

## **Open letter from the School Council, February 2014**

**Scott Davis, Natalie Duffy, Anna Farago, Victoria Harris, Michael Mark**

Current parent members of the School Council would like to acknowledge the contributions of our most recent President - Felicity Gordon, who served on Council for three years; two as President. Her tireless efforts, both on the ground and on the roof, (literally), have come to epitomize what represents an involved parent at MPS. Whether waterproofing the Castle's leaking corrugated tin, providing good governance for council, leading efforts to construct a frog bog, or her unwavering support of the school's mission to enrich every child's with our tenets of respect, safety, friendship and learning, she is second to none.

Many of us at Montmorency Primary School today are here because of Felicity, and her enthusiasm for positive educational outcomes. Seeing her at practically every school event, from Working Bees and information nights, to council meetings of every description, she led by example, always heaping praise on others, always encouraging. Her friendly face greeted the public at official and unofficial events, from conversing with politicians, to pulling weeds with volunteers. Her ability to inspire students, parents and staff will be sorely missed - we wish her and her family well in their new schools!

**Principal's Report - Michael Otway** |Principal February 2014, MPS Newsletter Issue 2

On behalf of myself as Principal and the Staff of Montmorency Primary School I would like to endorse the remarks of Council and add to them. Felicity has been a wonderful "Critical Friend" to have around. She won the respect of staff, involving herself in constructing and enacting the unique educational environment we enjoy at Montmorency Primary school. Felicity worked on collaborative art projects and environmental projects within our classes. She organised kinder visits where the children would bake scones and come away with a special seedling. Felicity always displayed high level theoretical knowledge and integrity but her most endearing quality was the ability to work alongside everyone and keep the positive energy flowing. I've lost count of the number of times I have seen her come in and work on projects within the school in her own time and on her own initiative. Major projects included the setting up of Farmers Markets including the BBQ and Cake Stall, our extraordinary Whole-School Popup environment day, the Frog Bog and driving our Environmental and Sustainability Committee – there are too many to mention. Felicity obtained grants for our Stephanie Alexander program and a \$10,000 grant for a soon-to be-enacted energy efficiency upgrade. Felicity would always act as she expected others to act. Her attendance at Farmers Markets, Information Nights, welcoming Morning Teas was always complemented by her own baking and involvement. Felicity brought a level of professionalism to School Council, complemented by a selfless generosity, warmth and wisdom. With her eldest now at Macleod College we wish her all the best in her relocation to nearby Watsonia Primary.