The Parents Association are holding their first Hot Rod-Classic and Custom Show and Shine Car Show on Sunday 19th February. Details for this exciting event are included in the flyer in the coming pages (and all around the school). We look forward to seeing you there. Next week our Year 5/6 students and staff will be heading down to Cape Bridgewater for their adventure camp. Many challenging and fun activities are planned and we look forward to sharing some of their stories in the newsletter in coming weeks.

### Drop off zone

With many new parents at the school I encourage you to please ensure you read the information regarding its rules. Included in this newsletter is the flyer from the council regarding this. The drop off zone is installed, monitored and policed by the Moonee Valley City Council (MVCC), not the school. They are regularly patrolling to ensure everyone is safe around the school and the rules are followed. Please note Bec and I are regularly out there too, this is to monitor the students and reminding parents of the rules if needed.

Some major points that I encourage parents to adhere to, include:

- **Drivers** must remain in the vehicle at all times (this means *not* getting out of the car—say your goodbyes to your children before you get to school)
- Students should always use the door on the footpath side (students should also have their bag close by ready to hop out unassisted)
- Do **not** undertake a U-turn in Bent St (please complete a lap around the school)

In the afternoons, please:

- Do **not** wait in the zone if your child is not there! If your child is not waiting for you complete another lap of the school until they arrive waiting for you at the zone. Parents are encouraged to wait to leave your home a bit later (after 3.20pm) and inform your child/ren to come straight to the waiting area; this will help ensure your child is at the zone waiting to be picked up.
- You cannot park in the Drop-Off Zone between 3-4pm (and 8-9.30am); during this time it is a no-standing area and you will be fined.

Ensure you speak with your child to make sure they are waiting on the footpath ready to be picked up.

**Out of Hours School Care (OHSC)**

The School Council OHSC subcommittee has been working hard over the past few months on the tender process for our Out of School Hours Care provider. The current contract ends in June; we have been completing a thorough process to ensure a high quality and effective service for our students. Please check out future editions of the newsletter for updates on this process.
Family Handbook
The 2017 Family Handbook is now available on the school website (parent download section, password is: mpps). This document fully explains everything about the school, including programs, curriculum, processes and other relevant parent information. Most families will have received this when they enrolled but I encourage everyone to check out our latest edition.

Information Nights
Thank you to those families that attended the information nights. We hope you found them informative and we look forward to working collaboratively as the year progresses. Information (booklets or presentations) from the evening are now on the school blogs and website in the parent download section.
www.mpp.vic.edu.au (remember if you are accessing the parent download section the password is: mpps).

Parent-Teacher Exchange
Our parent-teacher exchange will be held on Tuesday 28th February, full details regarding this will be sent home tomorrow with each child. This 10 minute session is the best opportunity for you to inform your child’s teacher about their learning style, strengths or weaknesses and a great opportunity to meet the teacher and discuss the year ahead. Bookings can be made from Thursday 3pm on the school website:
www.mpp.vic.edu.au (please refer to the note sent home for finer details).

School Council
The first school council meeting of 2017 will be held on Wednesday 22nd February. This is also the final meeting for some serving members of council. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the current council for their tireless work over the past year: this includes Jason Blakely who will be stepping down. All council members give up their time, to work as a cohesive group to improve the school for all of our students and families. Much of this work goes unnoticed during the after school hours. On behalf of the whole school community I thank you!

The new council will be welcomed at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) scheduled for Wednesday 29th March 2017. All council members stand for a two year period and then need to re-nominate to be eligible for another two year period. This means we have a nomination process and possible election to conduct over the next few weeks.

There are two parent vacancies and one Department of Education and Training (DET) staff vacancy.

Council Elections
Message from the President
"I would like to welcome everyone back to the 2017 school year and also welcome our new students, parents and carers.

There are many ways to be involved in your child’s education and the school community, be it volunteering with reading in class, helping with working bees, being active in the Parents’ Association (PA) or becoming involved in the School Council. Each year members of the Council retire and new members are elected, so there is always an opportunity to become involved. I would like to encourage you to read the information below and think about nominating for School Council as it is a very rewarding experience.

The School Council is the main governing body of the school and supports ‘the principal to provide the best possible educational outcomes for students’ (DET). It is important to note that we are not involved in the day-to-day management of the school.

We welcome people from various backgrounds, skills and experiences. Each member is working towards the same goal of improving the school in order to obtain the best educational outcomes for all of our children and to make the school a great place to work for our wonderful teachers.

Once elected to Council, training is available through on-line modules and face-to-face group training (only one or two evening sessions needed) through the year offered by the Victorian Department of Education and Training (DET)."
This will be my fourth year on the Council. I thoroughly enjoy my time on the Council and the committees as do my fellow Councillors. If you would like to seek election I encourage you to put your name forward. The Principal, Matt Bott, has further set out the process in this newsletter. "

Cheers,
Scott Cutler (father of Hamish - Yr. 4 and Audrey - Yr. 2)

It is now time to begin the process for filling positions on School Council for 2017. Included below is information regarding:
- The role of council
- 2017 MPPS School Council vacancies
- Elections

What is a school council and what does it do?
All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within state-wide guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

What is the function of school council?
- Establish the broad direction and vision of the school within the school's community
- Participate in the development and monitoring of the school strategic plan
- Develop, review and update school policies
- Develop, review and monitor the Student Engagement Policy and the School Dress Code
- Raise funds for school-related purposes
- Approve the annual budget and monitor expenditure
- Maintain the school's grounds and facilities
- Enter into contracts (e.g. cleaning, construction work)
- Report annually to the school community and to DET
- Generally stimulate interest in the school in the wider community

Who is on the school council?
For most school councils, there are three possible categories of membership:

A mandated elected Parent category - more than one-third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Training (DET) employees can be Parent members at their child’s school as long as they are not engaged in work at the school.

A mandated elected DET employee category - members of this category may make up no more than one-third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.

An optional Community member category - members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DET employees are not eligible to be Community members.

Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half the members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is Parent membership so important?
Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school.
Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.
How can you become involved?
The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are
only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.
In view of this, you might seriously consider
standing for election as a member of the school council
encouraging another person to stand for election.

Do I need special experience to be on school council?
No. What you do need is an interest in your child’s school and the desire to work in partnership with others to
help shape the school’s future.

Council will meet a minimum of eight times a year, once of the month in the evening from 7.00-9.00 pm. In
the past this has been the third Wednesday of each month, however this may change. Councillors are ex-
pected also to sit on one of the following committees:
  Finance
  Education
  Facilities
  Out of School Hour Care (OSHC)

The Finance, Education and Facilities sub committees have a monthly meeting schedule (if necessary) and
the OSHC is scheduled for one meeting per term.

Further information about School Councils can be found at:

2017 MPPS School Council vacancies
This year council has the following vacancies:

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<th>Parent Members:</th>
<th>DET members:</th>
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<td>2 vacancies for a two year term</td>
<td>1 vacancy for a two year term</td>
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Two Parents Association Community members also sit on School Council, these positions will be finalised at
the Parents Association Annual General Meeting on Thursday 9th March. These are classed as ‘Community’
positions.

Council is calling for nominations to fill the vacancies listed above.
The election timeline/process:

- 15th Feb: Nominations open
- 22nd Feb: Nominations close

If an election is required:
- 1st Mar: Ballot will be declared
- 8th Mar: Voting will close at 4 p.m.
- 9th Mar: Elected parents/ DET representative notified
- 22nd Mar: Election results published in newsletter
- 29th Mar: New Council attends the Annual General Meeting

Nominations for election to the MPPS School Council are officially called today—15th February 2017 and will close on Wednesday 22nd February 4pm.
Nomination forms will be available at the front office.
How to access the school newsletter:

2. Download the Moonee Ponds Primary School application from your relevant smart phone app store (search for: Moonee Ponds Primary School)
3. Sign up for it to be sent to your email address on the school website: http://www.mpp.vic.edu.au/our-school/newsletters/

Child Safe Information

Child Safe Standards

With the introduction of the Ministerial Order 870 from the Government last year in the wake of the Betrayal of Trust Report all schools must now ensure we meet the Child Safe Standards. The standards strengthen our already existing approaches to preventing and responding to child abuse, and enhance consistency in how these issues are managed in schools. Therefore last year our School Council and Education Policy committee were working hard to introduce and create new and updated policies and procedures. This is an opportunity to ensure we provide a safe, inclusive and collaborative learning community for our students.

All staff, visitors and volunteers working with children in our school (including classrooms, school yard, incursions, stalls, etc) must now, before they will be allowed to enter the school:

1. Sign in at the office,
2. Read and sign the Child Safe Code of Conduct at the office every year
3. Provide evidence of holding a relevant qualification. This includes a Victorian Institute of Teaching card, a Working with Children’s Check card or equivalent.

Information regarding these changes will be sent home to each family shortly. We understand it will take some time to implement these new changes however we must take action to ensure all our students are safe. Parents helping in the classes won’t start until much later this term so if you are planning to assist we encourage you to apply for a Working with Children’s Card ASAP. Details can be found at www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/ The cost is free to volunteers.
The following Child Safe Standard information is now included on our school website: www.mpp.vic.edu.au/school-council/school-policies/

**Statement of Commitment**
Moonee Ponds PS is committed to child safety. We want children to be safe, happy and empowered. We support and respect all children, as well as or staff and volunteers. Moonee Ponds PS is committed to the cultural safety of Aboriginal children, the cultural safety of children with a disability and/or vulnerable children, allowing these children to participate equally. We have zero tolerance to child abuse, and all allegations and safety concerns will be treated very seriously and consistently with our robust policies and procedures. This encompasses all school environments and outside of school hours.

**MPPS Documents**
- MPPS Child Safe Policy (including the statement of commitment)
- MPPS Child Safe- Code of Conduct
- New Policies: Mandatory Reporting (updated- draft), Visitors and Volunteers (draft), Equal Opportunity (draft). Please note these will be uploaded once approved by the February School Council meeting.

If you have any questions regarding the standards or the school processes please do not hesitate to contact me.

Matt Bott
Principal

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**LOST PROPERTY**

There is still a large amount of Lost Property that has been there since last year. Please pop by Lost Property (outside Sick Bay) and have a look to see if any clothing items/hats belong to your child.
Each year, as part of our commitment to effective and progressive use of technologies in the classroom, we ask that student and parents of 3-6 students complete a brief 10-question survey of how students use technology. This survey provides us with data about current behaviours that we use to modify our curriculum. As the use of technology is changing at an unprecedented rate, current information on behaviours is vital to ensure our classroom environments and teaching strategies are in line with the needs of our students. Students in 3-6 have been completing a student version of this survey at school, so we will be able to see student and parent perspectives when we analyse the data. You can follow the link here: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7D9666B
We greatly appreciate your time in contributing to the learning partnership of your child.

Last Tuesday the Sports and School Captains of the school were fortunate enough to receive a visit from four of the Essendon Football Club players to discuss the importance of taking on responsibilities and leadership within our school. Jackson Merrett, Ben McNiece, David Myers and Matthew Leuenburge engaged and inspired the students to fulfil their duties as leaders of our school. The players chatted about qualities of good leaders, leadership guidelines, achieving personal best and choice and consequences. We thank the players for taking the time for coming to our school and we wish them the very best of luck for the season ahead.

Ms Jodie Donovan
Physical Education Teacher
donovan.jodi.j@edumail.vic.gov.au
Chess is one of the most powerful educational tools available to strengthen a child’s mind. Most 6-7 year olds can follow the basic rules and some children as young as 4 or 5 can play. Whatever a child’s age, chess can enhance concentration, patience and perseverance as well as develop creativity, intuition and memory. Most importantly, children can develop the ability to analyse and deduce from a set of general principles, to make tough decisions and to solve problems flexibly.

The chess classes will continue to take the children through a structured chess course with the dual aim of achieving the maximal educational benefits the game offers and providing an enjoyable learning environment.

If your child would like to participate in the Chess Club during Term 1 please fill out the form below and return it to the office before the end of Week 2. Class numbers are limited to 25. Enrolments will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis. Chess Club is only available for Year 1-6 students during Term 1.

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Moonee Ponds Primary School: Chess Club Enrolment Form – Term 1, 2017

Name:____________________________________________________ Grade:____________________________

Address:___________________________________________________ Postcode:_________________________

Phone:__________________________ Email:________________________________________________

PLEASE USE THE OPTIONS BELOW TO INDICATE YOUR METHOD OF PAYMENT:

I enclose  CASH  o  or  CHEQUE  o to the value of $____________ for MPPS CHESS CLUB

NAME OF STUDENT(S): ______________________________________________________________________

ALTERNATIVELY: PLEASE  CHARGE THE AMOUNT OF $____________ FOR THE: __________________

TO MY: MASTERCARD VISA

(Please tick one option and provide details below)

My full card number is: _____________ _____________ _____________ _____________ (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

Valid from: ___________________________ Expiry date: _____________________________

Cardholder’s Name: ______________________________________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________________________ Postcode:______________

Daytime Telephone Number: ________

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Moonee Ponds Primary School presents

HOT RODS Classics & Customs
“Show & Shine” CAR SHOW

Sunday February 19th 2017
87 Wilson Street Moonee Ponds (enter via Bent Street)

Gates open for display cars at 9am
Spectators 10am

Cars on show: 10am – 3pm
(Motorbikes, scooters & club displays also welcome)
Enquiries please email mpps.carshow.2017@gmail.com

Display cars $20, motorbikes & scooters $10 (passengers and riders included)
Spectators $5, Children under 12 free

Respect  Optimism  Care  Collaboration
On talk-back radio recently I heard a caller tell a timely story about how as a child she was lucky enough to receive riding lessons from a renowned horse expert.

He had one condition. She had to earn the right to be taught to ride a horse. That meant she had to muck out the stables; brush and feed the horse; look after the gear and do everything else required to look after a horse. Only when she’d proved herself could she earn the right to ride a horse under his tutelage.

This caller said this powerful lesson shaped her entire life. It taught her that there were no entitlements in life; to work hard and value her achievements. She never took anything for granted.

Contrast this with the extraordinary sense of entitlement of Australian tennis players Nick Kyrgios and Bernard Tomic who routinely treat the public, players and the game that serves them well, with utter disdain. Their attitude of entitlement is mind-boggling, not to say embarrassing to reasonable-minded, hard-working people.

Our kids should earn the right

The talk-back caller’s earning the right story is a fabulous lesson for all parents and teachers. If we want to raise a generation to appreciate what they have, then we shouldn’t give children or young people everything on a platter. In an era of small families, child pester power and relative affluence it’s tempting to simply give kids what they want.

“Dad, can I have a...?”

“Sure!”

The Rolling Stones were right four decades ago when they sang, “You can’t always get what you want!” Those words form a great child-rearing lesson. That is, just because you can provide something for your kids, doesn’t mean that you do.

They need to earn the right to have something by saving, working for or simply waiting until they are old enough to appreciate it.

Similarly, kids don’t automatically have a right to greater freedoms such as going out at night; those rights need to be earned by proving they are trustworthy.

Also, kids who think they are entitled to use a part of the house such as a living room without cleaning up mess are acting with a false sense of entitlement.

In fact, there are no entitlements, only rights. And rights are earned by being responsible.

A child has a right to use the living room but they also have a responsibility to clean up a rather than leave it a pigsty. A night banished to their room is a reminder that spending time in the living room is not an entitlement. It’s a right that comes with conditions.

Earning the right! A simple phrase with so much complexity.

I suspect it’s a phrase that neither Nick Kyrgios or Bernard Tomic heard much when they were growing up. Maybe their parents thought their prodigious talents excused them from having conditions placed upon them. If so, they did them no favours as good manners, gratitude and graciousness appear to be lacking in their social repertoires.

It usually takes a parent, teacher or coach to remind kids that they have to earn the right to have things, to do things and ultimately to be respected. That’s a lesson that stays for life.
The Walking School Bus (WSB) is a fun, safe and active way for primary school children to travel to and from school. The bus operates with a volunteer ‘driver’ (i.e. school parent or carer) at the front of the group and a volunteer ‘conductor’ who supervises the rear.

The bus travels along a set route, which is safety-audited by council and picks up passengers along the way. The passengers are the children.

Each WSB volunteer undergoes a police check, short training session and will be registered as a Moonee Valley Council Volunteer.

The success of the program relies on the assistance of volunteers, so if you have a free hour one morning or afternoon a week to walk with a group of children to or from school please let me know!

The next WSB volunteer training sessions will be:

**Tuesday 14th February 2017**
St Therese’s Primary School 9am

**Thursday 16th February 2017**
Civic Centre, 9 Kellaway Ave, Moonee Ponds
Committee Room 7pm

If you are interested please contact:

Sarah J. on 0418 524 126 (or email holly.vitale@yahoo.com)

Further information is also available at the school office and on the MPPS website in the parent downloads section.
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government’s commitment to breaking the link between a student’s background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:
- $125 for primary school students
- $225 for secondary school students.

HOW TO APPLY
Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

MORE INFORMATION
For the CSEF application closing dates and more information about the fund visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef
Wishing all our students, parents and community members a very happy and safe Christmas and Holiday!

We look forward to seeing you on January 31st, 2017.

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CSEF ELIGIBILITY

Below is the criteria used to determine a student’s eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF).

Criteria 1 – Eligibility
To be eligible* for the fund, a parent or legal guardian of a student attending a registered Government or non-government Victorian primary or secondary school must:
• on the first day of Term one, or;
• on the first day of Term two;
  a) Be an eligible beneficiary within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004, that is, be a holder of Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder, OR
  b) Be a temporary foster parent, and;
  c) Submit an application to the school by the due date.

* A special consideration eligibility category also exists. For more information, see: www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

Parents who receive a Carer Allowance on behalf of a child, or any other benefit or allowance not income tested by Centrelink, are not eligible for the CSEF unless they also comply with one of (a) or (b) above.

Criteria 2 - Be of school age and attend school in Victoria
School is compulsory for all Victorian children aged between six and 17 years of age inclusive.

For the purposes of CSEF, students may be eligible for assistance if they attend a Victorian registered primary or secondary school. Typically, these students are aged between five and 18 years inclusive.

CSEF is not payable to students attending pre-school, kindergarten, home school, or TAFE.

Eligibility Date
For concession card holders CSEF eligibility will be subject to the parent/legal guardian’s concession card being successfully validated with Centrelink on the first day of either term one (30 January 2017) or term two (18 April 2017).

PAYMENT AMOUNTS

CSEF payment amount
The CSEF is an annual payment to the school to be used towards camps, sports and/or excursion expenses for the benefit of the eligible student.
• Primary school student rate: $125 per year.
• Secondary school student rate: $225 per year.

The CSEF is paid directly to your child’s school and will be allocated by the school towards camps, sports and/or excursion costs for your child.

For ungraded students, the rate payable is determined by the student’s date of birth. For more information, see: www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

Year 7 government school students who are CSEF recipients are also eligible for a uniform voucher. Secondary schools are required to make applications on behalf of parents so please register your interest at the school.

HOW TO COMPLETE THE APPLICATION FORM

NOTE: ALL SECTIONS MUST BE COMPLETED BY PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN

1. Complete the PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN DETAILS section.
   Make sure that the Surname, First Name, and Customer Reference Number (CRN) details match those on your concession card. You will also need to provide your concession card to the school.
   If you are claiming as a Foster Parent or a Veteran Affairs Pensioner, you will need to provide a copy of documentation confirming your status as a temporary Foster Parent or provide your Veterans Affairs Pensioner Gold card to the school.
2. Complete the STUDENT/S DETAILS section for students at this school.
3. Sign and date the form and return it to the school office as soon as possible. The CSEF program for 2017 closes on 30 June, 2017.

CSEF payments cannot be claimed retrospectively for prior years.

Queries relating to CSEF eligibility and payments should be directed to the school.
Moonee Ponds Primary School
Respect • Optimism • Care • Collaboration

ALLOCATION FORM

Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF)

APPLICANT’S NAME: ___________________________________________

CHILD’S NAME: ___________________________ HOME GROUP ________

I wish to allocate my CSEF payment to the following:-

Camp

Sports events

Excursions

If you do not use your entire fund in the current year it will remain as credit on your statement until used.

Parent’s Signature: __________________________________________

Date: __________________________

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<td>School X Country School</td>
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<td>Council AGM</td>
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<td>2.20 pm Finish</td>
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