IMPORTANT WEBSITE UPDATE

Due to an external issue with the school’s website provider, the newsletter is unable to be uploaded on the school website. As a result a hard copy of newsletter issue 11 is being sent home with students today.

Principal’s Report

Education Sub Committee Update

Last year the School Uniform review working party of Education subcommittee looked at a review of the school uniform at MPW. Focus groups were facilitated with parents and teachers and JSC facilitated discussion with students. At the March School Council meeting the report from the facilitator was presented and discussed and the next steps for the working party were considered. The next meeting of the School Uniform Working Party will be next Monday 5th May at 6pm in the Staff Conference room.

The Community Partnerships Working Party will be meeting Thursday 8th May at 7.00pm in Jenny’s office. We’ll be working through the Action Plan which was developed towards the end of 2013 with a report on the processes as they stand so far. An improvement to the working party has included the membership of three Class Reps. If you would be interested in joining this group please email me at symons.randall.j@edumail.vic.gov.au.

The Policy Working Party has a schedule of review and writing of policies set for the year. Outside of this schedule is the Anaphylaxis policy. Due to a new Ministerial Order our policy, which was only reviewed towards the end of term 1 2014, requires modifications. This has been worked on and will be distributed to the relevant groups and then communicated to the MPW community shortly. There will be no formal Education meeting this month in lieu of the working party meetings. The next formal Education meeting will be Monday 2nd June 2014 which will take place at 7.00 pm in the Staff Conference Room.

Maths Night

A reminder that tonight we have a Family Maths night which is being held in the school’s gym from 7.00 – 8.30 pm. Vicki McCormack, our Maths Coordinator, has organised the eventing. No doubt it will be a successful evening as the reports from our last Maths Night which was held in 2012, were extremely positive.

Secondary Schools Expo & Transition

This Thursday we have 8 of our neighbouring secondary schools presenting in our school’s gym from 4.00 - 6.30 p.m. This is a very efficient way to learn more about the schools in our network and assist you in making a selection that is best for your child. We look forward to seeing many families and this event.

Principal’s Report Continued Over Page
Would you like to do a full CPR Course run by Life Saving Victoria?

Sometime ago I won a voucher (for 24 people to do a CPR Course) at the 12 hour fitness challenge at Paramount Gym to raise money for Laura Davoli’s wheelchair. Rather than just give this prize away I thought I would ask those interested in doing the course to pay $25 (normal cost to do it is $55). All money received will be donated to the Make A Wish Foundation so other children can have an experience they may not have had the opportunity to do so.

You will get a nationally recognised Statement of attainment in HLTCPR211A – Perform CPR.

The voluntary contribution over recent years has been invaluable in funding school identified projects. Successful projects include the installation of the tiger turf and the establishment and stocking of classroom libraries, the purchase of additional computers and eLearning equipment. There is a copy of the school levy form on the School Website if required. If you need to discuss alternative payment options please contact Helen Thomas (Acting Principal). All money raised through these essential fees and voluntary contributions is greatly appreciated and goes directly to supporting and enhancing the great educational programs at MPW. If families who have monies outstanding could finalise these payment at their earliest convenience or contact the school for further support that would be appreciated.

Curriculum Day Monday 26th May 2014

If you are interested in childcare on this day please register your interest with Camp Australia as soon as possible. The minimum number required on the day would be 10 students for it to go ahead.

Have a great week,

Amanda Lecaude
MPW Parent
TRANSITION NEWS

Mount Alexander College News

Myth Busting
With all the myths floating around about Mount Alexander College we thought it was time to bust some.

Myth one: There aren’t enough girls at the school
Currently the school has a ratio of 2:3 girls to boys. Whilst there are more girls in the senior years, we run a number of programs to help the girls feel comfortable within the college. We run girls-only sessions and days that are across the year levels to enable the girls to get to know each other across the college.

Next year we are launching a Girls’ Leadership Program that will further enhance this. With the program we will

• have one subject area as a girls-only class—potentially a group combining Year 7 & 8 girls continue to build on girls’ leadership opportunities within the school (such as SRC representatives, House and School Captains) and out of the school
• run a Girls’ Leadership Camp involving all junior girls with the senior girls as mentors. The purpose of the camp will be to develop a Community Learning Project (CLP) to benefit the school and the community.
• involve girls as ambassadors in whole school transition program and to lead activities such as International Women’s Day Celebrations and barbecues at the Sunday market to self-fund further development of programs that support girls and the whole community
• have one teacher responsible for managing the program.

Myth nine: A small school means there aren’t enough social options for students
The College actively encourages cross year level activities and relationships enabling students to find friends within and outside their own year level.

For more myth busting, visit www.mountalexandercollege.vic.edu.au

Tours & Open Day
Open Day
Sunday 4 May 10:00am – 12:00pm
Tours every Wednesday morning 9:00am

SEAL Testing
Don’t miss out on the 2015 SEAL program.
Registrations close 9 May.
Details are on the website.

Mount Alexander College
167–175 Mount Alexander Road
Flemington VIC 3031
T 03 9376 1622 F 03 9376 5232
mount.alexander.712@edumail.vic.gov.au
Spotlight On English - Week 2

Reading Together: Reading is an important way to make the link from spoken words to written words. Reading to your child is a valuable thing to do.

Here are some tips:

- Encourage your child to select the books, magazines, catalogues, multimedia stories or DVDs.
- Discuss the pictures in a book and encourage your child to talk about the pictures. Is there are blurb you can read together on the back of the book.
- Share wordless picture books to develop imagination, ideas and vocabulary by naming things in the pictures.
- Re-read your child’s favourite books and stories.
- Look for rhyme, rhythm or repetition in books. Ask them what are the rhyming words they can hear (remembering that many words that rhyme do not look the same e.g. to & blue)
- Support your child to make their own books with pictures and then ‘read’ the story to you. Discuss the sequence of events in the story e.g. beginning, middle and the end.

Tip: Catalogues are great reading for children (especially toy ones). Encourage your child to find the same words and amounts on pages, what could they buy for $20, $50? There are a lot of Mother’s Day catalogues out now, and you could use monopoly money and pretend to spend/shop together.

Month of May - National Family Reading Month

What better time to start enjoying a good book!

Reading to your child is not only a wonderful way to spend quality time together, it also hones in your child’s own reading skills as they listen to the expression and tone of your voice as you read.

Reading is a very valuable skill for life and as such we actively encourage our students to practice their reading as often as possible, both at school and at home. We know that having reading role models and reading together daily is a critically important factor in a child’s learning and literacy development.

Our library is well resourced with a wonderful variety of reading materials. Come in and see our latest display and enjoy our Top 50 Best reads. The library is open to students, not only during class times for research and borrowing, but also before and after school for quiet reading.

So during the month of May, come in and enjoy a good book with your children

Encourage your child to Read More in May!

Mother’s Day Stall

Students:
Come and buy that special present for your mum at the Mother’s Day stall on Friday 9th May.

There will be a great selection of gifts to choose from with prices starting at $1.00 to $5.00.

Mother’s day cards and wrapping paper will also available for $1.00 each.

Families:
Helpers are needed on the day. If you have some spare time and are able to help out with the stall from 9 am - 11 am, please contact Narelle Busch or Jenny Burge via the school office.

REMINDER!!!
The Family Maths Night is on TONIGHT - 7 o’clock start
School Gym
BE THERE!
COMMUNITY NEWS

**New - Holistic Martial Arts!**
No competitions, No sport Taekwondo, No egocentric instructor - just real self defence, real confidence, real self discipline, real anti-bullying and really centred children.
We include Brain Gym® and Qi gong in our classes to improve concentration, memory, focus, and wellbeing.
We have small personalised classes so that your child gets the attention that they deserve.

**MENTION THIS AD AND PAY NO JOINING FEE AND FREE FIRST LESSON – THAT’S $175.00 IN SAVINGS!**
Very limited places due to small class sizes so call now to reserve your place.

**LOTUS MARTIAL ARTS – EMPOWERING KIDS**
Call Graham Now 0417 306 823 -
www.lotusquantumsynergy.com.au

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**Chess Coaching**
Have fun learning Chess!!

Where: Conference Room
When: Every Tuesday at lunchtime
29th April – 17th June 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 a payment of **$85 by Tuesday 6th May**. Cheques made payable to “Hooton Consulting Pty Ltd”
For more information contact Phil on 0421 901 530
Please pay online or forward payment/ form inside an Envelope Marked “Chess Coaching” to Phil at chess club or school office.

Payment Due: Tuesday 6th May
CHEQUES: made payable to “Hooton Consulting Pty Ltd”
EFT: Acc Name: Hooton Consulting Pty Ltd Bank: CBA
bsb: 063201 Acc #: 1004 9289 (please put the school initials & your child’s name on the transaction)

$85 ☐ cheque: ☐ eft: