Principal Report

The doors opened for the new academic year as “Moonee Ponds Primary School”. A new chapter for the school began smoothly, with a new look and emphasis on developing our “professional learning community” as articulated in our school mission.

I would like to formally welcome existing and new families and thank you all for your efforts in creating such a positive start, not just to the year but to the future. I offer a special welcome, obviously to our new students and their families, whether they be beginning their educational journey as a prep student or joining us in other year levels.

The new stationary will arrive soon, carrying the new logo. Our mission, vision and values posters are on display (thanks again to Leanne Trembath for her design skills) and our existing website is being updated to include the new name while a new website is underway. Please note the new email address on the newsletter and that the web address remains the same.

New Email: moonee.ponds.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

Staffing

A big “welcome back” to Antony Brock and Jess Buerckner from their travels in 2012.

We finished 2012 with some unknowns but can now confirm the following teachers and positions for 2013:

**Physical Education** - Karisse Hunter who is known to many of the students and staff through her work as a CRT in PE in 2012 will join us for term 1.

**LOTE Italian** - Nancy Berardone joins us to teach Italian prep – 6 for the year. Nancy taught Italian at Essendon North Primary School in 2012 and will teach Italian both here and at Watsonia in 2013. Italian classes will be held in the dedicated Italian classroom on the second storey (Rm. 18) except for prep classes in the first part of the year which will occur in the prep rooms until all are settled and comfortable.

**Arts (Visual and Performing)** - Fiona Scarlett has been appointed to fill this position for 2013.

Grade 1/2 D – David Kiddle will be teaching this class. I would like to thank Matt, Rebecca, Liz and Mary for their support and input over the January period to ensure all staffing was set for the new academic year.

Econnect Update

The planned netbook handover evening has been changed!!!!!!
It was planned to hand over netbooks to families and collect second partial payments on January 31st. Due to the late arrival of the netbooks (expected on January 21st and arrived on January 29th) and the time needed to set them up this evening will be changed to:

**NEXT THURSDAY 7th FEBRUARY in the library at 7pm.**

UNIFORM

Students arrived this morning looking resplendent in full school uniform with very few exceptions. Thank you to all the student and families for taking such pride in their personal presentation and the school.

I would like to stress however that the exceptions were noticeable and disappointing. Please ensure your child has black school shoes (must be completely black) on their feet unless they are dressed for PE or sport on the appropriate days.

I would also remind parents that school hats with logo are required as are school jackets and jumpers. I visited classes today to reinforce the need for full school uniform to students. I hope this assists in your home if and when issues about uniform arise.

I appreciate your support in making uniform breaches a non-issue at Moonee Ponds Primary School.
**Classrooms**

Classes have begun working with the mission, vision and values in the establishment program. This was reviewed by whole staff at the end of 2012 and revamped over the break by Rebecca and Liz. Importantly this work now includes elements of the eSmart program to support responsible cyber citizenry. This is considered important in light of the econnect program at grade 5/6 where all students have their own netbooks. This will also mean more computers in prep to grade 4 classes. Use of the school ipads will also see increased collaborative use of ICT and shared understanding of responsible use is therefore imperative.

Teacher teams have spent and will continue to spend meeting time planning for the term, year and semester and developing class blogs where term, semester and yearly planners will be published for parent and student access. These blogs will also serve to highlight week to week activities and student work. All blogs will be accessible through a link on our web page.

The learning tree near the foyer has been changed to showcase class understandings of the values and students and teachers are posting photos and ideas that reflect the work happening in the establishment program. Class blogs will carry more detail of this work.

Over the course of term one there will be other new innovations including a Moonee Ponds Primary School app for smart phones and tablets that is being developed. When this is available for the community the printing of the newsletter in hard copy will cease. The app will allow us to alert families when the newsletter is published and be available instantly. The alert function will also allow us to message families with important news at the touch of a button. I am very excited about this new function not least because it will limit our use of paper – this seems consistent with the school’s strong environmental ethos and programs developed by the Green Team over the past few years. I would like to thank Kelly Wright for bringing this opportunity to us through a family connection with, “communities on the go” an app development company that is doing this work at no cost.

**Facilities**

Major works are traditionally conducted over the January holiday period and this year was no exception. I would like to thank the facilities committee for their planning in this area and Matt in particular for his attention to detail and commitment to not only getting things organised but being on site to ensure the works were completed to a high quality and on time. The works are listed for your information below.

**Painting**

Considerable painting occurred with a fresh coat for weather affected sections of the second storey (over the breezeway and at the front of the school) and a brighter more appealing prep building with brightly coloured doors to welcome our new students.

**Reception**

The front office has also undergone a face lift with a reorganisation of reception and a new window for parent and community customer service. The changes make the most of the considerable space and create a foyer with information and a waiting area. The new office is designed as a one stop shop where all business including financial transactions will occur. It will also be more user-friendly for visitors to the school to report their presence, sign in and be directed from a central point. It has the added advantage of limiting community traffic in the administration corridor.

Please note that the side window in the corridor is now restricted to staff and student support. This will ensure that students and teachers needs are met as a priority, particularly during class times. This ameliorates an issue that was identified last year where our incredibly polite students wait out of sight of admin staff to have issues resolved or report things to the office. A down side of this can be students reporting sick or hurt go unseen or classes go without a necessary resource while others have the attention of staff.

The new arrangements create a waiting area, wider service window where more than one person can be assisted at a time and a separate window for internal service where student and teacher needs can be given priority. This area should be accessed using either, the Wilson Street entrance or the door adjacent to the prep area next to the student toilets.

**Fibre Optic Cabling**

Major works also included the installation of fibre optic cabling throughout the school. This creates a state of the art ICT spine across all buildings that will increase the capacity and speed of the internet including the wireless system. This infrastructure, although not highly visible, is important in ensuring the school can accommodate the ever emerging changes in information and communication technology. I would like to thank the Parent Association for understanding the importance of staying abreast and planning for future contingencies and funding the upgrade. It has already made internet speeds considerably faster and reduced time spent uploading and downloading data that is critical for the day to day running of the school. It has also allowed more reliable and efficient internet access in classrooms. This was critical with the econnect roll out occurring this week.

**Cricket Pitch**

You may also have noticed the artificial turf laid over the break on the cricket pitches (nets). Thanks to Dave Pizzey for completing this work over the break.

**Playground**

Obviously everyone will have noticed that the new playground has not yet been completed due to a hold up beyond our control but will be happy to hear that the works will begin on Feb 4th, with the artificial turf to be completed on Saturday 9th.
WALKING SCHOOL BUS 2013

Fun, increased physical activity, road safety skills and a greater sense of belonging at school and in their community are just some of the things kids on the Walking School Bus have to look forward to in 2013!!

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW TO START UP A NEW BUS OR SIGN UP FOR AN EXISTING ROUTE CONTACT;

CLARE WALKER (Mum to Aaliyah in Grade 1)
0403341702 or clare.walker@live.com

OR

HOLLY VITALE (Mum to Finian in Grade 1)
0424256239 or holly.vitale@yahoo.com

Walking School Bus™ is a trademark of the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (VicHealth)
The Walking School Bus follows a specific route on specific days selected by our school’s volunteers. These routes have been carefully planned by the volunteer coordinator and have been audited by council to ensure the safety of your children. Safety precautions include a 1:8 adult to children ratio. All volunteers are expected to undergo safety training, hold a valid Working with Children Check and registration.

**Benefits for Children**
The Walking School Bus program delivers numerous benefits including:

* Improving children's overall health
* Improving children’s road safety skills
* Developing their physical and social skills
* Building friendships
* Gaining a sense of independence
* Decreasing traffic congestion around school
* Reducing greenhouse gas pollution
* Strengthen community/council relations

**2013 routes starting in the week beginning Monday 4th February:**

**WEDNESDAYS AM**
START: Meet on Melville Rd, opposite Jacobs Reserve at 8:10 am.
Travel along Albion Street, Bent Street and Hope Street Brunswick West; continue along Evans Street and Bent Street Moonee Ponds to reach school.

**THURSDAYS AM**
START: Meet outside 75 McPherson Street, Moonee Ponds at 8.35am.
Travel down McPherson to Bent and then along Bent Street to school.
Note: An extra day may be added later in term 1!

**FRIDAYS AM**
START: Meet corner of Dean Street & Stuart Street, Moonee Ponds at 8.20am.
Travel along McPherson Street, Thomas Street and Wilson Street to reach school.
Note: Extra days will be added later in term 1!

JOIN IN!! To participate in the WSB program all children/parents must have filled out a ‘parent consent form’ and a ‘child behavior agreement form’ which are available outside the school office in the WSB draw or on the MVCC website [http://www.mvcc.vic.gov.au/for-residents/parking-and-transport/walking-school-bus.aspx](http://www.mvcc.vic.gov.au/for-residents/parking-and-transport/walking-school-bus.aspx).

VOLUNTEER!! Parents can join in the WSB fun and become a trained volunteer!! A training day for new volunteers has been organized for Wednesday 6th February, 9.30am at the MVCC offices (near Queen’s Park). Very informal, young kids can attend and all volunteers are provided with a ‘working with children check’. Please confirm with Clare (clare.walker@live.com or 0403341702) if you wish to attend.
Throughout the year WSB information will be available in the newsletter and on school noticeboards. Clare or Holly, the WSB Coordinators can be contacted anytime you have a query.
DATES TO NOTE 2013—TERM 1

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<td>Staff Resume</td>
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<td>Interviews</td>
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SUNSMART

Don’t forget that the school’s sunsmart policy indicates that sunscreen be applied before school and students must have their own sunscreen in the bags for re-application by the student.

Website
Don’t forget that our newsletter is on-line and can be found at www.mpc.vic.edu.au
If you would like to be on a reminder email list to let you know that the newsletter is uploaded on our website, please email Kaye at: moonee.ponds.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

Excursions / Camps / Special Events:
Feb. 6th—Prep Info Night—6 pm
Feb. 6th—Welcome night—7.30 pm
Feb. 12th—Parent Teacher Interviews

A reminder to all that the Campus Choice Uniform Shop Will be present at school on Thursday, 31st January 2013 for any uniform requirements. They will be in attendance from 2.45 pm until 3.45 pm