Principal’s Report

Towards Victoria as a Learning Community

In November 2012 the Minister for Education the Hon. Martin Dixon MP released the position paper, Towards Victoria as a Learning Community (TVLC). The document sets out school based reforms that will be pursued to bring about continual improvement in Victorian schools. The Minister states, “...These reforms are underpinned by professional trust and autonomy, balanced with accountability and support...”. You may like to read this paper. It can be accessed at: http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/department/Pages/learningcomm.aspx

Review of Governance in Victorian Government School

As outlined in Towards Victoria as a Learning Community, the Government is committed to supporting schools to develop and implement a range of new school governance models. The Department has commenced a Review of Governance in Victorian Government Schools.

To read the Terms of Reference for the Review, see: http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/department/Pages/governancereview.aspx

Education Sub-Committee Meeting

On Monday 3rd June 2013 the Education Sub Committee will meet at 7pm in the Staff Conference Room. At this meeting the majority of the meeting time will be allocated to discussion in the working party groups. As mentioned in a recent newsletter there will be four working parties this year. A policy working party will be established to review existing polices and determine policy that needs to be in place. This group will be led by Helen Thomas. A community partnerships working party will be formed to look at ways to increase the engagement between home and school. This will be led by Randal Symons and Nicole O’Brien. Another working party will look at the plan for the 2014 school self-evaluation process and the consultation required with the school community. Jenny Crowle will lead the work of this working party. Following on from an agenda item at School Council a final working party will consider the DEECD guidelines on the required review of the school uniform policy. A review of uniform usually happens in school communities every few years in consultation with staff, parents and other community members. All interested community members are welcome to be involved in the working parties and should email thomas.helen.h@edumail.vic.gov.au for more information.

Christine Clancy

Just a reminder of Christine Clancy’s Communication Forums for parents. One is being held this Friday at 9.30 a.m. in the Community Room with the second on the 6th June from 7.30-8.30 p.m. Please make sure you fill out the notice later in the newsletter to advise of your attendance and send it to the main office.

Principals Report continues over the page........
Education weekly

Principal’s Report continues..

Tecchie Brekkies
The eLearning Professional Learning Teams have been running IT sessions each Wednesday morning for staff. Some of the areas have been creating classroom blogs, using iPhoto, making the most of the school’s iPads and others. One area has been using the Hachi Botto (Bee Bots). These are robots which are programmed to move around an area. Diana has utilised these devices in her program with the students writing directions in Japanese for the robots to follow.

Andrew Del Mastro
Andrew begins working in 7 of our classrooms in 10 days time. Andrew is working with the teachers and students to maximise the use of ICTs. Some of the areas they will be covering include:

Creating the Enquiry - iPad tools for creating enquiry based learning units. Students will explore how the iPad can be used to create questions, engage with and find supporting evidence, explore and develop ways to explain the evidence collected and then create representations of discoveries. Professional learning workshops will be structured as an enquiry.

A continual conversation - Blogs, wikis and Edmodo
Online collaboration and interaction that can take place outside the walls of the classroom is now a must for every teacher and student. Programs such as Edmodo provide a platform for teachers to communication instruction and content in a simple direct fashion enabling a paperless workflow.

Being a good citizen - Digital Citizenship and personal accountability.
Spam, trolls, fishing scams, password protection, cookies the list goes on! The rapid rise in digital communication has proven a challenge for society as a whole. Taking examples from society participants will look at what defines acceptable use. Participants will also explore the permanence of digital communication and what that can mean for their lives.

Finding the emotional center of your content - Digital Storytelling.

Finding the emotional centre of your content is the challenge presented to those wishing to engage with storytelling. Effective storytelling techniques will be explored along with how to assess and measure the effectiveness of a digital production. The digital and media literacy of teachers is an area that is critical to technology transforming learning experiences. Publications such as The Horizon Report and educators such as Marco Torres champion digital storytelling as a method. Teachers will be challenged to find the story in their content and then be coached on how to make their audience emotionally engage via the effective use of sound, image, video, graphics and movement.

Flipped Classroom
Recording video explanations is the idea behind the Flipped Classroom. By recording an explanation teachers are able to focus their energy on the application of the knowledge contained within the video. Teachers will look at how to create these videos as well as explore the concept of flipping a lesson.
These topics will be further developed with after school professional learning for staff as well as a half day on the 20th August at our next Curriculum Day.
We look forward to presenting the learning to you.
Enjoy the week,
Jenny, Helen and Randal

Action Heroes....
During Term One the 5/6 Team participated in an Action Hero unit of work.
The students had to plan an action that would help to make a difference in their community.
“The Wildlife Girls”
planned to reintroduce native birdlife back into our school yard.
Well thanks to
Bunnings Highpoint
and
fantastic planning by the girls
a native garden will be planted near the decking on the Eglinton Street side of the school on
Wednesday June 5 2013
There will be a little bit of inconvenience during the day but it will be well worth it in the long run!
Well done Erica, Angy, Cyneisha, Sabrina, Bella and Tori.
You have made a difference!
Pizza & Trivia Night – almost booked out!
Saturday 15th June

Thanks to a great response from the school community, our trivia night is almost sold out! There are no table bookings left - only a few seats. Thanks also for the hamper donations – and please keep them coming. We will be collecting the items from the classrooms on Friday.

Trivia night details are:

Venue: The school gym (We have heaters!)
Time: 7pm
Ticket price: $20 (cash, eftpos or cheque at the office).
What do you get? Pizza and other nibbles.
Water will be available for purchase.
BYO alcohol.

Any queries please call Karen Korff (0417 362 278), Michelle Currie (0417 583 075), Lawana Coulson (0438 947 010), Shirley Stephens (0416 85 708) or Kath White (0434 191 311).

Education weekly

Diana Vivian’s daughter is currently running a What is the future of our climate? study on attitudes toward climate change, scientists, and emerging environmental technologies as part of her PHD. Regardless of what your attitudes and beliefs are about the above, understanding what people truly think about difficult issues is the first step towards making the political, social and economic decisions that will affect future generations.

So, if you’re interested and have 15 minutes to spare at some point, please consider completing the survey. She needs as many people as possible to complete the survey, so feel free to share it with your family or friends. Participants also go into the running to receive one of six $50 Coles/Myer vouchers.

What’s involved?
A quick 15 minute survey. You will be asked some basic questions about yourself and your attitudes towards scientists, environmental technologies and climate change.

Where and when?
Simply complete the survey online by clicking here (http://www.psychsurveys.org/swinburne/scientistsandtechnology), whenever you can find a spare 15 minutes! Or visit bitly.com/climate future for more information.
Communication Workshop

Would you like to know more about engaging with your children through effective communication?

Christine Clancy is a parent of Charlotte in year 2 and Riley in Prep, and is a class representative for both classes at MPW.

Christine also runs Professional Alignment Workshops where she provides coaching, working with everyone from Olympic athletes to corporate professionals. Christine uses her mind-body expertise with her training, consulting, and coaching experience across many different fields, including the NMIT, the Leukemia Foundation, Rowing Victoria and public workshops. She has also been the Managing Director for the non-profit organization, Breathe for Brain Injury, as well as being on the board for Blinkcorp, supporting women in business.

We are very fortunate that Christine will be running her very popular workshops at Moonee Ponds West, offering you the opportunity to improve your communication skills!

About the Workshops

Everyday we engage with people and model communication to our children through interactions on the phone, online and in person. We spend time encouraging our children to express their feelings and thoughts clearly and easily, because we know that part of being happy in life is being able to relate to people on many levels.

Sadly, many adults struggle with an inability to communicate effectively, which stops them moving forward in their careers and in social and personal relationships.

By learning to communicate more openly and freely yourself, you can be happier, healthier, and more successful because great communication brings more discussion and creativity in ideas, helps to avoid or correct problems quicker, and clears up misunderstandings so people are happier and more productive. In turn, the great communication skills that you learn and model to your children will also help them to be more successful and happy in their relationships and lives.

By attending Christine’s workshops, you will have the opportunity to:

- learn how to thoughtfully communicate,
- choose words to your advantage
- learn about new perspectives on the behaviour and communication of others
- learn how to communicate in order to reach your goals

COMMUNICATION WORKSHOP – please return to the office

I will be attending the Communication Workshop with Christine Clancy on Friday 31st May 9.30am in the Community Room OR Wednesday 5th June 7.30pm in the Community Room (please circle which one).

Name: ____________________________________________

Child’s Name: _______________________________________

Room Number: _______________________________________
Facts, Facts and more Facts - Writing in Room 6

In Room 6 we have been investigating Australian animals and information reports. Last week we took a closer look at the Wedge Tailed Eagle. After viewing a range of photos, students were asked to use words to describe the features of the Wedge Tailed Eagle. This is what we came up with:

- **Talons**: sharp, pointy, big, long, shiny, black
- **Wings**: big, soft, feathered, long, stretchy, black, brown
- **Beak**: short, pointy, sharp, curved, hooked, black tipped
- **Tail**: feathered, wedged, fanned, big, brown, white

During our writing session, we used these adjectives to create interesting and engaging sentences. Here is some of our fantastic writing:

*Wedge Tailed Eagles have sharp, pointy claws to snatch their prey.*  By Ryan

*Wedge Tailed Eagles have long, stretchy wings to fly.*  By Andrew

*Wedge Tailed Eagles have a sharp, pointy beak to eat their prey.*  By Elspeth

*Wedge Tailed Eagles have a pointy, sharp, hooked beak to eat their prey.*  By Sinitta

*Wedge Tailed Eagles use their feathered black and white wings to soar through the air.*  By Doug

*Wedge Tailed Eagles have big, round eyes to see their prey.*  By Syd
COMMUNITY NEWS

Get Interview Ready - increase your income and invest in your future now!
Kate Prendergast has over 15+ years recruitment experience in Australia and the US across a variety of industry sectors. I provide consulting and coaching in the following areas:
- Professional CV's, cover letters and key selection criteria's
- Interview Coaching skills, Salary Negotiation skills
Call 0421 060 929

BODY IMAGE: No Body’s Perfect!
A Presentation with Sharon Witt
Secondary School Teacher, Counsellor and Author of the best-selling ‘Teen Talk’ series
Thursday 30th May 2013
7.30pm – 9.00pm
Balwyn Library Meeting Room
336 Whitehorse Road, Balwyn, VIC
Melways (46 / E8)

‘SLEEP DISORDERS:
Management without drugs’
This information session is presented by Dr Moira Junge, Psychologist
Wednesday 5th June 2013
7.30pm – 9.00pm
Kew Library (Phyllis Hore Room)
Corner Gotham Rd. & Civic Dr., Kew VIC
(Melways Ref: 45 / DC)

‘DEPRESSION IN CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS:
WHEN TO WORRY?’
A Lecture with Dr Simon Kinsella, Clinical Psychologist
Wednesday 19th June 2013
7.30pm – 9.00pm
Northcote Town Hall
189 High Street, NORTHCOTE (Rooftop)
(Melways Ref: 30/E9)

“DON’T PANIC!” - A systematic approach to managing Panic and Agoraphobia
A Lecture with Dr Scott Blair-West, Consultant Psychiatrist
Thursday 11th July 2013
7.30pm – 9.00pm
Balwyn Library Meeting Room
336 Whitehorse Road, Balwyn, VIC
Melways (46 / E8)

UNDERSTANDING PANIC DISORDER AND DEPRESSION
Presented by Dr Sanil Rege, Consultant Psychiatrist, and Peter Kyriakoulis, Clinical Psychologist
Saturday 13th July 2013
1.00 pm – 3.30 pm
Frankston Library (Community Room)
60 Playne Street, Frankston VIC, Melway Ref 102 / D3

Cost for each session is:
$25.00 Non-Members
$15.00 ADAVIC members