Principal’s Report

MPW Choir 2013
As part of our choir programme in 2013 we have a fabulous opportunity to partake in the mass choir at this years "Victorian State School Spectacular", to be held on Saturday 27 July 2013 at the Hisense Arena.

The Victorian State Schools Spectacular is a professionally staged production which includes a cast of almost 3000 government school students working towards a common goal in a collaborative, competition-free environment.

The students attending gain an invaluable performing arts opportunity to work with internationally renowned industry professionals across all disciplines, as well as the amazing experience of performing live in front of thousands of people.

Walking School Bus – Possibly stopping at Moonee Ponds West Primary?
The Walking School Bus is a fun and healthy way for primary aged students to travel to and from school. Run in collaboration with Vic Health, Moonee Valley Council, schools, traders and the community this free program has obvious far reaching benefits.

The Walking School Bus is a group of students and two adult leaders who walk to and from school.

The leaders are volunteers who are provided with training through the Moonee Valley Council and are required to undergo a Working with Children Check. The Walking School Bus would follow a specific route on specific days selected by the school and volunteers. These routes would be carefully planned and audited by the Council to ensure the safety of the students.

A brochure with more information will come home this week. If you are interested in either your children using the Walking School Bus or volunteering please complete the expression of interest form in the brochure (back page) and return to school by Friday 1st of March 2013. Many thanks to School Councillor Amanda Lecaude for her work on this project.

Insurance Reminders
The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) does not provide personal accident insurance for students. Parents and guardians are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any transport costs. Student accident insurance policies are available from some commercial insurers. These cover a range of medical expenses not covered by Medicare or private health insurance.

Personal property is often brought to school by students, staff and visitors. This can include, but are not limited to mobile phones, electronic games, calculators, toys, musical instruments, sporting equipment, and cars parked on school premises. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and it has no capacity to pay for any loss or damage to such property.

Principal’s Report Continues over the page....
Principal’s report continued..

School Levies

School Council have confirmed our School Contributions Program. The community’s response to this program over the last four years has been fantastic. In 2012 over 93% of families made a contribution supporting our school programs. The school levies support school programs by funding; consumables that are used in your child’s classroom such as stationary and toner, excursions and travel to interschool sport. The contributions to library fund and the building fund are fully tax deductible and are used to stock our wonderful library with great books and to support our grounds development program.

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.

This week you will receive a payment voucher that outlines these payments. The form requests that all payments be made as soon as possible with a request date of no later than March 18th. If you need to discuss alternative payment options please make a time to see me.

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.

Movie Night – 1st March 2013

The talk of the town at school revolves around our major fundraiser and community event for 2013 the movie night. The students, staff and community are getting very excited about sharing a movie together on the tiger turf on Friday evening. If you haven’t as yet please get your tickets, they are selling fast! For more information please see the note later in the newsletter.

Parent Rep Meeting

Thanks to all the parents who have volunteered to work as parent reps for our classrooms this year. We have our first get together tomorrow in the staffroom at 9.00 a.m. We look forward to seeing you all then.

Monday Assemblies

This year Jess Greenbaum is coordinating the assembly roster for our Monday morning assemblies, 9.00 a.m. in the school’s gym. I’d like to congratulate our MCs for the past two weeks. Meg and Vincent who have done a great job. We look forward to enjoying many presentations, celebrations of success and public speaking skills over coming weeks.

Parent Forum

The Parent Forum meets this Friday at 9.00 a.m. in Randal’s office. It is wonderful to see the number of parents who have volunteered their time to work with this group.

Basket Tea

The Basket Tea being held this Friday on the Tiger Turf is a great chance to catch up with familiar families as well as an opportunity to meet many new people who have joined the MPW community in 2013. Bring a basket of food and meet us on the Tiger Turf at 5.00 p.m. A highlight will be Ryan’s band playing for us. We look forward to seeing you all then.

Terri Campbell Parent Forum - Writing

On Monday 25th February 2013 Terri Campbell will be facilitating a session in the Staff Conference Room at 7-8.30pm for all community members. She will talk about the early stages of writing development, the ‘6 traits of writing’ and how families can support their child with writing at home. A separate notice also went home with a slip to indicate if you are attending. A notice also went home to advertise Lorraine Wilson’s talk on Thursday 28th February.

Terri has been working in the 1/2 area of the school with students and teachers. She will be here four days this term including a staff meeting session and induction for new staff. Terri will return again in Term 2 for four full days in classrooms. There are some pictures of her session included in this newsletter.

Enjoy the week,

Jenny, Helen and Randal
What is the Walking School Bus?
The Walking School Bus™ is a fun, healthy and safe way for primary school aged children to travel to and from school. Run in collaboration with Vic-Health, Moonee Valley City Council, schools, traders and community groups, this free program has far reaching benefits.

The Walking School Bus™ (WSB) is not a real vehicle but a group of children who walk to school accompanied by two adult leaders (one ‘driver’ and one ‘conductor’). Picking up and delivering children at bus stops on the way to school.

The Walking School Bus follows a specific route on specific days selected by your school and volunteers. These routes have been carefully planned by the volunteer coordinator and audited by Council to ensure the safety of the children. Safety precautions include a 1:8 adult to children ratio. All volunteers are required to undergo safety training, registration and hold a Working with Children Check (WWC). Moonee Valley City Council is supporting this fantastic program at no cost to schools or families.

How to be involved
There are many ways that you can be involved in the WSB program. You can:
- Sign up your child
- Register your children to walk
- Volunteer to act as a conductor/driver
- Act as your school’s volunteer coordinator

Volunteers
All volunteers are provided with training through Moonee Valley City Council and are required to undergo a WWC to ensure that children are walked to school in a safe and friendly manner. Volunteers are expected to operate according to the bus stop timetable and follow appropriate safety measures.

Council
Moonee Valley City Council employs a Project Officer to supervise the WSB program. The Project Officer provides administrative support and guidance to all participants. It is Council’s responsibility to conduct WSB route safety audits, register volunteers and provide safety training.

Get on board the Walking School Bus™
Let’s get more children walking more often!

I would like my child to use the Walking School Bus on the following days and sessions:
- Monday
- Tuesday
- Wednesday
- Thursday
- Friday

Child’s name: _________________________________
Address: ____________________________________
Parent’s name: ______________________________
School: _________________________________
Phone: _________________________________
Email: _________________________________

I am interested in becoming a volunteer for the Walking School Bus on the following days and sessions:
- Monday
- Tuesday
- Wednesday
- Thursday
- Friday

Please return completed forms to the school and further information will be forwarded.
Lorraine Wilson Parent Information
Session - Your Child and Reading
On Thursday 28th February at 9.15-11.00am, Lorraine Wilson will be conducting a seminar looking at how children learn to read. Lorraine will discuss areas such as: Reading is the construction of meaning from printed text. How does a reader construct meaning? How important is it to name each word on the page correctly? How should we respond to children’s oral reading errors?
Lorraine will give many strategies for parents to use with their children in developing life-long readers. She will also spend time outlining what phonics is, and how important early writing is in the development of children’s phonic understandings.
We encourage all parents new to the school to come along to this important event.

VICTORIAN PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE 2013
If you are interested in your child participating in The Victorian Premier’s Reading Challenge for 2013, you will need to collect the consent note from the library or download it from the website. Once signed and returned back, I will then register your child and provide them with all the required paperwork.

More details of the Challenge is available online at www.education.vic.gov.au/prc.

Please read and inform your child of the commitment, what is expected and the responsibility they will need to dedicate if participating in the challenge, as many students find this to be quite a demanding task!

The Challenge aims to promote a love of reading.
It is not a competition, but a challenge to each student.
It is open for Preps to Year 12.
So….if you love books …enjoy reading….or even love being read too…..then this is your mission!

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.
Please buy your tickets!
If we don’t sell **LOTS** of tickets by this Friday our movie night will have to be cancelled!

Family tickets: $30
Adult: $10
Child: $7

This is a major fundraiser for our school and a wonderful night.
Tickets are available from the Office.

Sausage sizzle starts 6.30 pm, movie starts at sundown.

Soft drinks, snacks, wine and beer will be available.
(In the event of poor weather the movie will be shown in the gymnasium)

If you can help us set up, cook the BBQ or sell food and drinks
please call Karen Korff on 0417 362 278,
Michelle Jeffery on 0417 583 075, Kath White on 0434 191 311 or
Lawan a Coulson on 0438 947 010.
The Lost Dogs’ Home Gracie St PetFest
A fun day out for animal lovers and the whole family, the Gracie Street PetFest features a smorgasbord of exciting activities and entertainment for both two and four-legged members of the family!

As part of The Lost Dogs’ Home 100th year, the free event will see Gracie Street transform into a street festival featuring dog obedience demonstrations, pet talent and cooking shows, veterinarian advice, face painting, a magic show and plenty more!

Festival goers interested in the Home’s services and programs including adoption, foster care and volunteering will also have the opportunity to learn more! The Home’s Centenary Historical Exhibition will also be opened to the public and will be a permanent attraction for the remainder of the year.

When: Sunday, March 3
Time: 11.00 am – 4.00 pm
Where: 2 Gracie Street, North Melbourne
Price: Free
Contact: Michelle Cook on (03) 9329 2755