Dear Parents and Friends

How quickly this term is going already! Last week we held the information nights and parent forums. There was a terrific turnout on the Wednesday night and we were able to have some very constructive and robust discussions. We asked parents 4 key questions:

- What do we do well?
- What could we improve?
- What should we stop doing?
- What should we start doing?

We had lots of positive feedback about the things we were doing well, including dedicated teachers, small classes, the new 8:45am start time, transition program, QkR, healthy eating.

Some ideas for improvements and changes were around communication (acknowledged that it is better in 2015), homework, celebrating The Arts, spelling and parent involvement. There was also good discussion around multi-aged classes and understanding how they operate to benefit all students.

If you were unable to come to a forum and would like to add your ideas to the above questions, please feel free to write your responses and drop them in to me—or come and see me in person.

WINNERS OF QKR COMPETITION

Last year we ran a competition for those who elected to pay your school fees in full using QkR! Before the end of the school year. Thank you to everyone who did this, it has made our start to the year much easier. The winners were drawn at the first assembly of the year. Congratulations to:

- Mandikos Family
- Aravindh Family

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

A notice regarding school council elections was sent home on Monday and all nominations should be received by 4:00pm on Monday 2nd March.

School Council is a wonderful way to get involved in the school operations and decisions. It involves attending 2 evening meetings per term plus supporting or convening a school sub-committee—Buildings & Grounds, Education, Community Partnerships. If you would like to know more, please come and have a chat to me. This year is an exciting year to be involved in Council with our school review and building program coming up.

PFA AGM

Last week we had our first PFA (Parents’ and Friends’ Association) meeting of 2014. Though this was our first meeting, it was also the last meeting of the current PFA as we will hold our AGM on Wednesday 18th March at 9:00am.

All parents/guardians are invited to be involved in the PFA. Membership is simple and does not require an election, just come along and pay your $1 subscription fee!

PFA does wonderful work for our community including Mother’s and Father’s Day activities, Italian Day, welcome morning teas, after school play date, social activities—the list goes on! If you are unsure, come along to the AGM and see what it is all about.

WELCOME TO SCHOOL—PLAY DATE

What a wonderful turnout we had last night at the After School Play Date! The weather was beautiful and it was lovely to see the children playing together and parents socialising. Thank you to the year 5 and 6 students who organised sports equipment and activities.

We cannot have these events without our wonderful helpers, so a BIG thank you to those that shopped, cooked and cleaned up for this event:

- Jodi O’Sullivan
- Anna Ward
- Susie Rayner
- Anna Borek
- Louise Cook
- Sue Curtis
- Peter Olechnowicz
- Bill Leggett
- Noela Unwin

Have a great week,

Kendra

Kendra Parker—PRINCIPAL
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

This week we have been looking at all the wonderful programs we use at MPPS to develop confident and resilient young people. We are very lucky to have such a multi-faceted approach to teaching these skills. Did you know the following programs are all in place at MPPS?

- Bounce Back
- Values Program
- Bully Prevention
- Circle Time
- Kimochis
- Kids’ Connect
- Tribes
- Restorative Practices

The AusVELS curriculum also recognises the importance of whole school multi-dimensional school-wide Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) approach to building resilience. A meta-analysis of over 200 primary and secondary SEL programs where participants participated in rigorously designed and well-taught SEL programs showed:

- More positive social behaviour
- Less risky and disruptive behavior
- Lessens emotional distress
- Improvements in academic performance with an average 11% gain in academic achievement (Durlak et al. 2011)

Social and Emotional Learning programs help students to develop the following skills:

Self-Awareness:
- Identifying and recognising emotions; accurate self-perception; recognising strengths, needs, and values; self-efficacy

Self-Management:
- Impulse control and stress management; self-motivation and discipline; goal setting and organizational skills

Social Awareness:
- Perspective taking; empathy; difference recognition; respect for others

Relationship Skills:
- Communication, social engagement, and relationship building; working cooperatively; negotiation, refusal, and conflict management; Help-seeking

Responsible Decision-making:
- Problem identification and situation analysis; problem solving; evaluation and reflection; personal, social, and ethical responsibility

SCHOOL CONTRIBUTIONS

Thank you to those families who have paid their School Contributions or put in their forms to pay by instalments. Statements have been sent home as a reminder for those families who may have forgotten. Remember—if you are having difficulties with payment please contact me to discuss payment options. It is always best to do this at the start of the year, rather than have us chasing you for money later in the year.

KIDS CRAZY CARNIVAL

SCHOOL FETE

The Kids Crazy Carnival is only 3 weeks away and there is a lot of behind the scenes work happening already.

Have you been reading your weekly newsletters to see what the weekly challenge is?

Please get behind this great event and major school fundraiser by donating the challenge items each week.

Calls for volunteers to work on stalls have been sent out this week.

This week School Council approved the proposal that all money raised from The Fete this year will go towards updating the Junior Playground.

Don’t forget if you have any ideas for the fete or can support with sponsorship or donations, please contact the school office.
Specialist in the Spotlight - Italian

Ciao a tutti! Welcome back to Term 1, 2015, and the amazing Italian LOTE room where fun, creativity and ‘having a go’ are the rules of the day.

Preps - Have been so clever! They have learned ‘Ciao, Buongiorno’, made a ‘Mi chiamo..’ (My name is...) paper hat, begun saying the Italian numbers 1-10 and listened carefully to the book, ‘Questa sono io.’ (This is me) They love using the class puppets to practise their Italian vocabulary with each other.

Grades 1 & 2 – Decorated their front pages with Italian illustrations. We will be revising previous vocabulary before beginning words for describing ourselves (due occhi, una testa, un naso etc) - and making Portraits.

Grades 3 & 4 - Are learning about ‘Me-Io’ and how I spend ‘La mia giornata’- My day. Personal and Family Portraits, reading activities and fun vocabulary games lie ahead. They also pasted in an Italian ‘Cheat Sheet’ which will prove helpful in all activities as a quick reference. It contains many of the basic ‘need to know’ words.

Grades 5 & 6 – Have begun creating amazing Mosaic Portrait designs for their first Assessment Task in 2015. They know this form of decoration was often used in Italy and will be exploring its uses in Ancient Rome next term! This term will focus on using simple Italian words and phrases to describe themselves as Roman Gods, or Goddesses, which will be very exciting. Lots of creative challenges ahead!

PS. If anyone has long cardboard rolls or cylinders (eg. kitchen paper rolls), small boxes (eg. mini cereal, chocolate or biscuit) or old plastic or glass holed beads suitable for making Roman jewellery, the LOTE room can find creative uses for them.

Mille Grazie, Signora Beer.

National Ride2School Day

Friday 13th March

Students are encouraged to ride, walk, scoot or skate to school to help reduce the pollution into our world and keep fit and healthy! A Hands Up survey will be conducted on this day to determine the first winners of the Golden Shoe for 2015. Achieving excellent results as a whole school, could put MPPS in the running for some great prizes to help keep our school community active. Start planning your active commute to school now.

OSHC

This week at before and After School Care we have enjoyed Arts and Crafts, outdoor play as well as music and movement in the mornings.

RE: BOOKINGS: thank you to all the parents who let us know in advance if their children are attending or also going to be absent. It is just as important to let us know if your child is booked in and will not be attending, as we have a legal obligation to find each child on our roll.

A POLITE REMINDER TO ALL THE PARENTS

Curriculum day is coming up on the 10th of March please make sure that you let us know if your child needs care for the day as we need to organise staff and activities.

Enjoy the week.

From Anicca, Leah and the OSHC team.

Art Room News

As the art program is now up and running through all grades, I’m just writing to remind you that each child will be required to wear an art smock to art class each week. The art smock is there to protect your student’s clothing from accidental spills. If your child does not have a smock already, an old t-shirt, old shirt or apron will be fine. The main area of mess is usually at the front of them, or in their lap, so if you could supply an item to protect your child’s clothing it would be much appreciated. Unfortunately if they don’t have a smock soon they will be unable to participate in painting, clay and other messy art activities.

Regards
Mrs Searles Art Teacher

Teamwork Integrity Excellence Respect
UNIFORM SHOP SECOND HAND SALE
Next Wednesday 4th March the Uniform Shop is having a second hand uniform sale in the Conference Room afterschool. From 3.30 to 4pm. Prices range from $2 to $15.

STUDENT INSURANCE
The Department of Education and Training has asked us to remind parents of the following in regards to student medical costs:

- parents/guardians of students, who do not have student accident insurance, are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including the cost of ambulance attendance/transport and any other transport costs; and
- parents/guardians can purchase insurance policies from commercial insurers

Parents/guardians are also reminded that 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.

LIBRARY NEWS
The Library is now open for borrowing and students with library bags have already taken books out. Please make sure your child has a library bag so that they may borrow on a regular basis.

Reading books of choice at home is very important and allows the child to take ownership of their own reading.

We are also in need of parent helpers in the library on a Friday from 9-1pm to help with placing books away, covering new resources and general library maintenance. If you are able to assist, please drop by on a Friday from 9-1pm and meet in the library.

Thank you for your assistance.

Regards
Mrs Searles

VAGO ADDITIONAL SCHOOL COSTS FOR FAMILIES REPORT
You may have read in the press that the Victorian Auditor-General has released a report on school costs for parents.

In response to the report's findings, the Minister for Education has asked the Department of Education and Training to review its parent payment policy.

As a result of any changes to the Department’s policy, we will work with our school council to update our own policy.

We don't expect any changes until later in 2015 and we will let you know well in advance.

The Department’s parent payment policy is what we use to guide us in deciding what we will ask you to pay each year.

We review our own parent payment policy, in conjunction with our school council, on a yearly basis and notify you of any changes through our website.

Our aim is to ensure our policy meets parents’ expectations, while also ensuring that all of our students are able to participate in the programs we offer.

Our policy sets out what we ask you to pay for to support your child's learning, such as books and stationery, and what we ask for optional extracurricular activities.

Our policy also sets out what we ask parents to make voluntary contributions to, and where these funds will be directed (for example, to assist with new building and grounds works, or purchasing library and sports equipment.)

As always, if you have any queries, or would like to discuss how the school can support you in financial matters, please call Kendra or Anne.

PIANO LESSONS AT SCHOOL
Piano lessons are available at school for grades 3 to 6 students. Your child will need to have a piano or keyboard at home to practise on.

Please ring -
Teacher - Mrs Jocelyn Millard B.S.Ed.
Ph. 9583 6172
Mob. 0418 629 586
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<td>PUBLIC HOLIDAY</td>
<td>Curriculum Day</td>
<td>Division Swimming (TBC)</td>
<td>Ride2School Day</td>
<td>* Saturday – Working Bee</td>
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City of Kingston
Vacation Care Program

We are excited to bring you the Brochure and Enrolment form for the Autumn March / April 2015 Vacation Care program. This program has been developed through consultation with children, families and educators during the Dec / Jan vacation care program. It is a fun filled program giving children opportunities to follow their interests, have new experiences, make new friends, explore, learn, discover and experience success through play.

Enrolments Start, Monday 2nd March and Close: Friday 20th March 2015
It is requested children who require support for inclusion in a program, submit enrolment and payment forms as early as possible to allow time to apply for funding.
Don’t miss out on your children’s spot at one of our fantastic programs to find out more visits Kingston’s website www.kingston.wc.gov.au. For enquiries please call the Vacation Care Team on (03) 9581 4846 or (03) 9581 4875.

Vacation Care
30 March - 10 April 2015

Shape up, Get Fit, Burn Fat!
With

EXCITE ICE
Group Training

8 SESSIONS TO CHOOSE FROM!

Usual price $20 per session
Early Bird Special! $29.95 per week
UNLIMITED SESSIONS*

Get the Fat Loss Special Report FREE!
PLUS a FREE exclusive TRAINING SHIRT!
PLUS get EXCITE PILATES CLASSES INCLUDED!

✓ The latest research in exercise & fat loss
✓ Great fitness-orientated, social atmosphere
✓ All fitness levels encouraged
✓ We train as a group to encourage, motivate and support

Places limited, Book now!
Contact Chris 0408 541527
gfit@excitehealthfitness.com.au
Web: excitehealthfitness.com.au
517 Main Street, Mordialloc
*6 month commitment
Friday 13th March
3.30pm - 8.00pm

EDITHVALE Primary Fair

come and enjoy all the fun of the fair

We welcome all current and NEW players to our family friendly soccer club

Aspendale Sporting Club Inc
PO Box 6424L
Mordialloc, VIC 3195

Registrations are OPEN for Boys and Girls aged between 5 and 18 for 2015, by using the FFV link on the club website.

www.aspendalesc.com

Contact the club by Email: secretary@aspendalesc.com

Become part of the “Tiger pride” in 2015

St Bede’s Mentone Tigers Junior Football Club

New players welcome for all ages 8 through 17. Registrations are now open.

Hey Boys & Girls, as a Tiger:

➢ Learn and improve your footy skills
➢ Have fun in a team environment
➢ You'll receive a free club shirt or singlet

Parents, your children can:

➢ Follow a one club football pathway from juniors to seniors
➢ Receive exposure to senior coaches and players
➢ Share the Tiger experience with you and the family

If you'd like to become a Tiger, or find out more information, email Pete at reg.smijil@stbedesmentonetigers.com.au or visit the Junior Registration page on the club website www.stbedesmentonetigers.com.au

Wandin North Harvest Market
220 Warburton Highway
Wandin North 3139

Sunday 15th March
9.00am - 2.00pm

Quality Craft, Fresh Produce, Food and Activities.
Free Entertainment and Free Parking
Stallholders Welcome
Phone Megan Gibbons 03 5964 4259

PLAY GIRLS FOOTY IN 2015
@Mordialloc-Braeside JFC

Join Us for a Free Pre-Season Training Session and BBQ

Saturday 28th February
Training: 10am-11am, BBQ from 11am
Walter Gold Reserve, Victoria St, Parkdale