PRINCIPAL REPORT

All of our students and classes, including 76 Foundation students have settled into their school routines nicely and all classrooms have developed their class rules and expectations. Based around our school mission, vision and values, our Establishment Program runs for the first two weeks of every year and is revisited each term. This creates opportunities for on-going reflection and learning about our shared values and how they support us as a community. Please access the school website for a copy of the mission, vision and values: http://www.mpp.vic.edu.au/about-us/

Curriculum Day- Student Free day- Monday 13th February
As noted in previous newsletters and correspondence to families, next Monday will be a student free day for our staff to participate in our curriculum day. The focus of this day is to create the curriculum planning overview documents for the year as well as finalising term one planners now that the teachers have completed initial assessment of where the students are at in their learning. This supports our work in building a guaranteed and viable curriculum: a curriculum that is based on the Victorian Curriculum but shaped to reflect the learning needs of our students at MPPS; planning for our students not the year level they are in. The YMCA is running of that day if you require assistance, please see their flyer in coming pages or contact them for details.

Last night we held the Foundation information evening and welcome to new families. Thank you to the Foundation team of teachers for their presentation and also to our hard working Parents Association for putting on the supper in the Sports and Performance Centre (SPC). The information booklet provided to families for Foundation can now be found on the school website in the download section (www.mpp.vic.edu.au Password: mpps).

We have our Year 1- 6 Information nights tomorrow night (Thursday) and encourage you to attend. During these sessions teachers will be presenting information on classroom structures & processes, curriculum, homework and other important information. Sessions will run for approximately 30 mins. The purpose of these sessions is to ensure that everyone has a clear understanding of the year ahead. If you are unavailable we will be placing the presentations and any documentation provided on the school website parent download section.

Information night schedule:

6pm: Year 1/ 2 (Library)
6.30pm: Year 3/ 4 (Room 6,7 & 8- downstairs corridor near multi-purpose room)
7pm: Year 5/ 6 (Library)
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 our 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.

Year 5/ 6 Camp
Our Year 5/ 6 students will be heading off to Cape Bridgewater on the 20-24th February for their adventure camp. The team have been working hard getting things organised and are looking forward to week full of challenging but fun activities. Unfortunately Senada Redzovic is unable to attend due to family obligations after school so Lee Pregnell will join Antony Brock, Libby Haigh and our parent helpers for the camp. Senada will cover 3/ 4D during this week (20-24th Feb). We look forward to hearing about it all when they return.
Information repeated for parents
The newsletter will be published each week during February and then published fortnightly thereafter. The newsletter is the main source of communication from the school and I urge everyone to read it! It will be sent home in hard copy today for all families but will be published on line as of next week; this will help minimise our paper usage and protect the environment. Families will be able to access it on the school website, school smart phone application or by signing up to have it emailed to your inbox when published. Sign up for the newsletter today! http://www.mpp.vic.edu.au/our-school/newsletters/ Limited copies will be available at the office or Out of School Hours Care.

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/

Our school assemblies will be held fortnightly on Thursday’s this year at 3pm in the Sports and Performance Centre. Each fortnight a different class will perform and celebrate one aspect of their learning. Student awards will also be announced. Our Student Achievement Award program acknowledges and celebrates learning and personal growth in all aspects of school life. It reflects our school mission, vision and values. Learning Star awards recognise personal learning growth and the “ROCC Star” award celebrates the way students live our school values. (R= Respect, O= Optimism, C=Care, C= Collaboration). We invite all families to come along.

A reminder for everyone that school starts at 9am and finishes at 3.20pm. Parents please ensure your child arrives at school before 9am to maximise the beginning of the school day when the day of learning is outlined and activities begin. Students can often become anxious if they are late, even on one occasion, as entering the classroom when the students and teachers have begun the day is disruptive to their learning and often interrupts the learning of others. We have a yard duty teacher on duty from 8.45am before school and from 3.20-3.35pm in the afternoon. This year we have introduced a second bell after the school day at 3.35pm. This bell indicates the end of yard duty; all students that haven’t found their parents by this time need to report to the yard duty teacher or the office. All classes have discussed this new bell and what it means; we ask that you also discuss this with your children.

Again this year, teachers will be in classrooms from 8.50am if parents and/or students need to quickly clarify or discuss their child’s learning. I encourage parents to take this opportunity in the classrooms. This will ensure that traffic in and around the staffroom/office area is minimised and will provide a window of opportunity for parents to see teachers. For longer discussions, teachers may recommend an appointment to discuss your child’s learning at another more suitable time. Please note that when the music plays/bell rings staff are required to begin teaching.
Swimming Sports
Our 2017 school swimming sports carnival for year 1-6 students will be held on Wednesday 15th February. Permission forms were sent home yesterday, with the cost being $7. This event is held at the Queens Park pool, where students and teachers walk up and participate in events ranging from freestyle, relays and even wading & cork scramble events. Jodie our PE teacher and Jess (Year 1/2) are busy preparing the event; we also need parent helpers to assist. If you are available please indicate on the signup sheet located outside the office and read and sign the Child Safe Standards Code of Conduct.

Uniform Shop
A reminder that the school uniform provider is Noone’s Imagewear. They are available for sales at school (near the administration office) on Tuesday afternoons from 3-4pm. Their shop is located at 541 Keilor Rd, Niddrie where all items can also be purchased. Information on the uniform policy and prices can be found on our school website 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, information regarding this will be sent home next week. 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. Further details will be sent home in the next week.

Matt Bott
Principal

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.
Dropping off and picking up
Please Note: Students may not be in the school grounds before 8:45am or after 3:35pm unless they are attending Before or After School Care. Any students in the yard beyond these times MUST be supervised by their parents.
Developing resilience and independence supports student learning. To assist in this we ask parents to ensure that their child carry their own bags to and from the classroom. Students beyond prep should take their own bags to the bag rack or locker provided before school and be lined up at the designated places when the bell rings at the start of the day.

Absences
As attendance is compulsory, each absence must be accounted for by a phone call or note, signed by the parents, addressed to the home group teacher and sent on the first school day following the absence. For the benefit of academic and social development we encourage minimal absences. Please notify the school if your child is going to be absent.

Early Leave
Prep to Year 6 Students are expected to attend for the full day unless permission to leave early is requested. A ‘Permission to Leave Early Form’ must be filled in at the General Office and taken to the class teacher. This is a safety precaution for your children.

Late Arrival
Please ensure the teacher knows if students are late. The roll is marked electronically by the teachers each day, therefore the office does not need to be notified; please just take your child straight to their classroom.

Bikes
Students may ride bikes and scooters only to school. A bike shed is provided and is locked from 9.00 – 3.20 pm each day. The school and DET take no responsibility for bikes/ scooters left in the bike shed outside of these times. If they need to be held in this area outside these times we recommend using a bike lock. Rollerblades and skateboards are not permitted. Insurance of bikes and scooters is the responsibility of parents. We strongly encourage insurance in the light of a number of schools reporting thefts. Helmets are compulsory by law of the State of Victoria. Children will not be permitted to ride bikes if they do not have helmets. Bikes and scooters must not be ridden in the school or on pedestrian crossings to ensure safety. Riding bikes/scooters in the school yard before and after school is not permitted for safety reasons.

Money and other Valuables
Please encourage your children to leave treasured possessions at home. Teachers may look after money if requested but are not responsible for valuables which students bring to school.

Care of Others Personal Belongings
Students who damage or take others property or belongings will be required to repair or replace the damaged or lost article. Personal property is often brought to school by students, staff and visitors. This can include mobile phones, electronic games, calculators, toys, sporting equipment and cars parked on school premises. The Department does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and it has no capacity to pay for any loss or damage to such property.
Four parenting priorities for 2017

By Michael Grose

Like the earth’s crust the parenting landscape is constantly shifting always bringing new challenges for parents. Not only are children and young people constantly growing and developing but societal trends evolve and change at such rapid rates that it’s hard to keep up. It’s also hard to differentiate between the significant and the frivolous when it comes to trends and changes.

The following four priorities are both current and significant, deserving to be top of mind for parents as the 2017 school year begins.

1. Time to tackle technology
Want to travel along Parenting Easy Street? That’s easy. Make tackling this parenting game-changer your priority. It’s no point being all doom and gloom about technology because tablets, mobile phones and smartphones are here to stay. They connect us, educate us and entertain us like nothing has before.

But the jury is still out on the impact of digital devices on children and young people. Currently there are studies being conducted on the effects of technology on children’s brains, as well as studies on gaming addiction, social media addiction, attention-related issues, obesity, decision-making, hand-eye coordination and sleep to name a few.

The technology genie maybe out of the bottle, but we need to bring some sanity into the area. Children and teenagers, (and yes technology, primary school and secondary school kids can be mentioned in the same sentence as first-time smartphone users become younger by the day) who use communication technology need constant parent vigilance and diligence, a flexible approach and the ability to say a loud and clear “NO you can’t have/use that now.”

It takes a lot of parental backbone to swim against the current all-encompassing technology tide. You can’t hold it back, but you can slow it down. You can suggest it sits on the metaphorical shelf for a while or at least while you eat dinner together. You can insist that social media isn’t the only way to stay in touch with friends and show them that Dr. Google may be clever but he/she only knows so much and that accurate and current information can be found offline. When it comes to kids and technology, don’t be an onlooker. Make this a year for getting in the game with kids, tech boots on and all.
2. Promote physical and mental health

Finally, good mental health habits are top of mind in Australian schools. A focus on student wellbeing is now a well-established pathway to academic success for children and young people.

But kids’ levels of physical activity need a boost. Recent research tells us that children’s physical activity peaks at around four years of age in Australia and gradually decreases every year from there. It makes a mockery of the image of Australian childhood spent in the great outdoors.

Remember the old ‘healthy body, healthy mind’ maxim that past generations so fondly spruiked? Well, it’s true. Physical and mental health are inextricably linked.

So this year while we encourage our kids to practise mindfulness; get a good night’s sleep and ensure they relax and unwind, let’s also make sure kids get plenty of physical activity, preferably outdoors.

3. Put the spoon back in the drawer

I’ve hidden the controversial part in the middle of the article. Ready for it? I think that parents currently do too much for kids. We spoonfeed them. We make life too easy and don’t demand enough from them. Not all parents, but enough that we should be worried that our kids may grow up to become risk-averse, fearful adults who have difficulty making decisions lest they make a mistake. That is, if they ever do grow up. As reported in Fairfax Media recently, “In 1970’s only one in five under-30’s in Australia lived with their parents but now it’s one in two.” This high dependency of children and teenagers on adults is the exact opposite of what adults have done in the past, which is develop their children’s independence and achieve the most important parenting outcome of all – their own redundancy.

In 2017 remove the spoon, put it back in the drawer and make independence building a high priority in your family.

4. Put integrity top of the pedestal of character traits

Every parent wants their child to have the strength and fortitude to do the right thing and not follow the crowd. This is easier for young children because the pull of the group and the allure of the media doesn’t have such a strong hold as it so often does in adolescence. Strong-willed children and those who like to have their own way can also find doing the right thing less of struggle. But the development of integrity and related traits such as respect, honesty and fairness is an important part of a child’s moral compass that will help him/her make smart decisions when you’re not around. Generally, integrity is developed in childhood and put to the test in adolescence.

In 2017 put some focus on developing a sense of integrity in your kids – the rock star of character traits.

Visit our website for more ideas and information to help you raise confident and resilient young people.

Special note: I’m thrilled to announce that my latest book Spoonfed Generation: How to raise independent children is out. It’s available at parentingideas.com.au

© Parenting Ideas 2017
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.carsshow.2017@gmail.com

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

Respect  Optimism  Care  Collaboration
Swimming Carnival 2017

Wednesday February 15th will be our school swimming carnival for 2017 at Queens Park for students in years 1-6. Permission notes have been sent home. If there are any parents that can assist on the day, please email me or hand in the slip that’s on the permission form to the school office or to your child’s teacher.

Ms Jodie Donovan
Physical Education Teacher
donovan.jodi.j@edumail.vic.gov.au

Mt. Alexander College Hall

First Session Free

When:
- U5’s – Thursday 4pm
- U8’s – Thursday 5pm
- U12’s - Thursday 6pm

Where:
Mt. Alexander College Hall, 165 – 179 Mt Alexander Rd Flemington.

Duration:
1 hour per session.

Cost:
- 16.50 Per session GST Inc.
  Uniform Fee = $80 GST Inc.
  (One time fee providing Adidas Soccer Pro Academy Uniform of Socks, Shorts, and Top.)

Interested?
Small groups of around 10 players, spots are limited, be Quick!!!
Contact ex Socceroo & Olyroo Joe Spiteri 0422 087 191 or on the details above to secure you spot.

Apply Coupon code soccerpro1week for discount.
If there are any parents or carers who would like to volunteer and become a Walking School Bus ‘driver’ in 2017 the following training/information sessions are being held by the Moonee Valley Council on the following dates:

- **Thursday 9 Feb 2017**
  - 9.15am
  - Civic Centre
  - 9 Kellaway Ave Moonee Ponds
  - Queens Park View Room

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

There will be further sessions during the year if you are unable to attend either of these. If you are interested please contact either:

Holly V. on 0424 256 239 (holly.vitale@yahoo.com) or
Sarah J. on 0418 524 126 (biggana@hotmail.com)
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.
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 schooled, 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.

© 2016 Department of Education and Training
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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