Principal’s Report

Transition Evening

The area of transitions at all levels of schooling is a focus area in our schools current strategic plan. To further improve communication and understanding about the very important year 6 to year 7 transition we have carefully considered feedback from families and students over recent years. Last night Di Woodburn (Year 5 & 6 Coordinator & Transition Coordinator) ran two sessions for parents on student transition from primary to secondary school. Along with the usual year six session, Di also ran a session for year five parents. Di’s wealth of knowledge is invaluable in providing support to our parents and students in the selection of an appropriate secondary school. Some of the areas Di covered included: matching a child to the right school, providing information on the various options (select entry schools, scholarships, curriculum specialised schools e.g. Maribyrnong College which is a Sports Specialist school), timelines, the process of application, the appeal process and the schools with ceilings/zones.

Di also spoke to the Neighbourhood Policy’ and the process schools follow when allocating students to their school. Thank-you to the parents and students who attended last night’s session but particularly to Di for her preparation and commitment to supporting a smooth transition for our students to their secondary school placements.

To further build on this information session a ‘Secondary School Expo will operate at MPW on the 24th April from 4 – 7 p.m. in the school’s gym. Many secondary colleges will be present. This event provides a chance for families, to speak with staff and students from a range of secondary schools about the programs they offer. This opportunity is available to all families, not just those with children in year five or six.

Enjoy the Holidays

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the wonderful staff of MPW for the great programs and learning that has taken place in term 1. We have had a very smooth start to the year. To the families that support the students and programs thank you. To the students, well done, on working towards achieving your learning goals, and congratulations on your success.

It would be great if all students keep reading and doing Mathletics over the break.

I hope you all have a happy holiday, rest up and come back invigorated for an exciting term two.

Jenny, Helen and Randal
School Council Report

We had a full house at the last school council meeting.

- We said thank you goodbye to the retiring members, Gary Funston (president), Peter Janetzki (treasurer) Kath White (vice president), and Amy Dinsdale (staff), and welcomed the new, Chris Connelly (parent), Jo Martin (parent) and Sheenagh Callahan (staff).
- Our newly elected president is Paul Girdler, vice president is Carlene Wilson and treasurer, Rowan Hawker. Congratulations to all.
- We started the meeting with members from the Green Team (Owls in the trees) and junior school council giving us a rundown of the projects and issues that they have been and will be involved in. It is always nice to hear the voice of the students at School council.
- Jenny, in her principal’s report, spoke about the curriculum day in March, which included staff and student wellbeing as well as a refresher with the Mathletics team. These days give the staff an opportunity to further develop their professional practise. Jenny also spoke about the AEU work bans and how staff are managing their work load and prioritizing meetings. Because of the bans, the 3/4 camp organised for 2nd term may need to be rescheduled.
- Helen Thomas gave a report from Education Committee.
- English committee have run successful information sessions with Terry Campbell, Lorraine Wilson and Di Snowball for families and staff.
- Maths committee is trialling and sharing with staff, various assessment tools.
- Assessment and Reporting are analysing the EOL results
- E-learning team is working on protocols for the using of technologies in and out of the classroom.
- Sue Philips spoke about what she has been doing in the art room in regards to the DAX approach.
- The Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) was endorsed.
- Randal spoke about the successful initial information night regarding the Japan tour later in the year. Students, parents and staff are excited.
- Parent Forum is well attended and most classrooms are represented.
- Peter Janetzki gave his final treasurers report, and reported that even though the schools server was replaced and an unexpected expense, the school is in a secure financial position.

From Helen Lockart on behalf of school council.

VICTORIAN PREMIERS’ READING CHALLENGE
Registrations closed on Monday 25th March for the Victorian Premiers’ Reading Challenge. This year there are 86 children who are registered to participate and four children have already completed the challenge, congratulations! Could all participants please logon, on a regular basis and record all your books so that they can be verified.
Lists of books are available online at www.education.vic.gov.au/prc.

HOT CROSS BUN FUNDRAISER
A reminder to all families that there is still time for you to support the Hot Cross Bun Fundraiser. Please place your orders by Thursday and receive your voucher to take to Bakers Delight in Moonee Ponds Central to collect your Hot Cross Buns at your convenience.

Thank you,
The Fund Raising Committee
What is Parent Forum?

Parent Forum is a group of parents, carers or grandparents who come together once a month to have a cuppa, get to know other community members and share what’s going on around the school.

Generally, there is an agenda which is always open to suggestions or additions. There is NO COMMITMENT to come to every meeting, although we’d love to see you there to learn more about you and your thoughts and experiences about MPW.

Last Friday Randall spoke about his journey to finally arriving at MPW (he loves our school!) and we had a quick tour of the Hall Building and Library area. Did you know….the Hall Program has been wonderfully invigorated and is utilising many enthusiastic parent/carer/grandparent helpers? We also browsed the great Parent Reference section the Library has available for borrowing and saw the colourful learning areas.

Come and see what Parent Forum has to offer and support the great learning that is going on at Moonee Ponds West! Next meeting is the 26th April.

Cheers,

Kirsty

SPORTS NEWS

Swimming
Well done to Grace Peacock, Jackson Crook and Grace Honan who represented Ascot Vale District at Division Swimming Carnival at Oak Park. Congratulations to Grace Peacock who then qualified for Regionals and finished fifth in her race at the next stage!

Rotational Sports
The Gr 5/6 students have been participating in Rotational Sports during term one. A tight finish to the tournament saw Wildcats, led by Jack Thompson and Murray Purves, take out the title for 2013. Congratulations to all teams and thank you to the 5/6 Teachers for umpiring.

Cross Country Trials
Last Friday students from Gr 4, 5 & 6 took part in Cross Country trials. It was great to see so many students involved in the trials. Special mention to Rm 15 and Rm 19, with every member of their class participating in the trials!

The top five from each race will represent MPW at District Cross Country on Friday 19th April (Week 1, Term 2)

Up & Coming Events
Friday 19th April District Cross Country @ Aberfeldie Park
Friday 3rd May, Winter Sport Round One

MVIMP NEWS

We have had a great start to MVIMP in 2013! There are now 97 kids learning an instrument with MVIMP, which is fantastic! Well done to all the kids involved – we hope to hear you all perform at assembly during the year.

PERCUSSION
Next term we welcome back Anthony, our regular percussion teacher, from long service leave. We expect Anthony to resume percussion lessons on Mondays – so percussion students will need to remember to come prepared on the very first day of Term 1!

We are sorry to say goodbye to Ryan, who has been taking percussion this term and done a fabulous job! Ryan used to learn music in the MVIMP program when he was at primary school, and now is a fulltime musician and teacher. We’ve been lucky to have him and hope to see him again.

DATES TO KEEP FREE
Some 2013 dates to put in your calendar for the MVIMP year….
* The combined annual MVIMP Music Camp for 15 children selected from each MVIMP school will be held from Tuesday August 20th to Friday August 23rd, with a concert for families on the Thursday night.
* Our Moonee Ponds West concert will be held at 7pm on the evening of Wednesday, September 18th in the gym.
* The Combined MVIMP Concert will be held on the evening of Wednesday November 13th.

Keep practising!!!!
PROBLEM SOLVING CHALLENGE (for both kids and parents)

How many squares?
(Hint: the answer is not 9!!)

At Moonee Ponds West students are supported and extended in the learning within the rich classroom programs provided by teachers. Students are given opportunities to be challenged and extended through both authentic, open-ended tasks and targeted work aimed at individual needs. In addition to this great learning, throughout the year there are other opportunities for students to be extended outside their classroom.

Every year, the Commonwealth Essay Competition inspires thousands of young writers from all over the world. It offers young people the opportunity to make their voice heard on a global platform, encouraging students to engage with issues which are important to them. Topics for the Junior Category (age 14 and under) are:

“When has work paid off for you?”
“Creative thinking saved the day”
“Tell us about a moment of opportunity which changed the life of your family, community, country, continent or the entire planet.”

“Is change a good thing?”
“Opportunities galore!”

Entries close 1st May, 2013. For more information visit www.thercs.org/youth/essaycompetition

AUSTRALIAN MATHEMATICS COMPETITION (AMC) – Thursday, 1st August 2013
The AMC is competed in annually by tens of thousands of students from all over Australia and in more than forty countries around the world. As part of the competition, students are presented with a range of mathematical problems to solve, using any materials or equipment that would normally be found in a school classroom. Last year 39 students from grades 3-6 took part in the competition, with great results (and lots of fun had). If your child is interested in participating please look out for entry forms appearing during Term 2 (for more information www.amt.edu.au).

TOURNAMENT OF THE MINDS (TOM) – Terms 2 and 3, 2013
This team-based problem-solving competition is run Australia wide. It challenges young minds to come up with creative ideas and the best possible solution to a difficult problem. Children compete as part of a multi-age team (grades 4/5/6) and develop many skills while doing the challenge, such as: communication and negotiation skills, time management, keeping a budget, lateral thinking, and problem solving. The competition consists of two parts: a Long Term Challenge (which is worked on over the six week tournament period) and a Spontaneous Challenge (which is revealed to the team on tournament day). Groups compete in one of four categories: Language/Literature, Social Sciences, Applied Technology or Maths/Engineering. For more information on the tournament, I encourage you to visit www.tom.edu.au/VIC

G.A.T.E.W.A.Y.S. PROGRAMMES
Throughout the year G.A.T.E.W.A.Y.S. provide external programs designed to extend talented students in different areas of the curriculum. Teachers may inform students/families of upcoming programs suitable for individuals. If you would like to find out more, please see Amelia in Room 19.

Keep an eye out in the newsletter throughout the year for more information on these and other extension opportunities.

From the extension team (Ryan, Amelia and Chris)
Room 1 **LOVES** Personal Writing!!!
Here are some of the stories we are publishing in our room....

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I Got a Cake.</th>
<th>The Beach.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I was walking past a cake store and I asked if I could have a cake. “Yes,” my mum said. So we went into the store and we asked for a cake with chocolate topping.</td>
<td>I went to the beach.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“YUM!”</td>
<td>It was fun.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“That’s going to be so, so, so yum!” I said. At home we ate the cake.</td>
<td>I went with my cousin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By Ned.</td>
<td>I had a big house.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I had mini golf.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I like the beach.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>By Emma.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One day I woke up and I saw...</td>
<td>One day I was making jelly. It was red. It was partytime and Mandy was taking the jelly to the fridge. The jelly needed to stay in the fridge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a cat leaping over stuff........</td>
<td>When it was the next day, Mandy was going to get the jelly. When Mandy opened the door....</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a horse licking it’s hooves...</td>
<td>“Aaaaaaghh!!!” There was jelly with eyes and legs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a rabbit roaring...</td>
<td>Mandy said “Aaaaaaghh!”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and a tiger hopping like a rabbit.</td>
<td>Mandy ran all the way back to Room 1. When Mandy arrived, Mandy said “Everybody get out of school!”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What weird animals!</td>
<td>“But why?” said Erin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By Mia.</td>
<td>“Because there is jelly coming.” Everybody laughed, but coming through the door was the jelly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>“Mandy was right,” said Erin. Everybody ran to the door, but one person got trapped by jelly. She said “Aaaaaaghh!!”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Erin said, “I will help you,” but she was too slow. Erin kicked the jelly, then the jelly said, “Aaaaaaghh!” She ran out the door and shut the door.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Then the jelly said, “I will get you again and I will eat you,” but it didn’t. It never came back.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>By Erin.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Day I Got A Cupcake.</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On the weekend, I went to the cupcake store.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I ate a cupcake.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It was a chocolate cupcake.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YUM!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By Sophie.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
COMMUNITY NEWS

THE LOTUS HEALING CENTRE - TERM 2 begins April 15th

KIDS YOGA (ages 5 - 10)  Mondays at 4pm
Our KIDS YOGA program encourages children from the ages 5-10 to develop holistically, using Yoga as the pathway. Reading, storytelling, music, creative meditation and earth care blend seamlessly with Yoga movement & Yogic breath. These classes are designed to develop strong, limber & healthy bodies, set a lifelong foundation for well being, foster creative expression & imagination, increase focus, concentration & attention span, cultivate self esteem for a lifetime of excellence and FUN!

TWEENS TO TEENS YOGA (ages 11-15) Thursdays 4.15pm
As your child moves through this interesting time from a Tween to a Teen, these classes are designed to develop coordination, concentration, improve motor skills, body awareness & confidence. Relax & sleep better, cope with life stress or more effectively, discover a sense of awareness & respect for themselves, others & the world around them. Your child will learn invaluable skills that set the groundwork for meeting challenges, by growing stronger physically, mentally & emotionally, cultivating self esteem for a lifetime of excellence and FUN!

Discounted price for MPW students $132 for 11 wk term
Visit www.thelotushealingcentre.com.au for more info or Call...