Welcome:
I would like to welcome everyone back to Melton Primary School as we begin our 2014 journey. The staff have been busy over the past couple of weeks and also prior to the students starting back at school; getting things ready for the new school year, setting up their rooms and making sure that things were ready to welcome the children back and to create a smooth start to the year. As I walk around the school it is great to see the smiling and eager faces of our students.
Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond our control, our two new classrooms for Grades 5/6E & Grade 5/6F were not ready for the start of the school year. However, the students are now in those rooms but we still have some final touches being made to the classrooms.

Enrolments and Staffing:
Our enrolments continue to grow and we have started the year with 661 students and 58 staff. We welcome back Ms Sam Hyett and Mrs Ann Ward.

We also welcome a number of new staff: Ms Mari Jankulovska, Mrs Natasha Shirtcliffe, Ms Lydia Parker, Ms Lauren Lehmann, Ms Jessica Turner, Ms Georgia Blyth, Ms Kylie Morrissy, Mrs Melissa Partridge and Ms Melissa Williams.

Congratulations to Mrs Kerrie Dowsett and family on the safe arrival of Charlotte Ann.

After 12 months of Long Service Leave Mrs Joanne Hopkins officially retired as Principal of Melton Primary School on the 27th January this year. I will continue in the Acting Principal role for the remainder of term 1. During this time the substantive Principal position will be advertised and the process should be finalised by the end of the term.

Specialist Subjects & Bell Times:
As indicated at the end of last year, due to our increasing enrolments, we have had to make changes to our specialists and our timetable structure.

The specialists’ subjects for 2014 are:
Physical Education: all classes will have one session per week for 4 terms (Teachers: Mrs Vanessa Webb and Mr Craig Trewavels)

Information & Communication Technologies: all classes will have one session per week for 3 terms (Teacher: Mr Chris Sacco: these lessons will be taken in the classroom)

Performing Arts: all classes will have one session per week for 3 terms (Teacher: Mrs Serena Walters)

Science: all classes will have one session per week for 3 terms (Teacher: Mrs Ann Ward)

Literacy: Various classes will have sessions taken in the library with Mrs Cheryl Matthews

Session Times:
8:35 10 minute warning bell
8:42 music plays: children & staff to make way to classroom
8:45 first session begins
9:35 second session begins
10:25 morning recess
10:52 music plays: children & staff make way to classroom
10:55 third session begins
11:43 fourth session begins
12:30 students eat their lunches
12:40 lunch break begins
1:17 music plays: children & staff make way to classroom
1:20 fifth session begins
2:10 sixth session begins
3:00 end of school day

Professional Learning Communities:
In 2014 we have introduced some changes as we move further into developing ourselves as a Professional Learning Community. Our learning focus for 2014 is numeracy. As we strive to improve our numeracy instruction and our own knowledge in numeracy education we will continue with all of the great work we undertake in other curriculum areas. We have allocated extra staff into our grade level teams for five periods per week, specifically timetabled for numeracy intervention, targeting each individual student’s needs.

I am looking forward to 2014 and I am very excited to be leading an outstanding professional team of teachers and Education Support staff who are passionately driven to cater for your children’s individual needs and provide them with the education that will help build their future opportunities.
Cars and young children in the summer months

- Melbourne and greater Victoria has and continues to experience extremely high temperatures.
- Parents and/or guardians are reminded that on hot days it is important never to leave children alone in a car.
- Temperatures inside a parked car during summer can be around 20 to 30 degrees hotter than the outside temperature.
- Leaving children in hot cars, even for a moment, can result in serious injury or death.
- Young children’s smaller body size and underdeveloped nervous system places them at a much greater risk of life-threatening heatstroke, dehydration and other serious health risks.
- If a parent or guardian is travelling with a child, never leave them alone in a parked car, not even for one moment.

School Zone Speed Limits
I would like to remind parents and caregivers that the speed limit around Melton Primary School is 40kph. For the safety of your children and all of our children please ensure that you abide by these speed limits and also take extreme care when dropping off and picking up your children.

Foundation playground.
A reminder to all families that the Foundation (Prep) playground is only to be used by Foundation students.

Alan McColl
Principal

Dates to Remember:

During Term 1 all students are required to wear a navy school hat.

February

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 17</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 20</td>
<td>Meet and Greet Evening (More information later in this newsletter)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 24</td>
<td>MPSSA swimming Carnival</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 26</td>
<td>Melton Primary Swimming Carnival 3/4s (9/10yrs) 9-11am and 5/6s (11-12yrs) 11-1pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 27</td>
<td>Last day to pay for camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 28</td>
<td>5/6 Interschool Summer sports begins (selected 5/6 students)</td>
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March

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 17- Friday 24</td>
<td>School camp- Grade 5/6 students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 28</td>
<td>Lightning Premiership (5/6s)</td>
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April

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 4</td>
<td>Last day of school for Term 1. Dismissal at 2:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 21</td>
<td>Easter Monday Public Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 22</td>
<td>Term 2 begins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 25</td>
<td>ANZAC day Public Holiday</td>
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School Interviews
EMA

The EMA (Educational Maintenance Allowance) provides financial assistance to families on a low income to help with the cost of essential educational items such as textbooks, stationery, uniforms and excursions.

EMA is a means-tested payment - parents must hold a Centrelink/Veterans Affairs concession card to be eligible.

An EMA application form must be completed by eligible parents/guardians and submitted annually to schools.

In 2014, the EMA payments to eligible parents will be:

- $200 for parents of eligible Foundation students
- $150 for parents of all other eligible primary school students
- $300 for parents of eligible Year 7 students
- $250 for parents of all other eligible secondary school students up to the age of 16.

The EMA is paid in two instalments annually (70% in March and 30% in August).

EMA Period 1
Card Eligibility date: 28 Jan 2014
School Census date: 28 Feb 2014
Parent Applications close: 28 Feb 2014

School Photos

Melton Primary School is having its school photos on Monday 17 February 2014.

Family envelopes must be returned by the start of school on Monday 17 February, otherwise a family photo may not be taken.

Due to the short notice we will accept individual and class photo envelopes after the photo day. Please ensure that your photo envelope is returned to the school office by Friday 21 February.

On photo day, due to the staff photo at 8:30am, the office will be closed.

OSHClub

0432 018 557

*IMPORTANT* When you need your child to attend OSHClub it is very important that you book them in online 24 hours before hand. If you ring up or message on the day and it is an emergency we understand, but if you have prior notice could you please book them! 😊

Week 3 Update: Last week, our children made various arts & crafts activities as a way to settle themselves back into the first term of school. We did cotton tip painting, bookmarks, drawing competitions and even had time for chocolate cupcakes. They were delicious! This week, we'll be making fairy bread, marshmallow mushrooms and beautiful cards all for the Valentine's Day. Have a great week!

Remember, all families must be enrolled to attend the program. It is Free to enroll!
Please create an account online at www.oshclub.com.au.
All bookings and cancellations should also be managed via your online account.

Before Care Times - 6:45am-8:45am
After Care Times - 3:00pm-6:00pm

Team Tyrone, Leesa & Lorraine

School Interviews

Attached is a note about how to book an interview using the online system.

Please complete an Information Sheet - 2014 for each of your children.

Additional copies are available from your class teacher or from the Office.

On school interview night the office will be open until 7:00pm. Please visit the office if you need to make any payments or if you need to update your contact information.
Dear Parents/Caregivers

This year our Term 1 Meet the Staff evening will be held on Thursday 20th February from 3:30pm–7:00pm. This evening will involve short interviews between the parents/caregivers and the teacher and any ES staff that may work with your child. However please be aware that the aims of these initial meetings are different to the midyear conferences: it is not a reporting evening.

The aims are as follows:
• to meet your child’s teachers and Education Support staff and for them to meet you (Please note our Specialist Teachers will also be available during this evening if you wish to speak to them.)
• for you to provide relevant information relating to your child’s interests
• for you to provide any specific information relating to your child that would assist us in understanding your child’s needs
• for the teacher to provide a general overview of the curriculum covered this year and to go over the expectations of your child in relation to class work, homework & behaviour.

Please find attached an information sheet attached that we would like you to fill in and send back to school. Please return the student information note by Friday the 14th February. (Additional copies are available from the class teacher or at the office)

We will be using an online system to complete the bookings of these times. If you are unable to make it at your scheduled time please ring the school to arrange another appointment time suitable to both parties.

If you need assistance with the online booking please just pop into the office and they will be able to assist.

Yours sincerely,

Emma Sutherland
Assistant Principal
Dear Parents/Guardians,

You can now book a time that suits YOUR FAMILY BEST.

Go to www.schoolinterviews.com.au or scan the QR code below with your mobile device.

Scan this QR code for INSTANT ACCESS

BOOKINGS CLOSE Wednesday 19th of February at 3:30pm.

Enter this school event code and then follow the three steps below.

RJKXT

Choose teachers

Choose times

When you click finish, your conference times will be emailed to you automatically - check your junk mail folder if you do not receive your email immediately.

You can return to www.schoolinterviews.com.au at any time, and change your time - until bookings close.
Student Information Sheet- 2014

Please fill in and return to your child’s teacher by Friday 14th February.

Student’s Name: ___________________________  Preferred name (if different) ___________________________

Name & relationship of person completing this survey: ______________________________________________________

Family Information:
Please list the student’s siblings (brothers and sisters); first and last names and their ages:
______________________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________________

Who does the student live with? (Circle all that apply)
Mother  Father  Stepmother  Stepfather  Grandmother  Grandfather
Aunt  Uncle  Foster Parent/s
Other household members: ________________________________________________________________

Is there any information you would like to share regarding religious background and/or holidays that are celebrated (or not celebrated)?
______________________________________________________________________________________________

Medical Information:
Does your child wear glasses? ___________________________  For reading or board work? (circle)
If your child does wear glasses will he or she have them at school? ___________________________
If not, is there a specific reason for this? ______________________________________________________

Describe any medical/physical conditions and food/medicine allergies your child has:
______________________________________________________________________________________________

General:

Please list your child’s interests, hobbies or out of school activities:
______________________________________________________________________________________________

What do you see as your child’s strengths?

______________________________________________________________________________________________

What is your child’s perception of his/her strengths, needs, self-esteem and confidence?

______________________________________________________________________________________________

What is your child’s perception of school?

______________________________________________________________________________________________

What goal/s would you like to see your child achieve at school this year?

______________________________________________________________________________________________

Please list any concerns or additional information that you would like to include.
______________________________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________________________