On behalf of the School Council, Staff and Community Partnership Group I would like to extend a very warm welcome to the Moonee Ponds West School Community as we all return to school for 2014.
I hope that each and every one of you has had a restful break and that you are ready for an action packed year with lots of great learning and wonderful community events.
It was with great excitement that our 91 Preps started school last Thursday. There was a special morning tea on Wednesday the 5th of February to welcome prep families. I would like to extend our thanks to our Community Partnerships group particularly Christine Clancy and Kylie Brown for organising a wonderful event.
I would like to extend a sincere thank you to the MPW staff. Teachers and office staff have been in over the holidays to prepare for the arrival of the students.
In 2014 we warmly welcome a number of staff to our team:

Leading Teacher (Years Prep/One Room 4): Michelle Bove

Michelle comes to us from Williamstown Primary School where she was teaching in the junior area of the school. At Williamstown Primary School Michelle was the Literacy Coordinator and Literacy Coach. Michelle coordinated, developed and delivered professional development, literacy programs and worked to build capacity to positively influence classroom literacy programs and provide extension opportunities for high achievers. Michelle has a Diploma of Education and a Diploma in Recreation Leadership. She has recently completed Teacher Professional Leave to research and implement the Inquiry model in the areas of quality questioning to develop substantive conversations around learning.

Classroom Teacher (Years3/4 Room 21): Benjamin McKenna

Benjamin comes to us from Bellbridge and Thomas Chirnside Primary Schools where he has taught in the Year 5/6 area for a number of years. At Bellbridge Primary Benjamin was a member of the Literacy Committee and the School Wide Positive Behaviour Support Team. He has a Bachelor of Education (P-12) from Victoria University with a major in English and Humanities. He has Level 2 first aid qualifications and a Certificate 11 in Outdoor Education.
Hall Teacher: Jessica Hart

Jessica comes to us from Hawthorn West and Melton South Primary Schools. Jessica originally from Tasmania has experience working both with the community and students in the early years of schooling. Jessica spent time with Nicole Hobbs over the summer break in preparation for 2014. Jessica is ensuring that Hall is an authentic project based learning environment where investigations and learning intentions have a strong link to the development of literacy and numeracy. If you get a chance drop in and say hello and see the Hall program in full swing.

Office Staff: Lena Berias

Lena has extensive experience working in schools with staff and community. Having worked initially at Avondale primary school, in recent time Lena has been the personal assistant to the Principal at The Mac.Roberston Girls High School. Amongst Lena’s duties will be customer service, student attendance, OHS, ICT applications, principal class support and communication including the school newsletter.

Japanese Teacher: Takako Morita Falk

Takako will be working in the Japanese program 1½ days per week. Takako is a native speaker of the language having recently worked at the Japanese School of Languages, Lowther Hall and the Tokyo School of Music. Takako as well as being very knowledgeable in the Japanese language and culture also has a love and passion for all things musical which will be a great asset to the school.

Kids Matter

Student learning, wellbeing and transitions are all important areas in our current Strategic Plan. At the beginning of a school year we have students coming to us from a range of kindergartens and childcare centres into prep. We also have a number of students entering the school at other year levels. There are current students who may have a different teacher, be in a different room or with new friends. Many families are also new to the school along with a small number of new staff. Whilst all these scenarios are a normal part of life, we know that students who make a positive start to school are more likely to:

- feel comfortable, relaxed and valued
- feel excited and motivated to learn
- have good relationships with others
- develop a sense of belonging within the school community. (Kidsmatter Website)

Over coming months the Moonee Ponds West Student Wellbeing, Engagement and Transition team will be sending home regular information sheets from the Kidsmatter site covering a range of issues related to primary aged children. The first information sheet titled Kids Matter – Thinking about transition to school which accompanies this week’s newsletter has many helpful hints you may like to consider.
Principal’s report continued……

Kids Matter Primary is a mental health and wellbeing framework for primary schools and is proven to make a positive difference to the lives of Australian children. Kids Matter Primary provides the proven methods, tools and support to help schools work with parents and carers, health services and the wider community, to nurture happy, balanced kids. The KidsMatter website can be found at http://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/primary. If you would like more information about Student wellbeing and transitions please contact Mandy Jones or Jenny Irvine via the school office.

Traffic Changes & Improvements

The safety of our students is of absolute importance.

With this consideration in mind the school now has two drop off zones in Athol and Eglinton Streets. These zones are for two minutes only and are designed for those wanting to drop off or pick up children without leaving their vehicle. These drop off zones operate between 8.00am-9.00am and again from 3.00pm-4.00pm each day. It is wonderful to see students entering and exiting cars from the back door of the vehicle on the footpath side.

Please do not park your car and leave it unattended in these zones during these times. Also another reminder to ensure you take notice of the parking restrictions when the school crossings are in operation.

Moonee Valley City Council has been patrolling the streets around the school and you will get booked if you do not follow these parking restrictions.

Further traffic and safety improvements around the school will continue in the coming months. Should you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact Amanda Lecaude, School Councillor via the school office.

Being Cybersmart

Safer Internet Day is a global event held annually to promote the safe and responsible use of digital technologies, for children and young people. The theme for Safer Internet Day 2014 is ‘Let’s Create a Better Internet Together’.

The website from Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) have a number of excellent resources for parents www.cybersmart.gov.au

iPad Minis

This week each Grade 5 and 6 received a school iPad Mini which they will use this year to assist their learning. Our initial settings involved the students completing a brief survey on how they think the iPad will assist their learning, what they are looking forward to most as well as them rating their current skill level. We have also set up two Padlet ‘Walls’ where the students are posting a list of skills they have and another for questions.

We look forward to sharing their learning as the weeks progress.

Assessment and Reporting

Assessment is a continuous process undertaken both formally and informally across the school year. At the beginning of every year the teachers will conduct various assessments in order to determine the next steps in each student’s learning. This information will also impact planning for relevant teaching and learning programs for classes and year levels. Some Examples of these assessments are:

- A ‘Running Record’ which looks at reading behaviour and strategies which students are using when reading a text and helps to determine a child’s instructional level of reading.
- The Early Years Numeracy Interview helps teachers to assess and determine specific developmental stages and next steps for students in mathematics.
- The English Online Interview which looks at a range of literacy skills eg. Oral language, phonemic awareness, words and sounds, reading comprehension, writing and spelling for Year 2s only.
- Pre and post assessment pieces are commonly used when introducing new topics in classrooms.

These are just some examples of various assessments that are set out in our whole school Assessment Schedule. The development of our Student Assessment Register and the Student Performance Analyser (SPA) are tools staff use to record this information and track student progress.

Movie Night

A reminder that the Movie Night is planned for Friday 28th February. Please keep the night free in your calendar as this is a wonderful community event. There will be more detailed information about tickets and times published to the community soon.

Enjoy the week,
Jenny, Helen and Randal
What can parents and carers do to help their child’s asthma at school?

- If your child is self-managing their asthma, or capable of taking their asthma medication independently, ensure that your child is always carrying their reliever medication (e.g. Ventolin, Asmol, Airomir and Bricanyl) as well as a spacer while at school.
- Ensure that you have provided your child’s school/preschool with an updated Asthma Action Plan.
- Ensure that your child knows how to recognise early symptoms of an asthma attack and check to make sure they are using their reliever medication properly.
- Ensure your child will seek help from school/preschool staff if they experience asthma symptoms.
- Ensure that your child’s asthma is being well managed and that their medication and management is reviewed annually by your GP (this is a good opportunity to also update the Asthma Action Plan required by your child’s school/preschool).

For more information, please contact The Asthma Foundation of Victoria on 1800 278 462 or www.asthma.org.au

Respiratory experts talk to parents about asthma

Ever wondered what the experts would say about a cure for asthma?
Or how to get your teenager to take their medication?
If you want to find out the answers to some of the most frequently asked questions about children and asthma, watch The Asthma Foundation’s new video series – available from http://forum.asthma.org.au/ For more information, please contact The Asthma Foundation of Victoria on 1800 278 462 or www.asthma.org.au

NEW FAMILIES SUBSCRIBE TO THE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

The school newsletter is issued each week on a Wednesday. All families are encouraged to subscribe to receive an electronic copy of the newsletter.

Go to
- The school website at http://mooneewestps.vic.edu.au
- Go to newsletter on right side of page
- Click underneath on ‘subscribe to newsletter’
- Fill in all details
- Select ‘newsletter’ in the group box
- Click ‘save’
- A message will appear ‘have successfully subscribed to the newsletter’

STUDENT ABSENCE UPDATE

One of the options under absence is Extended Absence. This is anything that is more than one day and doesn’t fall under one of the categories listed. An explanation of the extended leave is to be requested and sent to Jenny Crowle. This follows DEECD guidelines.

Please note that the dates are set in American date format. As displayed in the box below, you must enter the month first, followed by the day and then the year. When updating student records it’s important that we receive the correct information.

Date - First day of absence MM/ DD/ YYYY

Education weekly
Term Dates and Curriculum Days 2014

Term Dates
Term 1
29th January - 4th April
Term 2
22nd April - 27th June
Term 3
14th July - 19th September
Term 4
6th October - 19th December

Curriculum Days
- Tuesday, 28th January
- Tuesday, 11th March
- Friday, 23rd May
- Monday, 3rd November

Soundhouse – NEWS FLASH! Electric Guitar Lessons for Grade 2 children!

Soundhouse lessons start the week beginning Monday, February 10, 2014
Due to the large number of 2013 Grade 6 guitar children leaving the school, we have a few extra places in 2014 so we are opening up guitar to Grade 2 children this year. If your child is in grade 2 up, and would like to learn electric guitar with Patrick O’Brien, please complete an enrolment form (available online and from the school office). Please be quick as places will go quickly.

SINGBLITZ – COME ON GIRLS!
Soundhouse Singblitz is a contemporary vocal course where you’ll learn the art of stage performance in a fun and relaxed atmosphere. Whether you are an experienced singer or an absolute beginner, Singblitz will train you to “unleash your inner diva”. Learn microphone technique, harmonies, backing vocal tips and group, duo or solo parts. Come along on your own or why not grab some friends and join us for an hour session, Wednesday nights at Moonee Ponds West PS. Cost: $330 for 12 week course.
Contact: Sonia on 0403 693 776, or email sonia@singblitz.com.au

Chess Coaching

Have fun learning Chess!!

Where: Conference Room
When: Wednesday’s lunchtime
12th Feb – 2nd April 2014
Cost: $85 (per child) $65 for 2nd Sibling
Benefits: Strategic thinking, improved self esteem, attention span in class, lateral thinking, team work, analytical skills.

We cater for all skill levels! Each week different lessons are taught & games are played. A trophy is awarded to the “Best & Fairest” player, and a Silver badge to 2nd place and a Bronze badge to 3rd place at the end of term. To enrol your child please make payment of $85 by Wednesday 19th February. Cheques made payable to “Hooton Consulting Pty Ltd”

For more info contact Phil on 0421 901 530

Please pay online or forward payment/form inside an Envelop Marked “Chess Coaching” to Phil at chess club or school office.

CHEQUES: made payable to “Hooton Consulting Pty Ltd”

EFT: Acc Name: Hooton Consulting Pty Ltd Bank: 
CBA bsb: 063201 Acc #: 1004 9289 (please put school initials & child’s name on transaction)

$85 cash: □ cheque: □ eft: □
THREE WEEK FREE FOOTBALL CLINIC FOR 7 - 11 YEAR OLDS
FEBRUARY 10, 17 AND 24TH 2014
Is your child interested in taking their footy further and joining a club?
Come and try the Moonee Valley Football Club
A free 3 week clinic will be held on Mondays, between 4.15 and 5.15pm at the Moonee Valley Football Club
Ormond Park—Pattison St, Moonee Ponds (Melway 29 A9)
Please direct any questions to Damian Gillard on
0416 246 016