Principal’s Report

Education Subcommittee update

Last week Education Subcommittee met and our first working party meetings got under way. Each working party discussed their Action Plan and set some work for members of the group to complete. The policy working party have worked on a School Council required policy titled; Addressing Concerns and Complaints Policy. It is in draft form. This policy is required in all government schools and is developed using specific guidelines found on the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) website. We have placed the draft on our website (see link below) and welcome all members of the community to view this policy and provide any feedback or suggested changes to be considered. I have also placed some hard copies at the front office for community members to pick up. The timeline for this feedback is by Friday 21st of June. If all feedback can be forwarded to Helen Thomas, Assistant Principal and convenor of the policy review working party. If you have any questions about this new policy or any other policies please feel free to contact Helen. http://mooneewestps.vic.edu.au/page/96/Policies

Parent – Teacher Partnership

Michael Grose states “There is no doubt that the best outcomes for children happen when teachers and parents work together to support children’s learning.” He has ten tips that he promotes which you may like to consider. He states “the plan is easy to read but hard to put into practice particularly when you get busy or your child has significant difficulties. Choosing 2-3 ideas from the list to really focus on in the coming year may help.” Please find following a summarised version of his ideas.

- Know what your child’s teacher is trying to achieve.
  
  *Get to know your child’s teacher and gain an understanding of their approach and aspirations for your child’s class.*

- Keep your expectations reasonable and positive.
  
  *If your expectations are too high children may give up. Too low and they may meet them! The trick is to keep your aspirations for your child in line with their ability and interests.*

- Support your teacher’s expectations and activities at home.
  
  *One practical way to support your child is to take a real interest in their home based learning and follow the guidelines laid out by teachers.*

- Send children ready to learn and on time.
  
  *Maximise your child’s chances of success by sending them to school in a good frame of mind, with plenty of sleep and a good breakfast. Also make sure they get to school on time. It is estimated that many children miss up to two weeks of school a year when they are routinely late by just 5 minutes a day.*

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Principal’s Report continues...

• Inform teachers of your child’s challenges and changes
  *Life is not always smooth sailing for children. Keep your child’s teacher up to date with significant changes or difficulties so he/she can accommodate their emotional and learning needs at school.*

• Skill children to work with others
  *Schools are social places requiring children to work and play together. Talk through any social challenges they may have, helping them develop their own strategies to get on with others.*

• Respectfully seek joint solutions to problems and difficulties
  *Resist the temptation to solve all your children’s problems or think you have the only solution. Most learning and social problems can be resolved when teachers and parents work together in the best interests of the child.*

• Participate fully in class and school activities.
  *There is a huge body of research that points to the correlation between parent involvement in a child’s leaning and their educational success. Taking an interest in their learning and attending school functions when able is enormously helpful.*

• Trust your child’s teacher’s knowledge, professionalism and experience.
  *Your child’s teacher has a lot of experience around children and their objective professionalism puts them in a strong position to comment on your child’s progress.*

• Talk about what happens at school
  *Your child will take their cues from you about how they see their school. To help support your child to value learning and enjoy their time at school supporting the school and making sure your child hears positive messages about learning, teachers and the school itself is important.*

Enjoy the week,

Jenny, Helen and Randal

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**School Camps & Excursions: Asthma**

If your child has asthma, attending school camps and excursions can introduce them to new asthma triggers especially if they are going into new environments. It is essential that your child can participate fully and safely in all school activities. The following is a list of considerations to make for your child before they go on school camp or an excursion:

• Is your child’s asthma currently well controlled (e.g. no symptoms at night, reliever use less than 3 times per week)?

• Has your child had an asthma attack or asthma symptoms recently?

• Does the school have an Asthma Action Plan for your child?

• Has the school asked you to complete a School Camp and Excursion Medical Update Form?

• Does your child have their reliever medication and spacer on hand at all times?

• Are they attending with any other medications to be taken on the camp/excursion? If so, are there sufficient instructions to staff for use/dosage?

• Does your child self-administer their medication? If so, has their technique been checked recently?

For more information please contact The Asthma Foundation of Victoria on 1800 278 462 or [www.asthma.org.au](http://www.asthma.org.au)
TRIVIA NIGHT - 3 days to go!

A few quick reminders for the trivia night:

7pm, Saturday 15th June, school gym
BYO drinks

You don’t need to bring any food. A selection of CRUST pizzas and other nibbles is included in the ticket price.

We have great prizes and auction items up for grabs

Please bring a few gold coins for games.

Looking forward to a terrific night!
Lost Property
Is your child missing any property?
The Lost Property which is stored over in the breezeway adjacent to Room 7 and 8 is overflowing. Could you please encourage your child to have a look through the lost property if you are missing any items. At the end of Term 2 unclaimed items will be donated to charity.

VICTORIAN PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE 2013
This year MPW has 89 children participating in the Victorian Premier’s Reading Challenge and 34 children have already completed the Challenge. Congratulations to them all. Many children have started and are very close in completing the Challenge, that’s fantastic however there are still some who have not yet logged on and listed their books, please do so ASAP. The VPRC ends in term three on the 12th September.
If you do complete the Challenge you may still continue to record up to 100 books online and they will be verified.
Book lists are available online at www.education.vic.gov.au/prc
HAPPY READING!

Dear Community,
Winter is upon us and it has been a windy and rainy, and the school grounds in need of some TLC, so it is time for a WORKING BEE!!
The Environment committee is proposing that we have one on,
Sunday 23rd of June from 10.00 ’til noon.
We need to do some weeding, sweeping and a general clean up. If you are able to help out on the day, we would love to see you. All are welcome.
Those attending are asked if they could please bring along buckets, trowels, brooms, spades, gloves, anything that you think will be useful on the day.
If you are able to attend the Working Bee, please leave your name, your child’s name and grade and a contact number at the office.
Thank you in anticipation of an overwhelming response. Looking forward to seeing and meeting you on the day.

OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS
Whilst we are on the subject of keeping MPW looking good, we have noticed there is a lot more rubbish creeping into the children’s lunch boxes. Just a gentle reminder that MPW has a Rubbish Free policy, and we will be keeping an eye on the amount of rubbish coming into the school via the lunch boxes. We do not have the facilities to deal with land fill, and if land fill does need to be included in lunch boxes, the children will be asked to take the rubbish home, where it can be disposed of properly.
Regards from the Environment Committee

Soundhouse
"Prep children are able to do keyboard or SAP (Singing & Performance) lessons with Soundhouse from the start of Term 3. Enrolment forms and Direct Debit forms can be downloaded from The MPWPS website or collected from the school office. Forms need to be completed and handed in to the office by June 28."

SELECT ENTRY ACCELERATED LEARNING:SEAL
A UNIQUE PROGRAM FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH HIGH ACADEMIC ABILITY

Comencing with the 2014 Year 7 intake,
Mount Alexander College’s DEECD accredited SEAL Program will move progressively through all year levels with the initial cohort.

Following late approval from DEECD and the limited amount of time before our first testing date (11 July), Mount Alexander College has re-opened testing for eligible Grade 7 students. If you have previously completed a SEAL entrance examination conducted by Education, you may sit the test again. This is a great opportunity if you have just heard about our SEAL program or you did not get into another school’s SEAL program.
Application for second round testing for entry to the Mount Alexander College’s SEAL Program for Year 7 in 2014 is now open.

Registration closing date: Friday, 11 July 2013
Examination date: Thursday, 18 July 2013


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We walked down to the Maribyrnong River to look at the flood markers. We couldn't believe the water levels for some of the floods. As you can see from the

How does a flood affect the community?
- All our rubbish washes into the storm water system and can kill animals.
- Water pollution can damage and kill living creatures in our waterways.
- Houses destroyed/damaged so some people might not have a home to

NEXT WEEK—Room 15
Melbourne International Film Festival’s Next Gen
A program of entertaining and challenging cinema selected for a young audience. The Next Gen films give young people an insight into other cultures and ways of life, as well as the infinite possibilities of cinema. The films this year were selected for their diversity, innovation and high quality, as well as being relevant and accessible to audiences of all ages. Through drama, documentary and animation they explore, with integrity and depth, issues such as family, prejudice, injustice, violence, rebellion, identity and overcoming hardship. They are an excellent resource to support the teaching of numerous disciplines, and Australian Teachers of Media have created free ATOM study guides to accompany selected films. Next Gen films are open for school bookings now through ATOM (T: 03 9525 5302). The Next Gen program is then open to viewers of all ages when tickets to MIFF go on sale to the public from Friday 5 July. Book online at miff.com.au, at the Box Office at The Forum (154 Flinders St, Melbourne) or book on the phone (03) 9662 3722.
Read more about Next Gen at miff.com.au/nextgen