilities that might come in handy at some point during the year (locksmith anyone?).

However, what we need most often is simply a willing hand to lift a shovel, prune a bush, and push a wheelbarrow. Working Bees are a great way together to know other parents, to let the kids play at school on a non-school day, and further help to create an environment which your children interact on a daily basis. If you are not able to pull weeds or pick up rubbish, (for any number of reasons) there are multiple other opportunities to help out, we always appreciate a little cheering, organizing and grant writing volunteers - let me know how you can help and we can put you to work!

Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program

Suzie Wilton & Darryl Deller | Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden, E: suzie.wilton@hotmail.com

Kitchen News

It is very exciting to be back in the kitchen after a great summer holidays. It will be wonderful to see the Grade 4, 5 & 6's again and I am looking forward to meeting the Grade 3's as we start our kitchen classes together!

This year, kitchen classes will be on Wednesdays and we will be rotating our groups so a roster will be sent home to keep track of which week we are up to! Don't forget to bring an apron to your classes to protect your uniform.

Also, we are so grateful to our returning volunteers who really hold the whole program together- thank you all so much!

Extra Produce

Do you have a lemon tree at home with more lemons than you can use? Or a very productive rhubarb plant? We are glad to accept any extra produce that you can't use at home – be it citrus, fruit or veggies, we will figure out creative ways to use it in the kitchen or for fundraising!

Garden

As we are advertising for the new Garden Specialist we would be grateful to any of our garden volunteers who would be keen to do some general weeding, watering and maintenance on Wednesdays, or any other day of the week, to keep our garden in good shape for our new specialist. Thank you!

We would also be very happy to see any new volunteers to help us with the program this year. So if you would like to help out with our cooking or gardening classes on a Wednesday, please let Mr [Darryl] Deller of Grade 3 know of your interest.

Newsletters

Penelope Aitken | Newsletter Editor **M:** 0411 274 472 **E:** penelope.aitken@gmail.com

This is the first newsletter of the 2014 and newsletters are sent out fortnightly during term time. If you have any notices or contributions for the next issue please email these to me by Sunday 16 February.

The MPS newsletter is supported by some advertising so if you have an event or activity to promote outside of school and that is suitable for children or families, please contact Julie in the front office for our current rates.

Also if you would like to receive the newsletter electronically, please fill in the form overleaf, return it to the front office and we'll put you on the list. **MPS is trying very hard to reduce paper so please consider this environmental option.** And don't forget that you can get extra copies emailed and to multiple addresses, even if you still want a hard copy.

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

YES , I would like the MPS newsletter sent electronically to the following addresses:

Email 1:

Email 2:.....

Parent Name/s:.....

Oldest child's name:.....Grade:.....

Take me off the hard copy list please

✂.....

Advertisements

Charity Disco

Has it been too long since you have danced well into the night? Are you getting a little old for nightclubs! This Valentine Day Romance your loved one the good ol' fashion way.

Break out your moves and give up your money or just give up your moves and break out your cash anyway to help support this worthy charity.

Locally supported, Meals@The Bridge provides meals and offers support and friendship to the homeless and in need people residing in our inner city. So come and enjoy a night and help to support www.mealsatthebridge.org/

Local guitarist Michael Otway performing followed by DJ Andy and his mix of 70's, 80's and 90's party classics.

Saturday 15 February 8 – 12 pm, Lower Plenty Scout Hall, 1 Maskell Cresnet (crn Para Rd), Lower Plenty
Only \$20 entry. Finger food provided, BYO drinks







Greenhills Montmorency Baseball Club is recruiting for the 2014 winter season.

Are you aged 6 to 16?

**Have you ever wanted to
play baseball?**

**Now is the time to give it a
go!**



Player Sign-Up Day

Saturday 1 March 2014, 10am – 12noon

Malcolm Blair Reserve, Karingal Drive, Greensborough

All skill levels welcome

Enquiries: Frank (Junior Co-Ordinator)

juniors@montybaseball.com.au or 0413 547 546

2014 ELTHAM LACROSSE SCHOOLS COMPETITION

Come & join in on the Sport, Action
Fun, Fitness & Teamwork!



Lacrosse is the **FASTEST** game on two feet!

Competition dates: March 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th



To find out more contact Brad Nowland at
juniordirector@elthamlacrosseclub.com.au



FITNESS N.O.W - NATIONAL OPEN WEEK
FEBRUARY 10TH - 16TH, 2014

*For full terms and conditions, visit www.stepintolife.com.au.
Authorised under permit numbers: NSW Permit No. LTPS/43/100461
AOT Permit No. TP 13/04627

FREE OUTDOOR FITNESS TRAINING!

Discover a fitter and healthier lifestyle with Step into Life Eltham! From February 10th-16th, we're inviting you to come and try FREE unlimited Group Outdoor Personal Training sessions at Eltham Lower Park during Fitness N.O.W, our National Open Week. You could win great prizes from The Athlete's Foot, Bakers Delight, Aussie Farmers Direct and more!

We cater to all ages and fitness levels, with a range of convenient session times throughout the week. Reservations for your free fitness training are essential, as spaces are limited.

Claim your FREE Group Outdoor Personal Training sessions today!
Step into Life Eltham - 0417 906 778

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