**Principals Report**

**Retirement**

Lyn Harrison a loyal and wonderful staff member of Moonee Ponds West Primary School retired on Friday the 26th of July. Lyn in her unassuming way did not want a “big fuss”. The staff put on a lovely morning tea for Lyn on her last day, which Lyn’s family also attended. The students came across to the office during the day with class singing and speeches wishing Lyn all the best.

Lyn has worked in the school office since July 2000. Over the last thirteen years she has been instrumental in the school’s financial management with her attention to detail being incredible. Lyn was always in demand with all things financial, her considered response to any question being enormously helpful.

It has been our absolute pleasure to work with Lyn, her contribution to Moonee Ponds West has been of the highest standard. She will always be remembered fondly. On behalf of the entire school community we wish Lyn well for the next exciting phase of her life – retirement.

**Parent Opinion Survey**

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development’s (DEECD) annual parent survey will come home to families nominated in the DEECD generated random sample in the week beginning 29th July. It is important that as many families as possible complete the survey. This will allow us to consider the feedback and build on the work already started as a result of the School Self Evaluation where we heard from many families. In our Strategic Plan we have identified stimulating learning for children and general satisfaction of families as two areas of focus. The feedback from families will be very useful. If you receive a survey and have any questions please contact Sandra Monaghan in the office.

Principal’s Report continues over the page...
State School Spectacular

What a pleasure and privilege to attend the Victorian State Schools Spectacular – There’s No Place Like Home. The Victorian State School spectacular is one of the largest recurring professional performances in Victoria, show casing a cast of more than 3,000 students.

The creative director for this three hour spectacular was Neill Gladwin. Neill’s career encompasses Olympic and Paralympic games ceremonies. The musical director was Chong Lim. His work includes Dancing with the Stars and the Commonwealth games closing ceremony.

Moonee Ponds West Primary students were a part of the mass choir. The group of 25 students taught by Kate Ridgeway thoroughly enjoyed this opportunity.

I would like to acknowledge the wonderful work of Kate. She spent many hours preparing for the event. This included rehearsal sessions at school, the Dallas Brooks Hall and Hisense Arena. Kate was diligent in ensuring all communication documents were in place while providing constant care for all concerned. Her passion for music is contagious.

Thanks also go to Randal Symons, Helen Thomas, Chris Brock, Melissa Lofts and Sharyn Reinke for their contribution to this event especially with the coverage of the many rehearsals.
Moonee Valley Council – Family Support

Following on from the note in last week’s newsletter, the council are running two workshops in the coming weeks. One is on ‘Managing your Child’s Anxiety’. This is being held on the 12th August from 7-9 p.m. at the Moonee Valley Civic Centre. This event is free. Another is ‘Tuning into Kids’ – Emotionally intelligent parenting’. This is from 9-11 a.m. over several sessions beginning on the 16th August and held at Avondale Primary School. Both flyers are on display on our notice board on the outside of the school’s administration building.

New Teacher Learning Support

For Terms 3 and 4, we welcome a new teacher to MPWPS,

Michelle Bryant, who has recently relocated to the area from Bendigo. Michelle has been a Primary Teacher for over 25 years throughout metropolitan and regional Victoria. Michelle will be teaching Learning Support on Wednesdays and grade 4/5 on Friday mornings. Michelle is an experienced Specialist Reading Recovery teacher and has taught extensively across all grade levels and including the areas of Physical Education and Art specialist.

Classroom Visits

Being in our role we are fortunate to be able to visit students in various learning opportunities. Most recently a visit to the hall program took place. It was wonderful to see the engagement of our students. This is due to the work undertaking by Nicole O’Brien who runs the program. Apart from the array of learning opportunities, Nicole incorporates support from our community. Today two parents and a grandparent were supporting the learning of students in Prep and Grade 1. Nicole welcomes parent support so if you are interested please make contact with her. This week the students were introduced to new learning opportunities in many of the centres. This included the Veggie patch and Tinkering spaces.

Enjoy the week

Jenny, Helen and Randal
Traffic Update

It is great to see many children and families embracing the use of the new school crossings. Please continue to encourage your children to do this where possible and keep them safe.

We are still noticing though parents dropping off children around the crossings where there are now no standing signs in place during crossing hours. It is a little worrying as well to see those people who are still double parking to drop off and pick up children. Please take notice of the signs and unfortunately if you continue to do these things you will be fined by the Council who will begin to have officers in place over the coming weeks.

We will be meeting again with the Council in a few weeks time to look at other traffic issues around the school and this will include looking at the viability of a drop off zone as well. Stay tuned for further updates on this front but if you have any concerns please feel free to speak with me - I am usually around Room 11+12 and 16 most days.

Amanda Lecaude

Education Maintenance Allowance

Instalment Two

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided to assist eligible families with the costs associated with the education of their children.

Parents and guardians may be eligible for the EMA if they have a valid Centrelink Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card.

The second instalment of the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) payment is due to be paid from mid-August onwards for parents/guardians who chose the ‘direct deposit’ or ‘pay direct to school’ payment option on their application form.

Parents/guardians who chose the cheque payment option will receive their payment from late August / early September.

Parents and guardians who lodged an EMA application at the beginning of the year do not need to lodge another EMA application to receive the second instalment EMA payment.

Parents/guardians whose children have transferred to this school since 28 February 2013 will need to submit a new EMA application form.

Applications close on 2 August 2013.

Eligibility information can be obtained from:

Mini-Market This Friday!
2nd August, 3:00 - 4:30 pm
Small Adventure Playground Area (or held in the Performance Space if there is poor weather!)

Again we have some new stallholders from the school community and this one could be our biggest Mini-Market yet!

There will be books, veggie patch, handmade clothing, accessories, jewellery, shoulder massages and more.....

Stall holders pay a stall fee that goes to the school. Please look out for Facebook messages and class-rep emails for more information.

CHOCOLATE FUNDRAISER – EXTRA BOXES

Our chocolate fundraiser is underway – thanks to everyone who is already selling the blocks to friends, neighbours and workmates.

We have some extra boxes of chocolates available so if you are interested in selling another box (or two!) please drop by the office.

Thanks very much for your support.
From the fundraising committee.
Room 20 children have been learning about space and also about information texts. We researched some facts about the Sun and worked together to write an information text. We hope you find it interesting!

What is the Sun?
The Sun is a star. It’s part of the Milky Way galaxy. The planets in our solar system orbit the Sun. It looks so small from Earth because it is 149,600,000 kilometres away. The Sun can fit 1,000,000 Earths inside it.

The Sun is not just made out of lava but it has a core made out of hot dense gas in a plasma state. Plasma is the fourth state of matter: not gas, not liquid, not solid. The Sun is also made out of gas (hydrogen 90%, helium 10% and 0.1% lithium, carbon and nitrogen). It’s made out of many different minerals (iron, copper, aluminium, and many others.)

The Sun is hot. The Sun is 15 million degrees Celsius at its centre and 5,600 Celsius at the surface. It has sunspots which are cooler than the sun. Nobody can go to the Sun because the temperature is too extreme. Everything on it turns to gas because it’s so hot.

Without the Sun we would die because it gives our Earth energy, heat and light. It helps plants grow. Solar panels use the Sun to generate electricity.

Next step: each child in Room 20 is researching a planet in our solar system to write an information text about. We will publish a class book when we’re finished.

DID YOU KNOW...?
The Sun releases solar storms and solar flares.
Tutoring Available
* Fully qualified and registered teacher, providing supportive assistance that is fully tailored to your child’s specific needs.
* Have your child tutored by a teacher who understands how different children learn best.
* Able to come to you or meet in a central location.

Subjects covered:
Prep - Grade 6: All subjects
Year 7 - 12: English, History, Geography, essay writing and study skills
Year 7 & 8: Maths

Please call Hannah on 0422 519 833 for rates and availability.