Farewell Jenny Crowle  
Our Wonderful Principal

At assembly on Monday morning the school community, students, staff and parents had an opportunity to celebrate the work that Jenny has done as our Principal for the past 5 years and to wish her well as she embarks on the next step in her career.

Jenny will leave us on Friday to take up the position of Principal at Truganina P-9 College, an exciting opportunity for her to build a school from the ground up. Jenny doesn’t like a big fuss but we couldn’t have let her last assembly go by without thanking her for the wonderful work she has done at MPW.

Jenny has worked with teachers and the community to make a difference to our student’s learning. Jenny is always approachable, a fantastic listener and has a wealth of knowledge. She is well respected by teachers and the community for always being focused on a clear Strategic plan, vision and direction for our school. Growth and improvement in our student’s learning has been a particular focus, also celebrating in those achievements and gains the students have made. Jenny’s knowledge in the area of student wellbeing has strengthened our strong reputation in the network as having an excellent student welfare program. Jenny demonstrates our school values in every interaction she has with the community, with high expectations of herself as well as staff and students.

Jenny is leaving the school in a great position both academically, resource wise and financially. MPW will miss Jenny and thank her so much for her passion towards the students, teachers and parents of our school. We will particularly miss working with Jenny as our team has worked closely for several years. We are however extremely thankful for the opportunity to have worked alongside her and learned so much from her.

All the best for the future Jenny from all of us at MPW.
The Junior School Council will be reporting on the most successful Free the Bears day held last Thursday but given that it’s Julie, a friend of mine (Randal), who works at the centre in Laos, I wanted to say a big thank-you to the MPW Community for their generosity of donations.

As always we value your feedback. In this case it’s for the Junior School Council. If you could complete this online survey the team would appreciate it - https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1c7VnuVPvjYSEw9RklcUga2mxSCWw3fk9Lz_29aVPIM/viewform?usp=send_form

Parent Opinion Survey
Each year a random sample of families in Victorian government schools are asked to complete a survey on their child’s school. At this stage only 26 of the 79 Parent Opinion Surveys sent out have been returned, with the responses due back to school yesterday. If they could be sent as soon as possible that would be appreciated.

The surveys are sent to the DEECD with results made available to MPW later in the year. Our School Strategic Plan has goals around these results so the need for a high response rate is important in gaining a broad view from our community.

At this week’s Education Committee we shared the written response section of the 2013 survey. We broke the responses into various headings. Over the next couple of weeks we will report on these with the programs we already have in place and those we plan to, in order to improve opportunities for the learning of all students at MPW.

With respect to the strengths they were: the variety of programs on offer, the teaching of life skills, the positive and consistent approach by all teaching staff, the approach to meaningful homework, the open communication, the acceptance of diversity, the community feel and the leadership of the school.

Next week we will look at the areas identified as needing improvement.

Japan Tour 2015 Expression Of Interest Information Evening
A last reminder that tonight we have our information evening for those parents and students who are interested in attending our planned tour of Japan in 2015.

The session will be held in the Staff Conference Room at 7.00 p.m.
We look forward to seeing many people at the information evening.

Have a great week,

Jenny, Helen and Randal
Cybersmart Families - Building Family Relationships with Technology

On the 21st August Moonee Ponds West will be hosting a parent forum for students and parent/carers in our grade 5/6 area of the school on being smart when using the internet and social media. The session will run from 7.00 p.m. and begin in the school’s gym.

We are very fortunate to have secured Michelle Webster from the Alannah and Madeline Foundation, creators of the eSmart program. Also present will be Jill Fitzpatrick from the Moonee Valley Police and Shona Ballinger - Student Youth Focussed Services, MacKillop Family Services.

School Self-Evaluation/ Peer Review

Our school is in the final year of our current Strategic Plan 2011-2014. Our school will undertake a self-evaluation over the coming weeks before we complete the peer review during Term 4. One of the key aspects of this process is to consult with our community. We have secured an independent consultant from the Education sector to assist the school to facilitate this consultation process.

The dates for these sessions are:

- **Monday 18th August 7.30 p.m. - 9.00 p.m. (Evening Parents)**
- **Friday 22nd August 12.30 p.m. - 1.30 p.m. (Students) 2.00 p.m. - 3.30 p.m. (Daytime Parents)**

If you were unable to attend a session at the school other ways of providing feedback and engaging our community in the process will be available. A more detailed note asking families to commit to these sessions will go home to the community this week.

We will be attending the CYBER SMART Families Building Family Relationships with Technology Forum on **Thursday 21 August** at 7.00 p.m. in the school’s gym.

Please return the tear off slip further in the newsletter or complete an online RSVP at [http://mooneewestps.vic.edu.au/page/203](http://mooneewestps.vic.edu.au/page/203)

Family Name: ________________________________

Room Number: ______________________________

Number of adults: ____________________________

Number of children: __________________________

Particular areas you would like covered on the night:

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________
**Student Absence Letter**

We recently sent home an absence letter with some students, with a list of days that appear in attendance as an ‘unexplained absent’. Please note, students who arrive late to school and sign in the late book, the afternoon may still appear as an absence as the class teacher has already marked the class roll for the day.

It is important that all letters are returned to the school office so that each student’s attendance data can be updated accordingly.

Thank you to those families that have already returned the student absence letter.

**Student Leave**

If your child/children will be absent for an extended period of time from school, you need to inform the school in writing.

You must include the child/children’s full name, class teacher, room number, type of absence and dates of absence - including the first day of absence and the day they are expected to return to school. It must be signed by a parent or guardian.

Any absences without documentation will be entered into the attendance data as an ‘unexplained Absence.’ If not amended, it will go towards their days of absence for the year.

Further enquiries can be addressed to Lena Berias in the school office.

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**Soundhouse News**

Sue O’Brien, the Soundhouse coordinator will be overseas during the following dates, 23rd August to 3rd October.

Ken Owen will be the contact person for all Soundhouse enquiries during this period.

His contact details are;

- Mobile: 0411 694 710
- Email: ko@soundgarage.com.au

**2014 Soundhouse Concerts**

This year's Soundhouse Concerts will be on Wednesday 22nd October (SAP and Guitar) and Thursday 23rd October (Keyboard). Please put these dates in your diary.

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**MPW Cadbury Chocolate Drive Fundraiser**

On Friday 8th August the eldest child from each family will receive a box of Cadbury fundraising chocolates. This is a major fundraiser with all proceeds going to support our 2014 Fundraising Program.

Thank you to those families who have informed the office, and donated in lieu of selling a chocolate box.

All money from sold chocolates will need to be returned to the office by Friday 29th August.

We cannot accept any unsold chocolates due to health regulations.

If you have any questions please see Sandra Monaghan in the office.
Spotlight on English: Spelling

Phase 2 Semi-Phonetic Spelling:
In this phase children show developing understanding of sound-symbol relationships. Their spelling attempts show some evidence of sound-symbol correspondence. They may represent a whole word with one, two or three letters. In this case, as in all phases of development children will be copying, recalling and inventing words. Children at this phase are able to copy letter by letter.

Key indicators:
- uses left to right and top to bottom orientation of print
- relies on the sounds which are most obvious to them
- represents a whole word with one, two or three letters
- mainly uses consonants.

Is confident to experiment with words - sees it as a problem solving task

Major Teaching Emphases:
- semi-phonetic spellers need to be exposed to print in natural and meaningful contexts. They need opportunities to experiment with writing so they will develop understandings about print.
- help children develop a stable concept of a word
- help children to hear different sounds in words
- help children develop the ability to segment spoken words into individual sounds and syllables
- help children to represent sounds heard in words with letters written in the order they are heard
- select high interest words and high frequency words from children’s reading and class writing to add to class word lists
- teach children that letters can represent more than one sound
- provide many opportunities for children to explore and identify sound-symbol relationships in meaningful contexts.

So You Think You Can Dance M.P.W.P.S
Some students from Grade 3/4 will be running a whole school event called, ‘So You Think You Can Dance M.P.W.P.S’.
It will start on Friday 8th August and conclude on Friday 15th August.
There will be three categories for the different grade levels.
The categories are:
Prep, 1 and 2
Grade 3 and 4
Grade 5 and 6
This student event will be held in the Performance Space at lunchtime. If your performance is the winner for your category, the prize will be to perform at a school assembly later in Term 3.
This student organised event is optional and students can choose not to participate.
What Students are Learning in Room 15...

What’s the time Mr Lemon?

Our unit this in Term 3 is ENERGY!

The students at room 15 have been working with food and electricity and decided to combine the two ideas. As a class we powered a LED clock using a lemon, positive and negative energy (copper and zinc plates) and wires to connect the copper to the zinc.

We recorded the instructions of its activity in our scientific journals, to then, later on, breakup into smaller groups to power an LED light. Some groups used lemons, but others used orange - and even potatoes!!!!!!!!!
Current 4 year old Kindergarten Vacancies
St Andrew’s Anglican Kindergarten in Aberfeldie offers an exciting play based program for 3 year olds and 4 year olds. We currently have places available in our 4 year old program for Terms 3 and 4 in 2014. Our 4 year old kindergarten operates with a rotational 3 x 5 hour program per week and assists your child in the transition to primary school. Our kinder boasts a large, sunny and air-conditioned room which opens up into a spacious well-equipped outdoor play area; very experienced and dedicated teachers and co-workers; a welcoming and friendly community.
Session times are:

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Kindergarten places are managed through the Moonee Valley Central Registration Service. If you are interested in joining the kindergarten in Terms 3 & 4 please contact the Moonee Valley Council’s Early Learning team on 9243 8888 or email kinderenrol@mvcc.vic.gov.au

If you would like more information please contact the kindergarten on the above number or go to our website on http://www.standrewskinder.org.au/#!bpa/cgbg