2014 School Council Elections

The role of School Council as outlined in the Education and Training Reform Act 2006 is one of helping to set the long term future for the school and maintaining oversight of the school’s operation. The Principal is responsible for the management of the school and acts as the Executive Officer of Council.

School Council Responsibilities can include:

• Contributing to the development of the Strategic Plan
• Approving the annual budget
• Working with the school to develop, review and update policies
• Representing the views of the school community
• Arranging for things needed towards the running of the school
• Raising money for things the school needs
• Making sure the school grounds and buildings are maintained
• Creating positive interest in the school within the community

The Moonee Ponds West School Council is a wonderfully supportive group who work diligently to assist the school to work towards achieving the goals in our Strategic Plan. With a new Council year commencing in March, I would like to announce the new members of Council for 2014.

Declarations of Nominees Elected:
I declare the following nominees duly elected to the Moonee Ponds West Primary School Council;

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership Category</th>
<th>No. of Vacancies</th>
<th>Nominees and Nominators</th>
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</table>
| Parent Members      | 4               | Stewart Burte – Rana Hinman
|                     |                 | Domenic Misale - Self
|                     |                 | Anna Schulze – Hayley Whitefield
|                     |                 | Carlene Wilson - Self
| DEECD Employees     | 3               | (1) Michelle Bové – Self
|                     |                 | (2) Karen Ghosn - Helen Thomas
|                     |                 | (3) Kylie Ticehurst - Self

The first council meeting for the new School Council will be held on Monday 24th March 2014 in the Principal’s Office (Admin Building). At this meeting elections will take place for the positions of President, Vice President & Treasurer. The retiring school council members will also be in attendance on this night.

Congratulations to our new Councillors.

Principals Report continued over page
Spelling Consultant - Di Snowball
Yesterday the staff participated in a fantastic Curriculum day with Di Snowball. The main focus of the day was to work together as a whole staff to continually improve the teaching and learning of spelling, focussing our work around the Whole School Spelling Scope and Sequence plan. This important document has been developed over the past year by the English Professional Learning Team with input and feedback from all teams across the school. A scope and sequence chart is in place to ensure that what is important in spelling is covered by every teacher with every student within a research based developmental framework. The important questions were: How to learn the skill of spelling? and What is worth learning? The importance of having automaticity when writing high frequency words correctly is a crucial skill (The school uses the Oxford word lists which are included in our teaching and are part of the school’s Assessment Schedule – please see the school’s website for these words at www.moooneepsonwestps.vic.edu.au under Curriculum in a folder titled ‘Spelling’).

Ms Snowball also stressed the use of suffixes and prefixes as an important spelling skill, for example if you know how to spell ‘commit’ then you know how to spell ‘commitment’. The important link between spelling and reading was highlighted, especially the importance of developing and extending vocabulary. It is very important to read a variety of genre and include many opportunities to read non-fiction text. Ms Snowball spoke about the importance of onset and rime when learning words, for example w-et, s-et, m-et and once the students have this skill what other words do they then know? The importance of fluent and legible handwriting was reinforced as an important skill to improve spelling. To accurately use a visual strategy when spelling, then a student’s handwriting needs to be up to standard. On the day all staff brought along a range of student writing samples, and looked at the next steps for individuals and groups of students aligned to the Scope and Sequence.

New Date For Curriculum Day
Our Curriculum Day originally set for Friday 23rd May 2014 will now take place on Monday 26th May 2014. We do apologise for any inconvenience this change of date may cause.

Information Nights
Thank you to all the families that attended our information sessions held over the last few weeks. It was great to see so many people at these information sessions. There were many families who utilised the childcare available and there was lots of positive feedback on the content covered by the various teams. If you were unable to make it and would like copies of the information given out on the evening it can be found on our school website. Go to the ‘Notices to Parents’ section. Thank you to the teaching staff for their work preparations and presenting on the night and also to the Education Support staff and one ex-MPW student for assistance with the childcare. The research shows that strong partnerships built between school and home has great benefits to the outcomes for students.

Anaphylaxis Training
With new ministerial guidelines schools are now required to undertake twice year anaphylaxis training using a train the trainer model. The staff were taken through the school procedures and the use of an Epipen at a whole staff meeting. All staff were provided with and reviewed the schools Anaphylaxis and Allergy Policy which can also be found under Info/Policies on our website.

Disability Services Newsletter
The City of Moonee Valley put out a regular Disability Services Newsletter. In the Autumn 2014 issue the topics covered include: The Disability Action Plan, Special Olympics Athletes Shine at Games, International Day of People with a Disability, What’s on in Moonee Valley, Volunteering, Housing and NDIS and Douutta Gallo Update. There is a copy of the magazine in the school foyer or through the Council at mvc.foyer.gov.au

Parent Forum
On the 20th March a Parent Forum on the 6 Traits of Writing will be run. Terri Campbell works as an English consultant at MPW. Terri will take participants through the 6 traits which include: Ideas, Word Choice, Voice, Organisation, Sentence Fluency and Conventions. The forum will be run from 7.00 - 8.00 p.m. and take place in the school’s Community Room. We look forward to many people attending. A notice will be sent home for families to indicate their attendance and childcare needs. Alternatively you can register on the school’s website by clicking on the 20th March on our calendar, click on the ‘Parent Forum - the 6 Traits of Writing with Terri Campbell’ link and choose ‘RSVP’ or go directly to - http://www.moooneepsonwestps.vic.edu.au/eventdetails/203/2014-03-20

Have a good week,
Jenny, Helen & Randal
Student Fee Forms - Essential and Voluntary Voucher 2014

The student fee forms for 2014 were mailed out to all families. **The preferred method of payment is BPAY which we encourage families to use,** in the same way when paying other bills over the telephone or by internet banking. There is a MPW Biller Code and each student form has their individual reference number.

All voluntary contributions are tax deductible. Please notify us how you choose your voluntary contribution to be distributed.

Any enquiries please see Sandra (Business Manager) in the school office or call 9370 6875.

*All essential & voluntary levies are due on Friday 21st March.*

Family Maths Night

Families please pencil in Wednesday April 30th for a fun evening of Mathematics!

The Family Maths Night will be held in the Gym.

It has been organized by the Mathematics PLT members in conjunction with the MAV (Mathematics Association of Victoria).

The focus of the evening will be problem solving. Our last Maths night was held a couple of years ago and the feedback was very positive. Watch this space for more information about the evening!

Sports News

Rotational Sport

With 1 week to go in our Annual Rotational Sports Championship the Super Tigers are leading the way on 31pts followed closely by Team 3 on 29 and Frozen Frogs on 27.

Swimming

Good luck to the following students, Grace Honan, Harry Dalton, Will O’Reilly, Luka Nimorakiotakis and Eamonn Peacock who are participating in the Division Swimming at Oak Park.

Cross Country Trials

Last Friday students from Grades 4, 5 & 6 participated in the Cross Country Trials. The top five places from each age group will represent MPW at the District Cross Country on Friday 21st March at Aberfeldie. Well done to all who competed and good luck to those competing next week. A big thank you to all the staff and parents who helped out on the day.

National Ride2School Day

On Wednesday 19th March MPW will be participating in Ride to School Day. A National Ride2School Day is about celebrating active travel within the school day and encouraging those who haven’t started to give it a go. A notice was sent home providing more details of the day.

Up & Coming Events

**Wednesday 19th March – Ride2School Day**

**Friday 21st March – District Cross Country**

Bree White

Sports Teacher
Creative Arts
In Creative Arts this term children in the following grades, prep/1 and 2/3 have been creating art works inspired by some of Margaret Wild’s picture story books featuring family pets and farm animals. Some of the stories that we have read and discussed are, The Pocket Dogs, The Pocket Dogs go on Holidays, Farmer Fred’s Cow, the Very Best of Friends and Piglet and Mamma.

Many of the stories have touched our emotions. Some stories have been sad but most have been happy. It has made us think about what it is like to be in a family.

The Pocket Dogs were created from Zoe in Room 5 and Alicia in Room 4.

Peter, Hayden, Charlie, Danyal and Gia from room 11/12 have shown William the cat coming through his cat door based on the story The Very Best of Friends.

Sue Phillips
Creative Arts Teacher
COMMUNITY NEWS

**YMCA School Holiday Program – Book now!**

The YMCA are running the Autumn School Holiday Programs in Strathmore, Niddrie and Moonee Ponds, offering heaps of awesome activities, including Enchanted Maze, Luna Park, Eggscellent Easter, Sports Nuts, Camping Adventure and more! Bookings are now open, for full details and to book, visit: [www.childrensservices.ymca.org.au](http://www.childrensservices.ymca.org.au)

**Do you have a child in year 4, 5 or 6?**

Have you missed out on thousands of dollars?

In 2002 the Government introduced the “First Child Tax Offset” and surprisingly many Australians did not know about it and have NOT claimed any benefits.

If you have ANY child that was born between 1 July 2001 and 30 June 2004 you may be eligible to receive up to $12,500 of entitlements.

The government has a 30 June 2014 deadline on this entitlement so please email childoffset@twelve.com.au today, to receive more information.

Twelve Chartered Accountants

PHONE: 9313 7608 FAX: 9313 7609

www.twelve.com.au

Your Family Tax Specialist

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**Kids Gardening Workshops at the Pop-Up Patch**

Explore the Pop-Up Patch by participating in our interactive gardening workshop, designed for kids aged 4-12.

Topics covered include learning about seeds, growing plants, companion planting, mini-beast helpers, composting, and sorting, recycling and reducing at our homes and gardens.

Kids will participate in fun hands-on activities including treasure hunts, guessing games, said planting, craft activities and exploring our very own worm farm.

Workshops run for 1 hour, with everyone receiving a goodie bag, containing seeds, information sheets, and activities to do at home with families.

We are passionate about gardening and growing our own fruits and veggies, so come along and learn how you too could have fun and adventures in your garden.

**Veggie Patch Kids workshops encourage children to explore and enjoy the garden and grow their own food! Based at the Pop Up Patch, workshops are centrally located and provide a hands-on and unique learning experience.**

Contact us: 03932 3820

veggiepatchkids@outlook.com.au

The Little Veggie Patch Co is a Melbourne based business that specialises in the installation and education of chemical-free vegetable gardens.

Contact us: 0437 359 014

popupsatch@littleveggiepatchco.com.au

**YogaBugs** is an internationally recognised yoga program specialising in yoga for children aged 4 – 12 years.

The classes are fun, creative and interactive and designed to stimulate children’s imagination, to improve their co-ordination, strength and flexibility and teach them breathing and relaxation techniques.

For the older kids, this term's theme is “Systems of the Body”, where we explore our hearts, lungs, and our senses through yoga.

Yoga Bugs (4-8 yrs) $12 per class, 4:00 – 4:50pm
Yog’d Up (8-12 yrs) $15 per class, 5:00 – 6:00pm

Mondays - Creative Learning Centre at 9 Moore St, Moonee Ponds & Tuesdays - Moonee Ponds Primary School at Wilson St, Moonee Ponds

Contact: Sandra on 0419 379 289

sandrak@yogabugs.com.au


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**Fun and Creative Yoga for Children**

Friday 4 April to Thursday 24 April*

*Dates vary according to program

**BOOKINGS CLOSE FRIDAY 21 MARCH**

**NOW OFFERING EXCURSIONS! LIMITED PLACES.**

**GET 50% OFF! ASK HOW**

For timetables, activity descriptions, and to book, visit: [extend.com.au](http://extend.com.au)

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**Autumn School Holiday Program**

VC LOCATIONS
- Bangholme
- Brunswick East
- Caulfield
- Endeavour Hills
- Essendon
- Kew
- Ormond
- Sandringham East
- Sunday
- Upwey
- Wantirna West

NEW

For timetables, activity descriptions, and to book, visit: [extend.com.au](http://extend.com.au)