Principal’s Report

The Reading Bug Continues…

Recently I spent time with Roma, Harriet, Stephanie, Lucy and Frankie from 4/5 A. In class with their teachers Helen Lockart & Justine Ryan they have been reading *Parvana* by Deborah Ellis. In their words the book is about “a young girls fight to survive in Afghanistan.” So concerned were the group about the plight of women in Afghanistan that they wrote to the Prime Minister Julia Gillard asking what they could do to help. They received a letter back from Prime Minster Gillard thanking them for their concern and providing them with information on the Governments youth website where they can contribute to shaping future Australian Government policies. The MPW girls introduced me to a group called SOLA. SOLA is a people to people non-profit organisation dedicated to furthering educational and leadership opportunities particularly for women in Afghanistan and the world. There is an inspiring TED video clip called Shaban Basij-Rasikh titled *Dare to Educate Afghan Girls* which you may be interested in watching. (http://www.ted.com/talks/shabana_basij_rasikh_dare_to_educate_afghan_girls.html)

Ms Basij-Rasikh is the cofounder of SOLA and speaks openly about her early education in her country. The motto of the group is *Courage to Grow, Knowledge to Lead, and Power to Change*. My time spent with the MPW girls has reaffirmed that the future of our country is indeed in good hands. Congratulations to this group on their desire to “dream big” (Ms Basij-Rasikh 2012).

Attitudes to School

Beginning next week students in Grades 5 and 6 will undertake the 2013 Attitudes to School Survey. The survey is completed by all students in Years 5-12 in Victorian Government schools. The survey builds a profile of the student’s wellbeing, the teaching and learning which occurs in the school and the relationships each student has with their peers. The data collected is added to previous results to provide trends. The results are provided to our school later in the year. Added to this process is the implementation of student focus groups which we have undertaken over the past three years to once again inform the next steps for our work at MPW.

Blogs

At next Monday’s assembly a number of the classes will be sharing their class blogs. The grades are looking to increase their ‘readership’ and presenting their work to the community on Monday is part of this. We will follow this up with sending out the blog addresses of the classes involved.

Mathletics App

In case you’re not aware Mathletics is now available as a free app for the iPad. Once you have downloaded it be sure to ‘update’ as changes occur regularly.

Principal’s Report continues over the page..
Mathletics Update
Your children should have access to their Mathletics username and password. Mathletics now has an ‘app’ available for iPad. It is free to download. How exciting that Mathletics is now mobile! It is important to update when the ‘app’ prompts you to ‘Update’ so that you are able to get all the functions the program has to offer. Have fun with Mathletics. If you have any questions please don’t hesitate to contact Vicki McCormack.

G.A.T.E.WAYS
Developing and extending children’s special abilities
Places are now open for students who would like to participate in G.A.T.E.ways Journey On Location programs.

What Are ‘Journeys’ Programs?
In these programs children from grades 1 - 6 spend one morning a week for four weeks developing skills in a specialised area of the curriculum.

Journeys held “On Location” at venues other than schools are often held over one or two full days. The program content is presented at a more advanced level and at a faster pace than is often possible in the regular classroom.

Teachers nominate children for Journeys. If you are interested please see your child’s classroom teacher or Amelia Thorne (in Room 19).

What Are The Journeys Programs on offer?
Grade 1 & 2 –
‘JUNIOR KEEPERS IN TRAINING’ at Werribee Zoo
‘I BEE BOT’ at the Firbank Learning and Innovation Centre

Grade 3 & 4 –
‘RANGERS ON PROBATION’ at Werribee Zoo

Grade 5 & 6 – ‘MUSO MADNESS’ at the Australian Centre For The Moving Image
‘SCRATCH IT!’ at the Firbank Learning and Innovation Centre
‘IMAGINATE’ at Art Centre Melbourne’s Digital Hub
‘CAPTURING THE LAND’ at the National Gallery of
‘EN GARDE’ at the Fencing Victoria
‘TALKING PICTURES’ at Duneira Estate, Mt Macedon

You can access more information about the programs, including On Location and Term 2 Round 2 Journeys, at: www.gateways.edu.au

Principal’s Report Continued
Secondary School Expo – Wednesday 24th April 4.00-7.00pm at Moonee Ponds West Primary
We do have the Secondary School Expo this Wednesday afternoon. This is another great opportunity provided by the school to support Transition. Many of the secondary schools our children go to spend a number of hours at MPW. They are very happy to speak with families about what their secondary school can offer and the unique features of their school. Usually there are secondary students in attendance and printed information about each school. All families and students are very welcome. Many MPW families from all levels within the school have found it helpful to attend the expo with their children, browse through the stalls and speak with the staff and students from the secondary colleges and start the very important conversation with their own children around the selection of a secondary college. I look forward to seeing you in the School Gym on the 24th April between 4.00 and 7.00pm for this exciting event. I would like to acknowledge and thank Di Woodburn (Room 18) for coordinating this project. Enjoy the week,
Jenny, Helen and Randal

Parent Forum Meeting
Friday 26th April at 9.15am. All welcome
Open Day at The University High School on May 1st 2013. We are running two Open Day sessions. Session 1: 2pm-3pm and Session 2: 7pm-8pm. Please only attend one session. There is no need to book for either session 1 or 2.
**Education weekly**

**WINTER TUNICS &/OR SKIRTS**

We are currently looking to place an order with our supplier for Winter Tunics and Skirts. Due to the cost of these items we do not keep stocks on hand. If you are interested in purchasing these items could you please complete the order form below and return with payment to the office as soon as possible but no later than the 17th May 2013.

Lyn Harrison
OFFICE

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**WINTER TUNIC &/OR SKIRT ORDER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child’s Name:</th>
<th>Parent’s Name:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child’s Room No:</td>
<td>Contact No:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date:</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Qty</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>$40.00</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter Tunic with Detachable Bib: Size 4 to 8</td>
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<td>Size 10</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pleated Winter Skirt: Size 12 to 14</td>
<td>$40.00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL** $.............. Paid & Taken

Once the orders are completed you will be contacted to either pick up from the office or you can make arrangements for the order to be sent home with your child.

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**Mother’s Day Stall**

YES IT IS THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN AND AREN’T WE ALL EXCITED!!!!
COME AND BUY THAT SPECIAL PRESENT FOR MUM ON FRIDAY 10TH MAY.
PRESENTS WILL RANGE FROM $1.00 UP TO $10.00
WRAPPING PAPER AND CARDS WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE FOR $1 EACH.
ALSO IF ANY PREP PARENTS ARE ABLE TO HELP OUT ON THE DAY PLEASE CONTACT NARELLE on either 93727884 / 0409964320 or rellsy@live.com

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**FEES/LEVIES PAYMENT**

The Office has received a cheque payment for fees for the amount of $300 in the name of Easy Street Investments without a family name attached. Could you please advise the Office if this cheque relates to your family so we may process this payment.
NEWS FROM: room 7

Room 7’s Excursion to CERES: Water Investigation Unit

We demonstrated the water cycle
We played an educational game

We learnt all about greywater
We witnessed the sad story of pollution

NEXT WEEK — ROOM 13
COMMUNITY NEWS

‘Fashion meets Football’ – St Bernard’s Football Club annual Mother’s Day Ladies Lunch is on Saturday 11th May at 11.30am. This year the new David Jones Highpoint will be showcasing an exclusive fashion parade and style advisors presenting key trends and ‘tricks of the trade’. DJ’s store manager Kendal Tanti, Moonee Valley Mayor Narelle Sharpe & former Carlton player and Bachelor of the Year nominee Ryan Houlihan will be guest speakers on the day. Cost is $45pp - includes a glass of champagne on arrival, 2 course lunch and the legendary afternoon tea. To book contact Angela McGuire 0403 672 453 or mcguirea@iprimus.com.au. Live Entertainment featuring Jamie Payet & Phil Cebrano, Raffles, Door Prizes & DJ’s Promotional Gifts – Book early to avoid disappointment.

Boost your child’s creativity, confidence and verbal skills. Helen O’Grady Drama Classes – available NOW in your area. Check us out at www.helenogrady.com.au or call Josie (local principal) on 9016 8928.

Professional Taekwondo

Home of Olympian Warren Hansen

Taekwondo Programs For All Ages!

GIVE YOUR KIDS LIFE SKILLS

9939 9275

1 Moore Street, Moonee Ponds

www.professionaltaekwondo.com.au

LOST GLASSES
Child’s reading glasses with pink frames lost. If found please return to Heather in Room 9/10 or the Office.

LOST REMOTE CONTROL
Black remote control for garage with orange trim. If found can you please return to the Office.

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