HELEN THOMAS - GOOD BYE AND THANK YOU

Being an Assistant Principal is a great opportunity to shape the direction of a school. Helen Thomas has been an outstanding leader at Moonee Ponds West PS.

In the four years that Helen has been at MPW she has had considerable impact.

Helen has been the Principal Class Officer for both the 2/3 and 3/4 teams. This has included shaping the direction of teaching and learning not only in these areas but across the school. At the forefront has been Helen’s support of each student, teacher and parent.

Helen has lead the Education Support Staff, the Education Committee, coordinated the Annual Implementation Plan and been a proactive member of School Council, the Consultative Committee and Leadership teams. Helen’s input into staff professional learning and coordinating outside agencies have also been significant. Helen also acted as Principal in Term 2 while Jenny Crowle was on leave.

In the second semester of this year Helen lead the school in our school review. This is a significant event in state government schools. The role entailed Helen working in partnership with the staff, students and parents. Helen liaised with external consultants, a peer reviewer and principals from schools similar to Moonee Ponds West, working together to develop the direction for the next four year of our school.

In her day to day work Helen has given of herself. She is a passionate, knowledgable and empathetic educator who loves children.

Helen will leave a huge gap in the day to day support to the principal class team. Her feedback, knowledge and strategic direction will be missed.

Helen, from all at MPW we wish you well on the next stage of your professional journey as you take up the position of Assistant Principal at Camelot Rise PS.

TRANSITION

At this time of the year transition is at the forefront of our students and family’s minds. Yesterday our Grade 6 students attended their Year 7 Transition Day, last week we ran our Information Evening for our 2015 Prep families, our new preps have been attending transition sessions and yesterday the students were notified of their class placements which included an 1 ½ hour session with their new teacher. We would like to thank all staff for their support in preparing the students for the next steps in their learning. Of particular note are Justine Ryan, Karen Ghosn, Jess Hart, Michelle Bove and Denise Beckett who have coordinated these events.

CHOIR CONCERT

Last week our MPWPS Senior and Junior Choir performed in the gym. Both choirs had been practising each week in preparation for this end of year performance. We had a huge turnout of families to see the performances, so thank you to those families that attended and also supported their children with choir this year. A BIG thank you to Kate Ridgeway, our choir master for her amazing work in leading the choir during the year.
Principal’s Report Continued

A BIG thank you to Kate Ridgeway, our choir master for her amazing work in leading the choir during the year. The student’s recent performances are a credit to the enormous commitment Kate has shown to this group. Thank you also to Melissa Lofts who has ably supported Kate and the students with choir in 2014. You will be missed next year. Thank you also to Chris Brock who supported the choir each week together with Randal Symons and Helen Thomas. Thank you to the staff who attended the concert to support Kate which included; Jenny Irvine, Vicki McCormack and Helen Lockart. The choir also made their annual visit to Ardmillan House last Monday. They entertained the residents of the nursing home with four songs. Going by the response from the audience they really loved the performance. Well done!

THANK YOU

A great school like Moonee Ponds West doesn’t just happen. It’s a combination of a number of factors. At school, it’s the teacher that makes the difference. At home, the parents along with the aspirations they have for their children and the language of learning or conversations about learning which take place are the greatest indicators for a child’s success. Add those together and the success of a child is a combination of the two and the strength of this partnership.

At this time of the year we would like to acknowledge several groups of families across the school. The first are the Class Representatives. Thank you for the great work you have done in liaising with the classroom teacher, developing friendship lists, communicating to the class’s parent body and for welcoming new families into MPW. We would also like to thank the parents who have worked on the Community Partnership’s Committee. Further on in the newsletter you will see the range of activities the team have planned for the school community in 2015.

Thank you also to the many parents who have worked in the school. The support has ranged from being a guest speaker in the classroom, presenting at parent forums, supporting the learning in the classrooms, assisting in whole school events such as the Fun Run, working on our School Council as well as the Education and Resources sub-committees and many more.

As we move into 2015 we look forward to these links strengthening. At the beginning of this year we asked all parents to complete a Community Partnerships Survey. The aim was to ask all families to commit in some way to support MPW. This survey will be sent out again at the beginning of the 2015 school year. We ask all families to take the time to complete this form.

Jeff, Helen and Randal

MOONEE PONDS WEST COMMUNITY CALENDAR – mooneewestps.vic.edu.au

2014

Dec 10th  MVIMP Band Concert Prep/1 Student Gym 10.30 a.m.
Dec 11th  Last Day Student Banking
Dec 12th  Grade 6 Transition Session 2  Jump Rope & Healthy Lunches Day
Dec 15th  School Council Meeting 7.00 p.m.
Dec 16th  Parent Helpers Morning Tea 11.00 a.m.
Dec 17th  Grade 6 Graduation 6.30 p.m. School Gym
Dec 19th  Final School Assembly 9.00 a.m.  Christmas Raffle Drawn

2015

Jan 26th  Australia Day Public Holiday
Jan 28th  Staff Return To School
Jan 29th  Students First Day Term 1

Curriculum Days 2015
Wednesday 28th January - (Teachers staff return)
Tuesday 10th March
Friday 22nd May
Monday 2nd November

NOTICES SENT HOME

• Room 3 Students

NOTICES SENT HOME
Here is a list of the community events planned for 2015. Some still require dates but many are included. We look forward to a great year together.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TERM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Aid Training for parents – St. Johns Ambulance</td>
<td>February, 2015</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Information Nights</td>
<td>Term 1</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liz – Parent Forum for Prep parents</td>
<td>30 January, 2015 – 9.15 a.m.</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Movie Night</td>
<td>20 March, 2015</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Prep Parent's Morning Tea</td>
<td>30 January, 2015 – 9.15 a.m.</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guest speaker: Elizabeth O’Brien</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parent/Carer’s Training Program (filming)</td>
<td>Term 1</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ride to School</td>
<td>March, 2015</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Welcome back to MPW</td>
<td>20 February, 2015</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Working Parents Breakfast (with child)</td>
<td>February, 2015 (late)</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education Week</td>
<td>17 May - 23 May, 2015</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Maths Night (every second year)</td>
<td>Term 2, 2016</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fun Run</td>
<td>May, 2015</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mother’s Day school luncheon – Guest speaker</td>
<td>6 May, 2015</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mother’s Day stall</td>
<td>8 May, 2015</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>MPW Parent Social - Dinner, dancing</td>
<td>Term 2/3</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secondary School’s Expo</td>
<td>22 April, 2015</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trivia Night – music (dinner)</td>
<td>Term 2, 2015</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Father’s Day Lunch – Guest speaker TBA</td>
<td>2 September, 2015</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Father’s Day Stall</td>
<td>4 September, 2015</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carols</td>
<td>December, 2015</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children’s Week</td>
<td>24 October - 1 November, 2015</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Count Us In</td>
<td>30 October, 2015</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>MVIMP Combined Concert</td>
<td>14 November, 2015</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Odd Socks Circus</td>
<td>Term 4, 2016</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parent Helper’s Morning Tea</td>
<td>16 December, 11:00-11:45 a.m., 2014</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prep Transition Information Evening (Community Partnerships)</td>
<td>5 November, 2015</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prep Transition Week – 1 and 2 (formalised)</td>
<td>November, 2015</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Soundhouse Concert</td>
<td>27 October, 2015 (6.30-8.30 p.m.) – Keyboard</td>
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<td></td>
<td>28 October, 2015 (6.30-8.30 p.m.) Guitar and SAP</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Union Road Christmas Festival and Community Carols Event</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Walk to School Month</td>
<td>November, 2015</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wellbeing/Health Week</td>
<td>Term 4</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>After school activities</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Partnerships Committee</td>
<td>8 per year</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Education Committee</td>
<td>8 per year</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lunchtime Activities/open-classrooms</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Parent Forums</td>
<td>Various – at least one per term</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Resources</td>
<td>8 per year</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>School Council</td>
<td>8 per year</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wine and Cheese – casual - Riverside Golf and Tennis Club</td>
<td>Second last Thursday night of each term</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working Bees</td>
<td>One per term</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**WWC CHECK NOW ONLINE**

Please note that from Tuesday 2nd December, there is a new online service for people to complete their Volunteer to Working With Children online.

Checkholders who have a Volunteer WWC Check and need to obtain an Employee Check to do paid work, can now do their application fully online. They no longer need to go to Australia Post to present proof of identity documents again and lodge their application -


**MPW HONOUR BOARD WW1**

In our Hall Building there is an honour board that lists the names of past students of Moonee Ponds West State School who served in WW1.

By clicking on the link below you will find the names listed on the honour board, as was previously included in Issue 35 MPW newsletter.


**PARENT HELPER’S MORNING TEA**

On Tuesday 16th December from 11.00 a.m. - 11.45 a.m. the school will be hosting a Parent Helper’s Morning Tea to thank the amazing parent community for their work in supporting the learning of our students in 2014. Invitations have been sent home. You can RSVP through the school’s website calendar or click here - http://www.mooneewestps.vic.edu.au/eventdetails/321/2014-12-16
FAMILY PAYMENTS – REMINDER
With only four weeks remaining of the current school year, we are required to finalise school payments. A follow up letter was posted to those families with outstanding charges on Friday 22nd November.

Payment is required as soon as possible

The preferred method of payment is via BPay and the letter contains your family details and a unique payment code. Otherwise payments and contributions can be made by telephone by cash, cheque or debit/credit card or in person at the school’s office or on the telephone 9370 6875. Please contact the Business Manager, Sandra Monaghan in the General Office, if you believe that the statement is incorrect. Should meeting these requests present concerns, you are most welcome to discuss the matter in confidence with the Acting Principal Jeff Lyon.

STUDENT BANKING
Thursday 11th December, is the last day for student banking and ordering student rewards for 2014.

The school may not receive all ordered items by the end of the year as some reward items have already been placed on the back order list for delivery in Term 1, 2015. A list of what students have ordered will be kept at the school office.

As advised by COMMBANK, please explain to your children that any left over tokens cannot be retained for use for student banking in 2015.

SOUNDHOUSE
Soundhouse Enrolments 2015:
Enrolment forms for students wanting to learn guitar, keyboard or singing and Performance for 2015 are now available from the school office. You can also download Soundhouse forms from the school’s website. Please sign the Terms & Conditions document when enrolling your child in the Soundhouse Program for 2015. Prep students can join Soundhouse from Term 3 onwards.

Current Soundhouse students:
If your child is already in the Soundhouse Program, he/she will automatically be placed in the program for 2015. However, if you wish to withdraw your child from the program in 2015, please complete an Exit form and hand it in to the school office by 17th December 2014. If an Exit form is not received, your child will be placed in the program for 2015 and fees will be charged accordingly.

Direct Debit Forms:
Direct Debit forms for 2015 Soundhouse Fees ($140 per term) will be distributed to families this week. Please complete the form and return it to the school office by 17th December 2014 to secure your child’s enrolment for 2015.
**MPW CHRISTMAS RAFFLE 2014**

It’s our last fundraiser for the year and we have some great prizes up for grabs!

- 1st prize Myer Gift Vouchers valued at $250.00
- 2nd Prize Country Road Gift Card valued at $150.00
- 3rd Prize Village Cinema gift Card & Hamper valued at $100.00
- 4th Prize AMF Bowling Pass valued at $75.00
- 5th Prize Cadbury Chocolate Hamper valued at $50.00
- 6th Prize Cadbury Chocolate Hamper valued at $50.00

The eldest child per family will bring home 10 raffle tickets valued at $2.00 each. Please sell your raffle tickets to your family and friends and return the ticket stubs (make sure name/contact number is written clearly) and the money to the school office by Thursday 18th December, no later than 3.30 p.m. If you would like more tickets, please ask the staff at the school office.

The raffle will be drawn at the final school assembly on Friday 19th December 2014. Winners will be notified by telephone (if not present).

On behalf of the school fundraising committee we would like to sincerely thank the school community for their continued support towards fundraising for MPW during 2014.

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**LOST PROPERTY**

A reminder to parents and students to check the lost property box which is located near the toilet’s breezeway.

If lost property items are not collected by the end of Term 4, all items will be donated to the local opportunity shop.

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**STUDENT ATTENDANCE LETTER**

A letter was sent home 2 weeks ago to those students who have an ‘unexplained absence’ on the CASES administration attendance data. These dates are for the current school year.

With the end of the school year approaching, parents/guardians must complete, sign and return the letter to the General Office as soon as possible so that the attendance for each student is updated accordingly for their student report.

As a reminder, late arrivals to school will show as an unexplained absence if the teacher has already marked the class roll. Therefore it is important that all late arrival students sign in the late arrival book at the General Office so that their attendance record can be adjusted.
The Moonee Vale Instrumental Music Program (MVIMP) is a fantastic opportunity for your child to learn a musical instrument from a professional music tutor during school time.

The program is open to all students in Years 3-6. Students learn in small groups (maximum of 5 students, though often less) and participate in performances. There is also an opportunity for students to join the school band when they are deemed ready. MVIMP runs in 4 local schools, which assists us in keeping prices down as we share our music tutors and resources, and allows us to encourage students to combine at times for camps, performances and special events. The music tutors who work in MVIMP are highly professional musicians and teachers who ensure that learning music is a positive experience for the students involved.

It is now time to organise next year’s Instrumental Music Program. If you would like your child to take this opportunity, please complete the ‘Application for Instrument Study – 2015’ (sent home earlier this week – please see Fiona in Room 1 if you need another) and have your child return it ASAP to the school office to allow time for organising staffing, instrument allocation and timetables.

Remember some places are limited and will be allocated on the order notes are returned – so first in, best dressed!

Please return your note before Friday 12th December.

Instruments Offered:

Violin  Flute  Trumpet  Euphonium
Cello  Clarinet  Trombone  Bass Guitar*
Viola  Saxophone**  French Horn  Percussion**

* Three places will be available for the bass guitar in each school and conditions apply because of the demands of the instrument. Students must be in Year 4 or above.

** A limited number of places will be available for percussion and saxophone in order to achieve a balance of instruments throughout the program and the opportunity to participate as fully as possible in all events.
SPORTS NEWS

MPW Gold v Ascot Vale West
Soccer Boys: 0 - 1
Soccer Girls: 0 - 4
Bat Tennis: 6 - 29
Handball Boys: 4 - 7
Handball Girls: 0 - 1

MPW Blue v Avondale
Soccer Boys: 5 - 4
Soccer Girls: 2 - 2
Bat Tennis: 22 - 29
Handball Boys: 11 - 21
Handball Girls: 11 - 12

This completes our interschool sport program for 2014. Thankyou to the Grade 5/6 teachers for their time and effort in coaching our teams. Also congratulations to our Grade 6 students for representing our school with pride and playing sport with fantastic leadership, spirit and endeavour.

JUMP ROPE
This year’s Jump Off will be held on Friday 12th December from 9.00 a.m. - 11.00 a.m. All students will be involved in either skipping with a short or long rope as well as participating in a variety of group activities and record attempts. Like Show Day, the students will choose the activities they would like to participate in and it’s usually a great day. Any parents who can come and help turn a rope would be greatly appreciated.

As well as being a fun and healthy activity we will also be raising money for a JSC nominated charity. The students will receive a sponsorship form in PE prior to the event.

We will also be holding a ‘Healthy Lunch’ on the day that is organised by a group of parents. If anyone is willing to assist with this please fill in the form below and return to the office ASAP. As you can imagine we need lots of helpers to feed 530 students so don’t be shy.

Each student has received a Healthy Lunch information form and money envelope. Don’t miss out, it’s great.

Jump Rope & Healthy Lunch Helpers Form

Name: .................................................................Contact Number ............................................
Child/ren’s Names:
............................................................................   Rm/s ............................................

I will be able to assist on the day:
Prepare food 9.00 a.m. to 11.00 a.m.    Serve food 12.00 p.m. -1.30 p.m.    Both
Teams Eligible Birth Year
U8s 2007
U10s 2007, 2006, 2005
U12s 2004, 2003
U14s 2002, 2001
U16s 2000, 1999

Marby had a great year in 2014 – 10 Teams made finals with 4 flags. Hear us Roar!
Early Registration Day 14th December 2014: 10am-3pm

Call 0450 127 181 to book your free trial lesson
www.bnmd.net
www.facebook.com/BNMDJudo

Marby Lions are Ready for Season 2015

The MPFC has been working hard to build a strong community presence over the past 8 years founded on Building Character, Respect and Fair Play. We are pleased to announce the club is very close to reaching our milestone target of

The development of children to become strong community citizens the MPFC

Please have proof of identity and birth date (copy of birth certificate or passport will need to be supplied during registration process)

All players and families who wish to continue the journey with the club should take advantage of the first registration day which will take place on the 14th December 2014. Please have proof of identity and birth date (copy of birth certificate or passport will need to be supplied during registration process)

Marbymong Park Football Club
Cnr The Boulevard and Orford Rd, Moonee Ponds
Go to: www.marby-lions.com

Call 0418 303 432 e: mabish@optusnet.com.au