Principal’s Report

On behalf of the School Council, Staff and Parent Forum I would like to extend a very warm welcome to the Moonee Ponds West School Community as we all return to school for 2013.

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 Preps started school last Friday. I would like to extend our thanks to Parent Forum particularly Vicki Mesiti and Christine Italiano for organising a wonderful morning tea to welcome new families. We had a terrific turnout with the room full of new community members getting to know each other.

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 2013 we warmly welcome a number of staff to our team-

*Both Jenny Irvine (Class 1/2A) and Amelia Thorne (Class 4/5B) return to MPW after periods working in other school settings. Jenny has thoroughly enjoyed her time in the Northern Territory and Amelia brings a wealth of learning back to MPW after teaching in the northern suburbs of Melbourne.

*Amy Robinson (Class P/1C) joins us from Our Lady of the Southern Cross. Amy has a passion for and wonderful in the areas of English and eLearning.

*Emma Campbell (Class 3/4B) joins us this year after completing a Bachelor of Education (P-12) at Victoria University. She is passionate about reading and literature, loves art and is very creative. In her spare time she enjoys netball and drawing.

*Courtney Hodgson (Class 5/6A) joins us from Williamstown Grammar School where she worked in classes across various levels of the school. Courtney’s areas of interest in learning include Literacy and ICT. In her spare time Courtney enjoys cooking and Art.

*Jill Doogood re-joins our Education Support team this year. Jill has just started a course of study in integration and has a passion for working with children, assisting them to learn and understand their world. She is very creative and in her spare time enjoys sewing and outdoor activities.

Australian Education Union (AEU) Action

As you may have heard in the media the AEU is taking industrial action in support of the new enterprise agreements for teachers, principals and support staff.

These bans are in place to highlight how much schools rely on the goodwill of teachers in the work schools do.

There are currently work bans on; implementing the National Curriculum, using the Ultranet, participation in any teacher or parent survey administered by or on behalf of DEECD, responding to emails sent by DEECD and the writing of the comments section of student reports.

Principal’s Report continues over the page..
PRINCIPAL’S REPORT CONTINUED..

As of January 30th 2013 members of the AEU will not be working more than a 38 hour week (These hours are 8.45-3.45 along with 3 additional hours for meetings). This will impact on the school greatly as a many of the functions we undertake teachers plan and conduct in their own time outside these working hours .Examples may include but are not limited to Information Evenings, Camps and additional meetings.

There is proposed stop work action planned. The AEU has called on its members to stop work for 24 hours on Thursday 14th February 2013. Staff are required to let me know of their intentions to stop work as per the stated industrial guidelines by 12 noon on Tuesday the 12th of February. Once I have received this information a letter will go home with each child as per the stated industrial arrangements on Tuesday 12th February advising families of school arrangements.

Traffic Update
As many of you will have seen the engineering work for the new school crossings in Athol Street and Eglinton Street has been completed. The Moonee Valley Council have conducted traffic studies and will put in a submission to VIC ROADS for funding for School Crossing Supervisors planned to start in July. Until that time the crossings are not operational and there are no parking restrictions. Please ensure that all members of the community, your children in particular do not use the crossings until further notice. This will also be mentioned at school assembly. Once the crossings are operational an education campaign to support safe use will be implemented. I would like to thank School Councillor, Amanda Lecaude for her work on this project. Amanda reports that there are a number of other small engineering modifications planned for around the school in the next financial year to continue to increase safety for all.

Enrolments Open for 2013 Language Classes at the Victorian School of Languages.
The Victorian School of Languages is a specialist government school that provides language programs in a range of languages for students in Year1-12 who do not have access to a particular language in their school. Face to face classes for students in Years 1-12 are conducted during out of school hours generally on a Saturday morning in centres located across Victoria. For enrolment information and enquiries, contact the VSL head office on 9474 0500 or see www.vsl.vic.edu.au.

Learning to Learn- Integrated Inquiry
During the first couple of weeks the whole school is focusing on a unit of work called Learning to Learn. The unit is designed to focus on setting up and building the classroom as a productive and inclusive learning community for all the students. Each level across the school will have a particular focus to suit the needs and interests of the students. Teams will complete activities including looking at the school values and vision. They will also begin to develop the classroom rights and responsibilities and review the playground arrangements. There is some information on our school website which you can access about this unit of work.

Parent Helpers Committee
As mentioned, the Parent Forum were involved in the welcome to new prep parents as they will be at this Friday’s catch up at the Big Adventure Playground. The Parent Forum work towards maximising the link between home and school, a link we all know is so vital. If you would be interested in joining the group please email Randal at sy.mons.randal.j@edumail.vic.gov.au

New eLearning Equipment
Over the past week new eLearning equipment has been purchased and installed at MPW. The most significant has been 6 interactive data projectors. This now means all classrooms have interactive facilities. We’ve also increased the number of iPads while updating some of our Mac computers. Very exciting!

Enjoy the week.
Jenny, Helen and Randal
**TERM DATES AND CURRICULUM DAYS FOR 2013**

**TERM 1**
- 29th January — Curriculum Day
- 30th January Grade 1 to 6 Return
- 31st January Prep Students begin
- 8th March — Curriculum Day
- 28th March — Term 1 Concludes

**TERM 2**
- 15th April — Term 2 Begins
- 20th May — Curriculum Day
- 28th June — Term 2 Concludes

**TERM 3**
- 15th July — Term 3 Begins
- 30th August — Curriculum Day
- 20th September — Term 3 Concludes

**TERM 4**
- 7th October — Term Begins

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**Welcome Back From Parent Forum**

Parent Forum provides:
- an avenue for engagement with the school:
- Open to all parents/guardians of children attending MPWPS — membership is automatic
- Provides opportunities to have a cuppa and debrief with other parents
- Organises activities which support children’s welfare and learning

What’s ahead in Term 1?
- Prep/1 Parents & Guardians “Get Together” at the Big Adventure after drop off Friday 8th February; (Sharon’s shop on Eglington Street can do coffee if you’d like one)
- Basket Tea, Friday 22nd February 5pm on the turf — pack a picnic and enjoy music from our very own teacher Ryan and his band

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**2013 COMMONWEALTH ESSAY COMPETITION NOW OPEN FOR ENTRIES!**

Are you a writer? Are you interested in the world around you? Do you want your voice to be heard by others? If so, the Commonwealth Essay Competition is definitely for you. We encourage you to be creative in your response to our topics. You can submit a poem, letter, article, story, essay or even a short play. The choice is yours. Just get writing

For more information go to this website or see Justine in Room 13
http://www.thercs.org/youth/essay

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**EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE**

If you are the holder of a Health Care Card or Pension Card that is valid at the 29th January you are eligible to apply for the Education Maintenance Allowance. Applications close on the 28th February. Forms are available from the Office.

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**Soundhouse**

Soundhouse lessons will start the week beginning Monday, February 11. There may be some changes to lesson times over the first few weeks. Your child will be given a slip with his/her permanent lesson time once timetables have settled. If your child is not continuing with Soundhouse, please complete an EXIT form by Thursday, Feb 7 so that your child is not placed in the timetable and a charge applied. Vernice Petty will be in New Zealand next week, due to a serious illness in her family, so her guitar and SAP lessons will be taught by Sue O’Brien, Alie Pickin and Patrick O’Brien for the first week.

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**VEGIE PATCH CLEANUP**

This Friday everyone welcome 2.30 to 3.30pm.
New parents, old parents toddlers, carers, grandparents everyone welcome.

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**The Choirs are BACK!**

MPW junior and senior choirs have commenced: Mondays in the performance room. Anyone interested in joining in is more than welcome to come along: Junior choir (grades 1 and 2) at 1.15pm
Senior choir (grades 3, 4, 5 & 6) at 1.45

Our choir is a fun way to learn about singing and exploring musical elements, style and movement, whilst developing our concert repertoire. Everyone gets a chance to perform. Our choirs help students learn how to sing in a group, develop their listening skills, explore rhythm and movement, develop confidence, self-esteem, and make new friends whilst sharing the excitement of performing. We look forward to a great 2013.

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**2013 MOONEE VALE INTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM**

MVIMP 2013 is nearly ready to go! All children enrolled in the program will have received confirmation of their instrument last week, along with a contract and payment form to be returned. The MVIMP teachers will meet the children this week for their first session to get started by allocating instruments and working out groupings.

We would love to welcome some more new brass players, particularly trumpet players!!! If your child is in Grade 3-6, would like to learn the trumpet and has not yet returned an enrolment form, please come and talk to Fiona in Room 1.
Friday 1\textsuperscript{st} March

MPWP Movies on the Tiger Turf presents

Entry Costs are:

- Family $30
- Adult $10
- Child $7

Tickets available at the office.

This is a major fundraiser for our school and a fantastic night for the whole family.

Sausage sizzle starts 6.30 pm

Soft drinks, snacks, wine and beer will be available.

(In the event of poor weather the movie will be shown in the gymnasium)

We are always looking for extra helpers.

If you can help us set up, cook the BBQ or sell food and drinks we would love you to help.

Please call Karen on 0417 362 278, Michelle on 0417 583 075 or Lawana on 0438 947 010 if you can help.
COMMUNITY NEWS

ST. JOHN’S NETBALL

St. John’s Netball Club is looking for new members. Be part of a great community club.
Registration Night is Friday 8th Friday
4.30—6.30pm
St Johns Uniting Church hall
Cnr Mt. Alexander Rd and Buckley Street, Essendon
If you have any questions please contact Julie on 0400 262

THIS SUNDAY!
Junior Football
Registration Day for
New Players
Vacancies for players born in
1999 & 2000
2002 & 2004
February 10th
9am – 11am
Clifton Park
Batman St, Aberfeldie
For registration forms and further details visit
www.abers.com.au

Junior Information & Registration Day
SUNDAY 10TH FEBRUARY 11AM – 2.00PM
At: Essendon Doutta Stars, 101 Cooper Street, Essendon
Essendon Doutta Stars Football Club provides an avenue for junior footballers to have fun, learn and enhance their football skills and be part of a team environment.
At Essendon Doutta Stars we are a family club which has a strong focus on enjoyment and development for our children.
Should you require any further information please contact Bradleigh Andrews on 0400 983 563 www.essendondst.com.au

CHESS COACHING

Have fun learning Chess!!

Where: New Performance Space
When: Monday’s 3.30pm – 4.20pm
4th Feb - 25th March 2013
Cost: $85 Cash/Cheque - 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 Monday 4th February. Cheques made payable to “Hooton Consulting Pty Ltd”

For more info contact Phil on 0421 901 530

PLEASE PAY PHIL DIRECTLY
AT 1ST CHESS LESSON.

Child’s Full Name: _______________________
Email: ____________________________
School: ____________________________
Phone: ____________________________
Payment Due: Monday 11th Feb 2013
$85 cash: $85 cheque: