School Goal: Happiness.

School Values: Caring, Assertiveness, Respect, Tolerance, Honesty, Courage & Determination

Staffing:
Congratulations to Vanessa and Adrian Webb on the safe arrival of Elijah.
We are pleased to welcome back Mr Craig Trewavis, who will be replacing Vanessa whilst she is on Family Leave.
We wish Mrs Terri Morgan all the best as she begins her maternity leave.

Early Arrivals to School
A reminder to parents that children should not be at school until 8:30am and must be picked up before 3:15pm each day.
Children arriving before 8:30am are not supervised. Children are therefore not permitted to be at school before 8:30am unless specifically requested for sports training etc.
Before and after school care operates daily between the hours of 6:45am–8:45am and 3:00pm–6:00pm.
Please contact OSH Club on 0432 018 557 to utilize this service.
If children are not picked up by 3:15pm on any day they will be placed in the after school care program at a cost to parents.
It is extremely important that all children are at school, ready to commence their day’s learning at 8:45am. When children arrive late to school it impacts on their own and their classmates learning. Children are expected to be at school on time, every day. Every day counts.
It’s not OK to be away, it’s not great to be late.

School Swimming
The MPS whole school swimming program for all Grades will commence in Term 2. Individual notes with schedules have been given to all grades. Please be aware ALL parent volunteers require a current “Working with Children” check to be sighted and recorded by office staff.

Independent Reading and Home Reading
Reading occurs daily within the literacy block. Students learn to read by reading every day at home and at school. During Independent Reading sessions the teacher talks with students and monitors their progress. It is at the independent level that comprehension, vocabulary extension, and fluency are improved. It is essential that when reading material is sent home each afternoon the reading material is returned the very next day. When reading material is not returned, the classroom instruction is interrupted.

School Zone Speed Limits
I would like to remind parents and caregivers that the speed limit around Melton Primary School is 40 kph. 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.

School uniform.
School uniform is compulsory at Melton Primary School and must be worn by every child every day. If, under extenuating circumstances, your child is unable to wear correct uniform on a particular day, a note of explanation must be brought from home. School hats are compulsory in terms one and four. If a child does not have a school hat on at recesses they are required to remain in the shade under the gymnasium for the duration of recess. Please ensure that all items of clothing are clearly named so that they can be returned to your child if they leave misplace them.

Snakes
Two baby tiger snakes have been removed from the car park across from the school (near the creek).
Please ensure you are extra vigilant around this area. And please remind students not to go near snakes if they see any.

Alan McColl
Principal
**Dates to Remember:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>April</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 2</td>
<td>Hoop Time Grade 5/6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 4</td>
<td>Last day of school for Term 1, <strong>Dismissal at 2:30pm</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday 21</strong></td>
<td><strong>Easter Monday Public Holiday</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 22</td>
<td>Term 2 begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 24</td>
<td>Grade 3/4 Visit to War Memorial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday 25</strong></td>
<td><strong>ANZAC day Public Holiday</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 29</td>
<td>MPS Leadership Group Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAY</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 5</td>
<td>Mother’s Day Stall- Grade 1s, 0A and 0B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 6</td>
<td>Foundation to Farm OA &amp; OB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sovereign Hill Visit Grade 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mother’s Day Stall for all other grades</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cross Country Gr 3-6 (starting 9:00am)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 7</td>
<td>Foundation to Farm OC, OD &amp; OE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 22</td>
<td>2015 Foundation Information Evening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 26</td>
<td>Book Fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JUNE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday 9</strong></td>
<td><strong>Queens Birthday Public Holiday</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 27</td>
<td>End of Term 2, <strong>Dismissal at 2:30pm</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JULY</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 14</td>
<td>Start of Term 3, <strong>Dismissal at 2:30pm</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Congratulations to Manar Mahfouz, (School Vice-Captain) Adalia Matthews, (School Captain) Brodie Matthews (School Captain) and Ronan Wilson (School Vice Captains).**

**Big Thank you for RCH appeal**

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Melton Primary School would like to pass on a great big thank you for your generous donations towards the Royal Children’s Hospital Good Friday Appeal. Your generous donations helped us raise over $650 for this great cause. This is a truly outstanding effort and you are to be commended for your generosity. As mentioned this money will go towards helping the Royal Children’s Hospital continue their great work with sick children and provide support and care to their families. It will also help them continue their amazing research into various conditions. We hope that our donation will be broadcast on the Good Friday Appeal Telethon.
Thankyou to all families for participating in the Survey for Kids Matter.

Kids Matter Primary is an Australian initiative that aims to improve children's mental health and wellbeing. Kids Matter recognises the central role that parents and carers play in the lives of their children and encourages effective working relationships between school staff, parents and carers as well as the broader community.

Mental health and wellbeing is all about making sure that our children are happy, feel safe and are confident at school, at home, in the wider community and many others areas. Research clearly shows that children who are mentally healthy are better able to meet life’s challenges. They are also better learners and have stronger relationships. It is for this reason that we have decided to take part in this excellent initiative.

Warmest regards, Sharon Sowlter on behalf of Alan McColl and the Kidsmatter Action Team

The Importance of Re-reading

‘Read it again’ states Brenda Parkes, a great Australian educationalist. How important is re-reading a book? Re-reading is the practice of reading a book more than once. Some readers will read a book over and over again. These repeated encounters with books that have given pleasure and offer familiarity and predictability are helpful for beginning readers to experienced readers.

The desire to re-read books, or to hear books again, emerges very early and continues over and over again even in 12 year olds through to adults. There are many reasons why children re-read and want to hear books again. Here are some of them:

- They desire a repeat of the enjoyment that they've had with the book
- With repetition the task of reading becomes simpler and faster due to the familiarity of characters, plot and language.
- The reader/listener can see new things when freed from the restraints of the new book when read for the first time
- Re-reading offers the opportunity to reflect on and savour the language, the richness of the characters and the events that these characters have experienced.
- Repetition creates ‘more space’ to engage at the personal level and become lost in rich language experiences as they relate the events of the book with those in their own lives, and other books, films and television that they have experienced.

All of the above are good reasons for re-reading, or for reading book series. All these benefits have a positive impact on the developing reader. Teachers and parents have a key role in guiding young readers as they experience the joys of literature. This role includes helping them at times with book choice and encouraging them to enjoy the pleasure, comfort and predictability of repeated readings.

Is your Lollipop person the sweetest?

Nominate your Lollipop person for the 2014/2015 School Crossing Supervisor of the year award.

Pick up a nomination form online at www.schoolcrossingsvictoria.com.au.

Your support of this program will help ensure your School Crossing Supervisor is shown the appreciation they deserve for their commitment to the ongoing safety of our children.

Closes Friday 2nd May 2014

*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. However, if you have prior notice would you please make a booking prior to the day. 😊

Remember, all families must be enrolled to attend the program. It is Free to enrol!! 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
Welcome back to all of the students and families here at MPS. What an incredibly busy term we have had already.

I would like to congratulate this year’s House Captains:
Acacia Captains - Tysen Michailides and Briana Makaua-Farani
Acacia Vice Captains - Campbell Jones and Chloe Humphreys
Blue Gums Captains - Lachlan Serpell and Teneal Revell
Blue Gums Vice Captains - Hayden Cromberge and Brianna Bezzina
Callistemon Captains - Paul Curtis and Selin Tiknaz
Callistemon Vice Captains - Bailey Dalton and Tiahna Kerney
Grevillea Captains - Jack Doley and Jade Segrave
Grevillea Vice Captains - Corey Sussyer and Kirrah-Leigh Hyde

These students have a very busy year ahead of them, assisting myself and Mr Trewavis with early morning training sessions, carnival organisation and daily equipment responsibilities. I look forward to working alongside you.

On Thursday 13th of February Melton PS were very fortunate to be a part of the National Rugby League’s Tackle Bullying program and we had two very special guests from Melbourne Storm attend our assembly to speak to our students about strategies to handle bullying. Our students were also invited to a ‘Come and Try’ day down at the new Melton Broncos club. Please see Mr Trewavis for further details.

This was a wonderful opportunity for our students to meet the professional players as well as learn about how to tackle bullies.

“Kids need to remember to stay strong, confident, walk away and tell an adult who can help. We think the message meant so much more because it came from a professional like Billy Slater, so this time it might stay in peoples’ minds”. Jade S and Paul C from 5/6D

During the summer holidays our swimming team continued to work hard on their skills and competed at the District Carnival on Monday 24th February. I would like to congratulate all students involved for their hard work and the dedication to training that they have shown since term 4; 7am starts are not easy! They made MPS so proud winning several individual events, the Handicap Shield and also the overall District Shield. Congratulations to Manar on winning the 12 Yr old girl Age Group Champion.

We had 15 students successfully make it through to the divisional finals on Thursday 13th March. We were very proud of their efforts on that day. A special congratulations must go out to Jaylen who was successful in making it through to the State Finals.

Our annual House Swimming Championships on Wednesday 26th February was another success. Well done to Acacia for winning the House Shield and also to all students who participated on the day. A special THANK YOU to all the parents who volunteered their time and services on the day to assist running the carnival.

Mrs. Vanessa Webb
Congratulations to all the students who participated in the Divisional Swimming Carnival in Werribee. Manar, Selin, Hope, Hayley, Hayden, Milos, Aleena, Elijah, Jacoby and Ryan all received top 4 places for their events.

Manar and Jaylen represented Melton PS at the regional swimming championships in Geelong. Jaylen will now be competing at the Victorian finals in late April. Good luck Jaylen.

Students celebrating our amazing successes in the pool at Melton Waves!
Gr 5/6 Camp (Golden Valleys Lodge)

Hi my name is Hannah. At camp I signed myself up for the talent show. I sang, “Roar”. I came first because I won. I was popular! Hannah B

I had a lot of favourites activities at camp but my most favourite thing was Archery. I enjoyed it because I always hit the target and it made me feel like a real archery person! I wish I could do that again. Jai G

On the second day of camp at Golden Valley we did four activities and a bush walk at night! My group did the Giant Swing first, which was a lot of fun. Some kids went to the top but most went halfway. Next we did Orienteering where we had to find letters and unjumble them. My group didn’t get the word but some groups did. Lastly we did Hut Building followed by Team Building. It was a busy but fun today. Lachlan S

At camp we did 8 special activities that I loved doing but my favourite was Hut Building! It was the most amazing, fun, hilarious, painful, interesting and thrilling activity. The most hilarious moment was when Miss Marriot tried to tip water on one of the huts to see if it was waterproof, but she slipped on a log and soaked herself with water. Hayley W

My favourite activity was Team Building – it was really exciting but also really hard! For this activity we had to use a lot of team work. One of the activities was to fit your entire group on a small box. Sounds easy? Well I had 12 people in my group! It was very difficult but together we did it. Tiahna K

The Giant Swing: I put my harness on and went up, up, up. All the way to the top. I fell on the swing. My belly turned, it was awesome. When I got off I had a lot of trouble walking! LOL. Kirrah

The Rock Wall was extremely hard! It took me three hours to make it halfway. I tried so many strategies. Then finally after six hours I achieved my goal. I completed the rock wall. I was so happy when I finally stepped down. Alex P

At camp we had a Talent Show. I did an act and performed Roar and I came third! I was so proud of myself. I wasn’t afraid to sing and dance in front of people, although it was scary walking onto the stage. After that I got to watch all the other acts which were fun. Kaydence B

Team Building: We were all so excited when we got to the Team Building activity. Our team beat the record for getting our whole team on the little box in under a minute. Team building meant your team had to be committed to helping each other out and discussing things with each other. Paul C and Corey S

During camp we had a great time. We participated in many activities such as team building, archery, BMX riding, low ropes course, flying fox, giant swing, hut building and a scavenger hunt. In team building we broke the record it took us 1minute to fit 13 people on a 30cm block and the lovely Mrs McMahon gave us chocolate. It was a brilliant day! At camp everyday we had ‘camper of the day’ awards for certain people who showed the school values, and at the end of the week we had ‘camper of the week’ awards. We also had two lovely parent helpers Craig and Julie! They helped us so much! We are really grateful! The food there was really great, there was a huge variety of food, it was really nice and YUM! The Golden Valleys Lodge features were really great, there was a pool which they cleaned just for us, a beach volley ball court, a trampoline and large chess! We had a lovely time at the Golden Valleys Lodge. By Tysen M and Bailey D

I think staff and students alike would all agree that the 5/6 camp was a huge success. The 5/6 team were extremely proud of the way our students conducted themselves, worked together and supported each other to achieve some pretty wonderful things. I think we were all amazed at the team work the children displayed and their general care and concern for each other. We celebrated the student’s successes with “camper of the day” awards and “camper of the week” awards which acknowledged qualities such as perseverance, teamwork and encouragement. We also had lots of fun at the trivia night, Red Faces performances and of course a disco. MPS kids have real talent! The 5/6 team would like to acknowledge the local businesses that donated some terrific prizes for our students to win. McDonalds Melton, Schnitz restaurant, Toy World Melton and the Hogs Breath Café were all incredibly generous in their donations and have our gratitude. Please support the local businesses as they support us.
Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child’s education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind.

**Why it’s important**

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

If students miss school regularly, they miss out on learning the fundamental skills that will set them up for success in the later years of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

**Getting in early**

Attendance patterns are established early – a child regularly missing days in kindergarten or in the early years of school will often continue to miss classes in the later years, and receive lower test scores than their classmates. It’s vital that students go to school every day – even in the early years of primary school.

**What we can do**

The main reasons for absence are:

- **Sickness** – There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they’re ill. It’s vital that they’re only away on the days they are genuinely sick, and setting good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference.

- **“Day off”** – Think twice before letting your child have a “day off” as they could fall behind their classmates – every day counts.

- **Truancy** – This is when students choose not to go to school without their parent’s permission. There can be many reasons for truancy. The best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together.

If for any reason your child must miss school, there are things you can do with your school to ensure they don’t fall behind:

- Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what your child needs to do to keep up.

- Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible.

Openly communicating with your child’s school about all absences is a good way to prevent attendance issues being escalated to a School Attendance Officer. A School Attendance Officer is a Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Regional Director who has authority to follow up attendance issues. Attendance issues that are escalated can lead to an Infringement Notice.

If you’re having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit: [www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/behaviour/Pages/studentattendance.aspx](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/behaviour/Pages/studentattendance.aspx)