



Montmorency Primary School

Newsletter

Issue 18: 13 November 2014

Principal's Report

Michael Otway | Principal

Setting Up For 2015

At Montmorency Primary School, we aim to maximize all of the available resources (human, financial and physical) to deliver a high quality education for all students. We ensure the educational program we offer our students and school community remains open to development, is sound in its approach and practice, and prepares people for future challenges and opportunities in life.

In preparation for 2015, we are in the process of considering class lists and looking at staffing and the physical placement of classes. We are currently in the process of hiring a teacher to implement Japanese at Foundation Level. We will advertise positions for Physical Education with a small music component to assist me as I return to Music teaching in 2015. Art, Music, Gardening and Kitchen (Grades 3-6) will continue to be on offer.

We have rolled back our colours program into two groups in 2015, and so will have more children in our core whilst retaining similar overall numbers to 2014. Grade groupings are exciting. We anticipate two Foundation "Colour" groupings, two Foundation groups, two Grade 1/2 groupings, two Grade 3/4 groups and a Grade 5/6. Grade composition is usually a simple process. If parents have any information they wish us to consider please let us know within the next two weeks. We are looking to develop our staff and create powerful teams so there will be some changes. Of course, in the new building children will not feel isolated from friends or trusted adults. Our new building and portable give us the option to implement cooperative models of working together and the Grade structure will further enhance team planning and shared understandings.

As you can see it is all about the steps, stages and innovative thinking needed to create a future-focused, self-sustaining school built on the wonderful culture that presently underpins our unique environment.

Every Day (and Minute) Counts

Please take the time to read literature on this subject which is included at the end of this newsletter. Lost time at school can add up to have a significant effect on learning.

Diary dates

Tuesday 18 November

- School Council meeting (7:30pm)

Wednesday 19 November

- Foundation 2015 transition session (9:30 – 11:00 am)

Saturday 22 November

- Farmers Market – Foundation Colours (Red and Blue)

Wednesday 26 November

- Foundation Colours 2015 transition session

Saturday 29 November

- Election Day – Voting and Market/Car Boot Sale

Wednesday 3 December

- Foundation 2015 parent information session (9:30 – 11:00 am)

Friday 5 December

- Foundation S & K excursion to the Zoo

Wednesday 10 December

- Foundation Colours 2015 transition session
- Christmas Carols

Thursday 11 December

- Foundation Colours 2015 parent information session (4:00 pm)

Friday 12 December

- Grade 3 excursion to Eureka Skydeck

Tuesday 16 December

- Grade 6 graduation

School Council

Simon Clarkson | School Council President | simondbclarkson@icloud.com

OSHC Update

Thank you all for your feedback on the School Council's proposal to outsource our OSHC programme. We received 11 responses - which represents about 1 in 10 families in the school. The general feedback was mixed, however on the 'scored' element of the feedback by far and away the most important factor identified was 'my child's enjoyment of the service' (which is not really related to a school run or outsourced programme). On the basis that the feedback was not overwhelming in any direction and that there are a number of benefits to the school, it is planned to go ahead and use Camp Australia to provide our service from term 1 2015. Camp Australia will be providing written communication to all families in the next two weeks and we are working on settling up a face-to-face information session before the end of this term. I would like to take this opportunity again to thank our current OSHC team for all of their hard work in running our current programme. If anyone would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

School Council Update

The school council will be finalising budgets for next year over the next month and will be looking to agree a list of priorities for fundraising. In that way, as we fundraise we can see tangible benefits for our children. To help us get a list that represents the views of the school I would encourage all of you to speak to any member of the School Council in the next week - prior to our next meeting on the 18th November.

Parents & Friends

Natalie Duffy | Parents & Friends Coordinator | ndu39182@bigpond.net.au | M: 0422 016 171

Environment Award

Congratulations Monty Primary on winning the Environment Award (Education Category) for the cities of Darebin & Banyule. This was a proud moment of recognition for everyone for living and breathing sustainability at our school.

What's Coming Up?

Friday 14 November	Monty Makers – 1:00 - 3:00 pm, School Kitchen
Saturday 22 November	Farmers Market – Hosted by Foundation Blue & Red
Friday 28 November	Monty Makers – 1:00 - 3:00 pm, School Kitchen
Saturday 29 November	State Election Day – Voting & Market/Car Boot Sale at Monty Primary
Wednesday 10 December	Christmas Carols
Saturday 21 March 2015	Monty Community Fair

Monty Makers – Join our social group – Friday 14 & 28 November

Please join us to catch up, craft, cook, make & bake. We'd love donations of glass jars with lids, pots/plants, favourite recipes, and material. Don't be shy ... come and try! Please meet at the school kitchen this Friday from 1:00 - 3:00 pm. Contact Vanessa Jasper M: 0439 438 647 for more information.

Farmers Market – come along and help our school thrive – Saturday 22 November

Please come along to support Foundation Red and Blue as they host the last Farmers Market for the year. Donations of baked goodies can be left at the office on Friday 21 November or bring them along on the day. Let's share some Christmas cheer with the stallholders by purchasing breads, vegies and more to show our gratitude for the \$6000+ the Farmers Market helps us raise each year.

If you can assist on the day, please contact Jackie Lacey M: 0417 300 695, Vanessa Jasper M: 0439 438 647, Junko Nichols M: 0422 284 244 or Danielle Ciancio M: 0424 252 874.

Parents & Friends continued...

State Election Day – Time Capsule/Market/Car Boot Sale – Saturday 29 November

Students are excited about the school celebrations occurring on State Election Day. Bring the family, cast your vote and help us make the most of this last fundraising event for the year. Thank you Jane Gillard for sharing your PR expertise to spread the word.

HELPERS NEEDED – sign up for a 2 hour shift on a school stall

Thousands of locals will visit our school to vote and attend the Time Capsule opening. They will support the school and buy from our BBQ and school stalls, but we need parents to help run these stalls. So far only 2 people have put their names on the roster. **Please sign up and help out for a couple of hours.** The roster is on the office wall, opposite the staff room, or simply complete and return the form below.

There is plenty to keep the kids occupied while you help out – bouncy castle, circus equipment to play with, school playground, and car boot stalls to spend pocket money at. Michelle will be running a Second hand Uniform shop during the morning, Andrew will be providing music and entertainment, there will be great coffee, and plenty of stalls for you to shop at as well.

I can help on State Election Day (return to office by Friday 22 November):

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Time: 7 – 9am, 9 – 11am, 11 – 1pm, 1-3pm, Other time: _____

All offers are greatly appreciated.

Uniform SALE

Michelle Duke | Uniform Shop | M: 0425 708 752

This year we will be holding a second hand uniform stall at the school on the day of the State Election – 29 November, alongside the Car Boot Sale. On sale will be second hand uniforms and select items of new uniform that are no longer offered for sale. Sales will be cash only and all proceeds from these sales go back to the school.

If you would like to donate your second hand items to our stall, please drop them off at the office prior to the 29th. I hope to see you all there!

Community Fair – 21 March 2015

Suzi Smith | Community Fair Coordinator | michael_suzi@optusnet.com.au | M: 0419 434 559

The Fair Committee is up and running and bringing together lots of ideas and energy for next year's Fair. We are still in the planning process so if you would like to put forward an idea or help with preparations, now is the time to **get involved**.

In particular:

- We are seeking donations of big ticket items for use in the raffle that is drawn at the Fair.
- Are any families involved or connected with businesses that may be interested in a sponsorship arrangement? We get well over 1000 locals to this event so it is a great opportunity to publicise a business.
- Does anyone live on a main road/prominent location and would be happy to have a large noticeboard in their front yard promoting the Fair for 6 weeks early next year?

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 17 November, 7 - 8pm in the Castle. *Everyone is welcome!*

Sport

Donna Barclay | PE Teacher

The grade 4/5/6's combined technology with PE last week as the students became coaches of their peers. The students used the iPads to film a partner doing a range of skills and then they both analysed it to see if there were any areas they could improve on. For many, watching themselves do a skill in this way was very interesting and they found something they can work on for next time.

OSHC

Donna Barclay | OSHC

We hope you like the plates some of the children made. They were done with porcelain pens (available at craft stores) and after 3 days will be dry enough to use. The packet says they are dishwasher safe to 50°C but I would recommend hand-washing them.

This week as part of the Remembrance Day events, we will be making poppies as part of the 100 Years of World War One commemoration. Next year on ANZAC day they will be displayed at Federation Square as part of the commemorations of the sacrifices made by so many. To read more about it, check out <https://5000poppies.wordpress.com/>

Make sure you check out the windows of the OSHC room to see what we have been up to over the past week. At the sign-out desk, there is a folder of past weeks' activities. You will see the pictures of the food the children created for the Halloween week feast. They were very proud of what they made.

Premier's Reading Challenge

Margarita Strateas | Grade 1/2 Teacher

The Premier's Reading Challenge has finished and Montmorency Primary School had 155 students who completed the challenge by reading 4,667 books! Thank you to everyone that was involved this year, well done and we hope you enjoyed all your reading!

Sustainable School

Christine Turner | Grade 1/2 Teacher

Montmorency Primary School has started its journey to becoming more sustainable by getting involved in the ResourceSmart AuSSI Vic (Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative) program. ResourceSmart AuSSI Vic is currently an initiative of the Victorian Government and is managed by Sustainability Victoria.

ResourceSmart AuSSI Vic provides a holistic approach to sustainability. It integrates educational, environmental, social and economic outcomes so that schools do not see each area in isolation but as components of the bigger picture of sustainability. Schools are supported to develop a 'whole school approach' to building sustainability into the fabric of everyday school and community life.

ResourceSmart AuSSI Vic consists of 5 modules:

- Core Module
- Biodiversity Module
- Waste Module
- Water Module
- Energy Module

In 2012, our school started the Core Module of this initiative and we have just completed it and achieved our first star. We expect to receive a big fancy sign in the coming weeks that will be displayed at the front of our school with pride! We are working towards completing the Waste and Water modules with the help of our students by conducting audits and developing a course of action to reduce waste and water usage at school. This helps to reduce not only costs but also our impact on the environment. Remember - every little bit counts.

Student of the Week

Term 4, Weeks 4 & 5

00G Linda Carter

Kara Ciano – For using some interesting words to tell us about the fun time you had in Transition. Also, for listening so well and suggesting some great 'Vv' words. We have nearly finished the alphabet! Well done Kara.

00R Anna Hayes

Joel Mariani – For being such a fantastic friend. You look after your friends both inside and outside the classroom and make sure they always get a turn.

00X Sarah Kechayas

Jackson Lacey – For doing the best meditation I've ever seen. Your mind will be forever smiling!

00K Keryn Johnston

Jaimee Le – For someone who can swim like a mermaid! You are so clever at putting your head under the water now too. Excellent work Jaimee!

00S Sandie Symes

Tom Winney – For excellent improvement in reading, writing and handwriting. Great work Tom!

1/2A Margarita Strateas

Freya Butler – For achieving several personal bests this week in the fun run, tunnel ball and writing.

1/2B Christine Turner

Ida Svensson – For fitting back into the routine of school so easily. It is wonderful having you back and we really missed you while you were away.

3A Darryl Deller

Harrison Jasper – In recognition of the improvements that you have made, especially with your reading. Well done Harrison.

4/5A Kevin Wilcockson

Ethan Morehead - For your ability to remain focused at all times, you always complete every task asked of you. Well done Ethan.

Tommy Reilly-Neesham - For always concentrating on your work and for completing your Sound Waves tasks independently. Well done Tommy.

Alannah Taylor - For a creative, descriptive and well thought Narrative during Author Writing Time.

5/6A Janene Worsam /Rebekah Rentos

Jye Leggett – For completing an excellent oral and written presentation on 'A Fruit of Choice'. Well prepared and well presented.

Newsletters – sign up for an electronic copy

Michelle Parrott | Newsletter Editor | E parrott.michelle.l@edumail.vic.gov.au

The next newsletter will be published on Thursday 27 November. If you have any notices or contributions, please send these by Monday 24 November. As we work towards our goal of becoming a sustainable school, we encourage all families to receive the newsletter electronically. Please fill in the form below and we'll put you on the list – you can request copies to be emailed to multiple addresses.

✂.....

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

Email 1: Email 2:

Parent Name/s:

Oldest child's name: Grade:

Take me off the hard copy list please

CAN YOU HELP?

New School Banking Co-ordinator Needed

We are very grateful for Ingrid Whitcombe's work in co-ordinating the School Banking program for Montmorency Primary School. However, Ingrid is unable to continue in this role in 2015, so we are seeking a volunteer to take over as School Banking Co-ordinator.

The School Banking program benefits children by encouraging good saving habits and money management skills. This program also benefits our school, as we receive a commission on every deposit made at the school.

If you are interested in taking on this role in 2015, please contact the school office, or pop in on Friday mornings to speak to Ingrid and see what is involved.





Community Announcement

Were you in Monty in 1985?

We have found a time capsule which was buried at the school in 1985 and are looking for students who were at Montmorency Primary at the time to help us open it.

How we found the time capsule

We are in the middle of a \$4 million rebuild of the school and during the building works, the time capsule was uncovered.

The rebuild will give us eight new classrooms, a new staff administration and new multi-purpose areas.

We are very excited about our new school and hope to share it with former students – and future students.

How we are celebrating

We are throwing open our doors and inviting former students to come and see how our school has changed over the years.

As part of the celebration, at 11am we will open the 1985 time capsule.

We are trying to track down some former students – and their families. If you know of any – please let them know.

What is happening?

On **Saturday 29 November 2014**, the day of the Victorian State Election, the community is invited to come and have a look at our school – and vote in the new building.

You can also:

- eat an **all-day breakfast BBQ**
- visit the **cake and plant stall**
- see some **kid's entertainment**
- look around the **car boot sale**.


Where: Montmorency Primary School, Rattray Road, Montmorency.
Voting Centre open: 8am to 6pm
Car Boot sale: 8am to 2pm

Please help us spread the word to former Montmorency Primary families.

EVERY MINUTE COUNTS

Just a little bit late doesn't seem much but.....

He/She is only missing just....	That equals....	Which is.....	over 13 years of schooling. that's....
10 minutes per day	50 minutes per week	Nearly 1.5 weeks per year	Nearly HALF A YEAR
20 minutes per day	1 hour 40 minutes per week	Nearly 2.5 weeks per year	Nearly 1 YEAR
Half an hour per day	Half a day per week	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 AND A HALF YEARS
1 hour per day	1 day per week	8 weeks per year	Nearly 2 AND A HALF YEARS



Did you know your child's best learning time is the start of the school day?

That's when every minute counts the most!



In primary school, some students **miss** on average **3 weeks** of school **per year**. That's **half a year** of school by the end of **year 6**.



EVERY DAY COUNTS

Primary school attendance

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child's education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind.

Why it's important

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

If students miss school regularly, they miss out on learning the fundamental skills that will set them up for success in the later years of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

Getting in early

Attendance patterns are established early – a child regularly missing days in kindergarten or in the early years of school will often continue to miss classes in the later years, and receive lower test scores than their classmates. It's vital that students go to school every day – even in the early years of primary school.

What we can do

The main reasons for absence are:

Sickness – There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they're ill. It's vital that they're only away on the days they are genuinely sick, and setting good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference.

It's vital that holidays are planned during school holidays where possible, and not during the term if it can be avoided.

"Day off" – Think twice before letting your child have a "day off" as they could fall behind their classmates – every day counts.

Truancy – This is when students choose not to go to school without their parent's permission. There can be many reasons for truancy. The best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together.

If for any reason your child must miss school, there are things you can do with your school to ensure they don't fall behind:

- Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.

- Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible.

Openly communicating with your child's school about all absences is a good way to prevent attendance issues being escalated to a School Attendance Officer. A School Attendance Officer is a Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Regional Director who has authority to follow up attendance issues. Attendance issues that are escalated can lead to an Infringement Notice.

If you're having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit:

www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/behaviour/Pages/studentattendance.aspx



Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

NILLUMBİK WHITE RIBBON
CAMPAIGN 2014



WE ALL SAY 'NO'
TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

*Show your support
and take a stand*

JOIN IN A COMMUNITY
WALK & SKATE

5.30pm

Thursday 27 November

Nillumbik Park, Diamond Creek
(Behind The Pool)

Australia's campaign to
stop violence against women

White Ribbon



**Wahroonga
Pre School**



**family
FUN DAY!**

- Side Show Alley
- Hands-on Science Experiments
- Old School Races
- Crafters Corner—for Kids & Adults alike
- Market Stalls
- Old-Fashioned Cake Stall
- Great BBQ and other Food

Bringing the kinder back to the community.
Reuniting past students & staff with a
celebration day filled with exciting old
school games & activities for all the family!

66 Wahroonga Cres, Greensborough

Sunday 16th November

2.30pm

Contact 9434 6089 for event information



www.facebook.com/WahroongaPreSchool