Message from the Principal

Hi Everyone

A huge WELCOME BACK to everyone!!! I hope the school holidays allowed you some extra time with your kids to relax, play board games, have a game of beach cricket or fly a kite.

Our year has started off quite smoothly. Our new building was completed on time allowing Mr Mulhall and Mr Tibballs to shift in towards the back half of the break. Another two classrooms were painted and a few other odd jobs were attended to.

Last Thursday our Preps arrived for their first morning session. It was an amazingly calm entry to school. Though this is not a huge surprise because of the terrific transition program they enjoyed last year.

The preps even came to assembly on Friday and managed really well. Again it was a treat to have the children ask questions of all our new staff. This allowed their engaging personalities to shine through and know that they are approachable... especially in the year when issues come up. At the end of assembly we wished Miss Greaves all the very best for her wedding this weekend. Quite a fantastic first assembly.

BARR schools

This summer we are experiencing bursts of really hot weather. I take this opportunity to remind parents that Montrose PS is included on the Bushfire At-Risk Register. This means that on the rare days that bushfire alert is rated ‘catastrophic’ that our school will be closed. Please take time to read the article further back in the newsletter that explains this process.

Advanced warning

Our school photo day is Monday February 26th. I mention this now in case you have set appoints for the dentist or other reasons why your child might not be present for this important day. You might now have time to change them.

Neil Pollard
From the Office

**Sentral Parent Portal**

New families to the school will be set up on our Parent Portal in the coming week. You will receive an email with your log on instructions. Please set yourself up as soon as possible, as Parent Teacher Interviews will be timetabled via the Parent Portal this year.

If you are an existing family and need assistance logging on to the Parent Portal, please email the office or pop by and ask for Sally.

**Return of Enrolment Information Forms**

All families will have received an email with an attached enrolment information form for each child attending the school.

These forms need to be returned to the office, either in hard copy or electronically, by Friday 16th February. If no changes are required, please print off the top sheet, sign, write “no changes required” and either email this to us or drop it into the office as a hard copy.

Please also return your Student Image Consent and Acceptable use of Technologies forms to the office as soon as possible.

**NOTE: Parent Portal Family Details Amendments**

A number of families have been submitting amendments to family information via the Parent Portal. What happens to these requests.....?

1. We are alerted via email that a parent has submitted an amendment request
2. Each request is looked at and, if required, changes are made to our Victorian Government Data System - CASES21
3. Data is then sent across each night to Sentral and you see this information in the Parent Portal.

The Data you see in the Portal will differ from what we have CASES21. This is due to the way that the data is mapped. For example you will see the phone number field for both Parent A and Parent B looks the same. This is actually Family Mobile in CASES21 and is the mobile for Parent A. Please be assured we do have the mobile for Parent B stored in another field which we can access at school on our system. Additionally, we do have contact phone numbers for your emergency contacts in our system, although they do not show in the portal.

**What Can You Do to ensure your data is up to date?**

Each year, please complete the Student Enrolment Update form and send to us. This will ensure your details are up to date. If any changes are required throughout the year (ie you change jobs or addresses) just let the office know via phone, email, or in person, or via the portal.
Student Absences

The department of education requires that all government schools advise parents of unexplained absences recorded for their child, and follow up with parents regarding the reason for such absences.

Every time your child is absent from school and we do not know the reason, you will receive an unexplained absence notification either via your email address or mobile phone. Please respond to this message via email or sms, or alternatively log on to the parent portal and explain the absence.

It is good practice to let us know first thing in the morning if your child is going to be away sick, or earlier in the case of holidays and other events.

Student Accident Insurance Arrangements

Main Points

- Schools are reminded that the Department DOES NOT provide personal accident insurance for students. Montrose PS has no whole-of-school policy - parents/guardians must purchase it themselves.

- 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. These cover a range of medical expenses not covered by Medicare or private health insurance.

- Principals should remind parents/guardians and staff 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.

Additional Information

- The Department cannot advise parents/guardians on whether to purchase a student accident policy or which policy to purchase. It is recommended that they seek assistance in this matter with their insurance broker or find a suitable personal accident insurer online.
School Banking

School Banking runs weekly. Children need to drop their bank books to the Office or their teachers on Thursday mornings. Anyone interested in starting School Banking can pick up some information from the Office.

Montrose After School Basketball

After school basketball will commence the week beginning 19th February 2018. We are searching for boys and girls interested in playing in teams from Grades 1-6. Beginners welcomed. It is a fun initiation into team sport. All existing teams can commence training beginning next week. Please contact Bec Craig to confirm training days. Thanks to everyone that expressed interest in joining last year. If you haven’t done so yet, there is still time.

We are desperately needing Grade 5 Boys and Grade 1 and 4 Girls to fill our teams. If you are interested please contact either; Bec Craig 0407 520 274 or Elissa Glover 0412 435 028 Or via email beccraig@yahoo.com.au We look forward to another fantastic season of after school basketball.

GO MONTROSE!
Newsletter article:
Bushfire At-Risk
Register - Schools

School procedures for the bushfire season

Fire danger ratings and warnings are used in Victoria to provide clear direction on the safest options for preserving life.

Schools and children’s services listed on the DET Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR) will be closed when a Code Red fire danger rating day is determined in their Bureau of Meteorology district. **Our school has been identified as being one of those at high bushfire risk and is listed on the BARR.**

Where possible, we will provide parents with up to four days notice of a potential Code Red day closure by letter and SMS message. A Code Red day will be determined by the Emergency Management Commissioner no later than 1.00 pm the day before the potential closure. Once we are advised of the confirmation of the Code Red day we will provide you with advice before the end of the school day.

**Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, regardless of improvements in the weather forecast.** This is to avoid confusion and help your family plan alternative care arrangements for your child. It is also important to note that:

- No staff will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Code Red day.
- Out-of-school-hours care will also be cancelled on these days
- School camps will be cancelled if a Code Red fire danger rating day is determined for the Bureau of Meteorology district in which the camp is located.

On these Code Red days families are encouraged to enact their Bushfire Survival Plan – **on such days children should never be left at home or in the care of older children.**

For those of us living in a bushfire prone area, the CFA advise that when Code Red days are forecast, the safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Code Red day.

**What can parents do?**

- Make sure your family’s bushfire survival plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements in the event that our school is closed.
- Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers. Keep in touch with us by reading our newsletters, by checking our website www.montroseps.vic.edu.au and by talking to your child’s teacher or any other member of the teaching staff about our emergency management plan.
- Most importantly at this time of year, if you’re planning a holiday or short stay in the bush or in a coastal area, you should check warnings in advance of travel and remain vigilant during your stay.
- If your child is old enough, talk to them about bushfires and your family’s bushfire survival plan.

For up-to-date information on this year’s fire season, visit the CFA website at [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au) or call the 24-hour Victorian Bushfires Information Line on 1800 240 667.
WELCOME BACK and a BIG welcome to our 2018 Preps 😊
The canteen is now open and in full swing. We had a fabulous day on Friday and I was very appreciative to have the Grandma’s from our team of volunteers answer the call to help out on our first day back. Thank you to Tierney Hamilton, Lesley Miller and Ann Allen.

New Volunteers
If you would like to volunteer to help in the canteen once or twice a term, call/text Amanda on 0428 380 432 or fill in a canteen volunteer form at the office and hand in by Friday 16th February. We need to hear from you asap so we can finalise and distribute our roster for 2018 😊

What can I buy?
Juicies are now available in Tropical and Orange for $1.50. They are Calipo style icy poles and replace the apple and orange juice cups that are no longer available. Moosies are also available for $1.50 in chocolate, strawberry, banana, bluemoon and lime flavours.

Amanda 😊
Our Library year has begun…

- You can borrow 2 books at a time
- Don’t forget your library bag

Come in and see what exciting books the library has for you.

Help our school earn free books for classrooms & library

Scholastic Bookclub.

Approx. 3 times a term, Scholastic Bookclub brochures will be sent home with your child.

There are 2 ordering options this year.

1. Order & pay online via the new LOOP system:
   - Go to scholastic.com.au or download the App, & register your account
   - Add your child’s first name & last initial, then select your school & your child’s class
   - Click on ORDER & enter the item number/s from the Bookclub brochure
   - Follow the payment options & pay online. That’s all you need to do!
   *Your order will be delivered to your child’s classroom, as listed below. NB: there is a nominated cut-off date for free delivery to our school. Scholastic will charge for home delivery after that.

2. OR, complete the brochure order form to order via the school:
   - mark your choice on the order form
   - follow the payment instructions (pay by credit card online, or cash with your order form)
   - return your order form to the School Office by the nominated return date, please.
   NO LATE ORDERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

*Your order will be delivered to your child’s classroom approx 2 wks after the Order Return date.
- Scholastic sell good quality, reasonably priced books, ideal for your home or as gifts.
- Every book you purchase earns points towards free books for the school.
2018 Twilight Fair
We need your help! Can you spare us an hour of your time at the Twilight Fair on Friday 2nd of March? The kids will be ever so grateful 😊 Parents Club Montrose Primary

Please fill out a time below and return to school with your child.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Mobile number (to be sent confirmation text message)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Set-up, 9 am</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-5 pm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-6 pm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-7 pm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-8 pm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pack-up, 8-9 pm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Allergy Alert Lunch Bags**

We have some specific allergy warning lunch bags for sale. If interested, please ask at the office.
NoiseCraft Studio
Helping Kids Grow Academically & Emotionally Through Music

In-School Music Tuition

Keyboard - Drums - Guitar - Songwriting

Our instrumental music programs provide children with an engaging experience based on individualised tuition plans. Our program includes learning to read music and recognise musical patterns as well as the opportunity to play in bands or ensembles.

Children will learn music that is relevant to them, at a developmentally appropriate level in a supportive and fun environment that balances challenge and success.

Stepping Stones (Prep to grade 2)
This program gives children in the early primary school years the opportunity to:

- Experiment with different instruments.
- Develop the fine and gross motor skills needed to play an instrument.
- Learn fundamental music theory and notation.
- Provides a smooth and supported transition to a dedicated instrumental program when ready.

For further enquiries or to Enrol
Call 9737 1170

Billanook College
2019 Scholarship Program

Academic & General Excellence Scholarships

Applications are invited from students commencing in Years 7 - 9 in 2019.

Billanook College values both academic and extra-curricular success. We therefore offer both Academic and General Excellence Scholarships at a number of year levels.

Applications Close Friday 16 February 2018

APPLY NOW AT WWW.BILLANOOK.VIC.EDU.AU

* See website for conditions.
ADVERTISING MATERIAL INCLUDED WITH NEWSLETTER
The Department of Education & Early Childhood Development does not endorse the products or services of any private advertiser. No responsibility is accepted by the Department of Education & Early Childhood Development for accuracy of information contained in the advertisements to claims made by them.

MOOROOLBARK JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB
REGISTRATION DAY 2018
Registrations accepted for players
Boys Teams
Under 8*, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 17s
* player can turn 7 before 30th April 2018 to be eligible to play U7s
Girls Teams
Under 12, 14 and 16s
DATE: Wednesday 7th February
TIME: 6:00pm – 8:00pm
VENUE: MFC – Kiloran Park Reserve
All registration information is available on our website
www.mooroolbarkfc.com.au
If you have any queries regarding registration for 2018 please contact Mick Kot (President) 0409 460 499 or Tina Danisch (Registrar) tina.danisch@gmail.com
Merchandise and Uniforms will be available to purchase or order on the day, no EFTPOS available

FREE Information Session
Managing Your Child’s Worries and Anxiety
Thursday 22nd February 2018
7pm-9pm
Kimberley Place
33 Kimberley Drive,
Chirnside Park
Learning to cope with anxiety, stress and fear, whilst a normal part of your child's development, can be deeply challenging not only for children but also for parents and the family unit as a whole. This session is designed to help inform and support parents and Early Years Professionals who feel that children in their care may be experiencing worries, stress or anxiety.

KP
ARCvictoria
Anxiety Recovery Centres Victoria
Registration is essential as places are limited. To register or for further details please contact Michelle Lehmann
earlyyears@yarraranges.vic.gov.au 1300 368 333
APPLES AND PEARS

Apples and Pears are available to purchase! We have a local company delivering apples to Montrose Primary School once a fortnight. These are now available to purchase for any interested Montrose family. The next delivery will be Thursday 15th February but orders must be placed by Wednesday 14th February. Please fill out the attached form and hand it in to the office along with appropriate CASH on Wednesday 14th February at the latest! Thank you.

Child’s Name: ___________________________ Contact Number: _________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Choice of Fruit</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Amount Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pink Lady</td>
<td>(5.5kg bag - $10.00)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fuji</td>
<td>(5.5kg bag - $10.00)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Granny Smith</td>
<td>(5.5kg bag - $10.00)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golden Delicious</td>
<td>(5.5kg bag - $10.00)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Pears</td>
<td>(5.5kg bag - $10.00)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown Pears</td>
<td>(5.5kg bag - $10.00)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All fruit is handpicked locally in the Yarra Valley and is always fresh!