School Agreements: We are active learners, We respect others, We are safe and We are supportive

Annual Report to School Community
The 2015 Annual Report to the School Community was presented at School Council last night. It was great to share the successes of MPS in 2015.

Emergency Management Plan
Thank you to all staff and students who have participated in our Emergency Management drills this term, both our fire drill and lock down drill ran very smoothly.

Konnective at Melton PS
Konnective is a mobile app solution that allows us to communicate with you, parents of our students, straight to your smartphone. We send news, events and more so that you can be even more connected with your children's activities and events at the school. Using Konnective, you can add events directly to your phone's calendar, set reminders for things you need to do and receive important alerts (similar to a text message) as soon as they are released. More information is available at the office.

If you haven’t already registered for Konnective, please contact the school office with your email address.

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.

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. Additional copies are available at the office or via the Konnective app. Parents and carers are welcome to come to watch the children swim. Please sign in at the school office.

Facebook
Melton Primary School has a new Facebook page to send out notifications to the school community.
We invite you to like our page so that you can be kept up to date with the happenings at the school.

Please note that this is not a page to discuss grievances or issues. If you have any concern, please contact the school directly to speak with the Assistant Principal.

Any inappropriate comments will be removed and reported to Facebook. As Facebook has an age limit of 13, no students will be permitted on this page and if they join, they will be removed. The page can be found by searching for Melton Primary School on Facebook, look for our School’s Agreements as the profile picture.

Labelling items / school property
Reminder that all items brought to school must be clearly labelled with your child’s full name and grade. This includes school jumpers, school hats, lunch boxes and drink bottles, swimming gear such as bathers, towels, underwear and goggles. Items that are named are returned to students via the classroom on a regular basis.

Items without names are housed in our Lost Property Box which students and parents are invited to look through. Routinely we clean out the box at the end of the term and send all items to a local Charity for redistribution.

Medication
Students who held medication at the office were asked to have it collected from school and taken home over the Christmas break (including Asthma Pumps). All Asthma Plans, Allergies/Anaphylaxis plans now need to be updated and new medication approval forms will need to be completed for this year. Please contact the office for further details.

Canteen menu is available from previous Konnective posts, or from the office.

Student Insurance
With children being children accidents do happen, so StudentCover Accident Insurance provides 24 hour coverage, seven days a week for school children at a cost of $29 per child per year. StudentCover is only available online. To apply go to www.studentcover.com.au.

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.

Parent Contact & Emergency Details:
It is extremely important that the school has the correct daytime contact numbers for all parents and also a number of emergency contacts should the need arise. This is essential so as we can contact you or your nominated contacts in case of emergencies. It is absolutely essential if your child has a known medical condition.

In the coming weeks we will send home our current record of your details. Please check those details, make any corrections and return to the office as soon as possible. If any contact details change throughout the year please contact the office or your child’s teacher as soon as possible so as we can make the necessary alterations.

Thursday 17 March 2016
Volunteers & Parent Helpers: Working With Children Check (WWCC):
To further support our students in their learning we seek and value the assistance of parents, grandparents, relatives, carers etc. to assist in our classrooms, excursions and, on occasions, specialist areas. Any time that you are able to commit, either on a regular or intermittent basis, would be greatly appreciated. This applies to all areas of the school, Foundation to 6. In addition to your time the only other requirement is a current Working with Children Check. This can be applied for through the post office. When you have this card please visit our office staff and they will organise to take a copy. If you can assist in any way we would be most grateful. It also allows the opportunity for you to share in your child’s learning and support many other children in addition to your own. Please contact the office for more information.

Dogs in the school grounds: Please note that dogs are not permitted in the school ground at any time.

Dates to Remember: All students are required to wear a navy school hat from the start of September through to the end of April.

2016
March
Monday 21  Gr 3, Fitness incursion
Tuesday 22  Gr 3, Healthy Picnic Lunch, 12 noon, Families invited
Thursday 24  Diversity Week Parade (Cultural Dress up)
March
Friday 25 (Good Friday) to Sunday April 10 --- School holidays

April
Monday 11  Term 2 begins
Wednesday 13  Gr 6 Ballet, Incursion
Thursday 14  Leadership student excursion
Friday 15  Foundation, Zoo comes to You incursion
Tuesday 19
Thursday 21  Pyjama Day, SRC Fundraiser

May
Wednesday 18  Foundation, Responsible Pet Ownership incursion
2017 Foundation Open Invite (4.30pm - 5.30pm)

Melton PS is a Sun-Smart School
Approved hats must be worn from Sept 1 to April 30.

Melton PS is a Sun-Smart School
Approved hats must be worn from Sept 1 to April 30.

$6

$5

Various sizes always available at office

Mrs Bowden’s lucky day
In 2016 there was a new teacher named Mrs Bowden. She was teaching year 5s and was new at Melton Primary School, she had blonde beautiful hair, she loves to go to the beach, eat salads, plays with her friends, loves to draw and write. She was so kind like Mrs Gravatt, Ms J, and Mrs Lloyd. When it was assembly all students from Melton Primary had to meet at the gym at 2 O’clock. There were lots of students there and Mrs Bowden was happy to see how we can sit quietly like the others. Grade 6s had to read out the other student’s certificates and the Principal had to read out the teacher’s certificate. Mrs Bowden was happy because her class was the best class that was lining up. Then it was time to sing the national anthem. Finally it was the best part, how they have to hand out the certificate first were the students. Then it was the teachers turn. First it was Mrs Joy, second it was Mrs Lloyd, and then it was Mrs Bowden for being nice, kind and an absolute perfect teacher. Everyone was clapping for her. She was proud of herself. On that day Mrs Bowden went home and slept and she dreamed that she had a big, massive, shiny trophy that will never be dirty and the next day her wish or dream came true and she had a big massive shiny trophy.

By Thelma
Enrolments for siblings are now open. Please collect your enrolment form from the office.

Agreed Behaviours Re-launch

Last week we got to do activities with our house mates, we had Foundation students all the way up to grade 6 in our groups.

We looked at a movie about Mr Old and why it’s important to be safe.

We were active learners and traced around our team mates and listed ways to be active learners.

We got to go into the gym and do supportive activities like wheelbarrow races and using the parachute.

We went into the grade 5 classrooms and showed how we respect others.

We all had lots of fun.

We were happy that lots of parents came to see us too.
Grade 2 News

Writing: This term the grade 2 students have been writing procedural texts. Procedural texts describe how to do something. We have written many of these including: how to brush your teeth, what to do in a fire drill/lock down drill and how to make sandwiches!

Reading: The grade 2 students have been sequencing events from stories and discussing what they like and dislike about books that we read and the characters in them. A favourite of ours is the Pig the Pug series!

Maths: We have been learning about length and place value. We have explored the different ways we can measure items and compared the length of different items, ordering them from shortest to longest.

In place value, we have been learning the value of numbers according to their position in a number. We have expanded these numbers using an app on the iPad called Explain Everything.

HOME CHALLENGE!! Can you expand these numbers?

362, 186, 937, 625, 8624 – bring these in with your homework for a bonus prize!
5/6 CAMP TO ROSES GAP

On the 29th February, the 5/6 students of MPS left Melton Train Station for the fantastic 2016 school camp. This year our wonderful camp was held at Roses Gap Recreation Centre, a great experience for both students and staff. The activities that were at the camp provided great ways to conquer fears as well as build our resilience and problem solving skills. After all of the entertaining activities the camp served scrumptious meals that left everybody wanting more. Overall the camp was an amazing experience and everybody had a marvellous time. We would like to thank all of the teachers and parent helpers for helping make our 2016 camp possible!

Amy S & Olivia R

2 weeks ago the grade 5 & 6s went to a place called Roses Gap and most of us had an awesome time there. The food was great, the cabins were awesome and I think lots of people liked free time because you could do anything, well except for the activities. With the food you would get breakfast, morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea and then dinner. The food was great. The activities were just amazing.

Now on the way to Roses Gap, (well let's put it as this very, very long drive) but it was worth it. So most of us had a fun time and the great thing was the instructors made it fun.

Ben D 6C

Archery by Tahri 5A

When I went to archery I got given a bow and arrow. There were these targets that you have to hit in the middle. The colours were white, black, blue, red and yellow. The bullseye was yellow. I hit the red part which was close to the bullseye. We then had to move further away, I hit the black part.
On the 29th of February, we set off to Roses Gap Recreation Centre by train and bus. When we arrived Drew & Tyrone gave us an intro on what we would expect on this 5 day camp. Then we had 3 hours of free time after that we had tea, it was beautiful. After tea was bed. The next day we got into our activity groups and we rotated activities through the next 3 days. The activities were Giant Swing, Flying Fox, Vertical Playpen, Low Ropes, Canoeing, Archery, Hut Building, Bush Walking and Raft Building. Camp was amazing, thank you to the staff at Melton Primary School and the staff at Roses Gap. Once again thank you for this amazing camp.

Seth 6C

As many are aware students attended a 5 day camp to Roses Gap Recreation Centre. At Roses Gap there were many outdoor activities including canoeing, abseiling, flying fox, giant swing and multiple others. Roses Gap had lovely staff who made us feel welcome at any cost. Students stayed in cabins with a maximum of 10 people. Last of all I would like to thank the teachers, parent helpers and Roses Gap Recreation Centre for giving Melton Primary Students an experience we will never forget.

Isabelle 6C

My favourite part about camp was abseiling and canoeing. I loved abseiling because I conquered my fear of heights. I also loved canoeing because the instructor got us to raft our canoes up and she made us walk across the top of them. We mostly all fell in the water. I hope everyone enjoyed camp as much as I did.

Lolly 5D
Wow! What an amazing start to the year it has been for the students in grade 3. It has been wonderful to see how nicely the grade 3 students have settled into the routines of their first year in the senior school. The students have really been enjoying our first inquiry topic ‘Building a Healthy Mind and Body’ where they have been learning about the importance of safety, eating healthy and keeping fit mentally and physically. Students have been engaging in a number of activities to study this topic including making posters, reading and writing about health, safety and fitness, creating healthy eating plates, collecting data on favourite snacks and foods and many more exciting activities and experiences. We would like to thank all parents and family members who came to our recent ‘Meet the Teacher evening’. We really enjoyed meeting our families and we look forward to working with you this year. While it has been a very fun start to the year it has also been a very busy term. We just have a few reminders:

**Homework:** Homework is given out to students each Tuesday and is then to be returned to school the following Monday. It is an expectation that homework is completed by the due date. Unfortunately if homework is not handed in by the due date it will not be corrected as staff will have already handed out the following week’s homework. If homework is going to be late we request that all parents send a note to school with their child explaining why the homework has not been completed. The grade 3 team has tried very hard to ensure that the homework tasks are engaging to students and relate highly to the work we are doing in class. Homework is an excellent way you can support your child with their learning. If you have any questions about the homework tasks please make a time to speak to your child’s teacher. We are always happy to help in any way to help support your child’s learning.

**Home reading:** Please ensure that your child is reading at home each night and that books, along with the book bag and home reading record folders are returned to school each day. Home reading is another great way you can assist your child with their learning. A notice detailing some of the strategies you can use at home with your child will be sent out.

**Health and Fitness incursion and healthy lunch picnic:** Will be held on Monday 21st March. We are encouraging all students to take part in this wonderful incursion. Don’t forget that we have our Healthy Lunch Picnic at 12pm on the same day. It would be wonderful to see as many parents and family members attend as possible. Notes detailing the picnic have already been sent home. We look forward to a very exciting and productive 2016 for your children.

Kinds regards,
The grade 3 team
Paige, Jake, Chloe and Ben have been busy interviewing some teachers. Here are some of our teachers at MPS

Introducing Mr. Old
What was your favourite subject? Literacy
What primary school did you go to? New Gisborne Primary
Did you enjoy going to school? Yes
Did you participate in any school related activities? Yes, sport
Were you a troublemaker in school? No
When you were younger what were your teachers like? Lovely
Did you ever feel like you couldn’t do something? Yes
What couldn’t you do? Maths
What did you want to be when you grow up? Film director

Interviewing Miss Gravatt
What was your favourite subject? English
Did you enjoy going to school? Loved it
What primary school did you go to? Keilor Downs Primary
Did you participate in any school activities? Dancing with the school
Were you a troublemaker in school? No, but sometimes I talked too much
When you were younger what were your teachers like? They were nice
Did you ever feel like you couldn’t do something? Yes
What couldn’t you do? Never good at sports
What did you want to be when you grow up? Architect

Miss Abarra
What is your favourite subject? Art
What primary school did you go to? Sydenham Primary
Did you enjoy going to school? Yes
Did you participate in any school related activities? Athletics
When you were younger what were your teachers like? Helpful
Did you ever feel like you couldn’t do something? Yes
What did you want to be when you grew up? Lawyer
Student Absent Letters are usually sent home at the end of every month and term. Please complete and return to the office as soon as possible.

In primary school, some students miss on average 3 weeks of school per year. That’s half a year of school by the end of year 6.

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.

Every day counts
Primary school attendance

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.

It’s vital that holidays are planned during school holidays where possible, and not during the term if it can be avoided.

“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:

• 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.

Cultural Diversity Week Parade
Students and Parents are reminded that we will be holding a parade on Tuesday at recess. Students are encouraged to wear orange or clothing from their families cultural heritage.

Reminder that no thongs/singlets can be worn to school.