

Mernda Park PS Newsletter

ISSUE #1

Principal's Message

Welcome to our first ever MPPS newsletter. Our newsletter will be produced and available via our website every second Thursday during school terms. The newsletter will be a means of condensing the information which may have already been made available to you on our website and/or on our Facebook page. Our newsletter will be a great means of celebrating school and student achievements. The students have settled well and are enjoying learning and playing in our new facilities.

Our Current Staff Members

Mary Ryan - Principal

Caroline Van Oorschot - Assistant Principal

Finoula Murray - Business Manager

Mirella Stovell - Yan Yean Learning Community (YYLC)

Briony Ralph - Yan Yean Learning Community (YYLC)

Rhece Hopkins - Simon Learning Community (SLC) Physical Education (PE)

Amanda Thom - Simon Learning Community (SLC) Visual and Performing Arts

Gabriella Henning - Plenty Learning Community (PLC)

Ashlee Ierino - Plenty Learning Community (PLC)

Karen Clark - Education Support

Georgia Dovile - Specialist Technician



Learning Communities

All of our students and teachers are assigned to a particular Learning Community (LC). The idea behind the use of Learning Communities is to develop a strong sense of belonging, identity and connection to each other as members of the same Learning Community and the wider school community. The reason we call them Learning Communities rather than simply Communities is that we want to develop a deep understanding in our students, staff and families that learning is at the core of all that we do at MPPS. We have three Learning Communities currently in use, Plenty, Simon and Yan Yean. Carome Learning Community is as yet not in use but as the school enrolments grow Carome will become our fourth teaching and learning space.

Each Learning Community is named after significant landmarks in our local area. Throughout the year students in each Community will be researching why their particular Community name was chosen.

Assembly

A whole school assembly will take place in our Community Hub every Monday morning at 8.45am. Students will drop their bags off at their Learning Community and move to the Community Hub with their teachers. Parents and friends are welcome

and encouraged to join us for each assembly as this will be a time when important information will be shared with you and the students and where we can celebrate our students' achievements. Each week the senior students will play a greater role in running our assembly. Our next assembly will be on Monday the 27th of February.



Compass

The school's main source of communication will be through the Compass School Manager. The app is available for iOS and android. Compass family logins were sent home last week.

Meet the Teacher

On Tuesday 28th of February we will be conducting 'Meet the Teacher' interviews. The idea of these meetings is for you to share information about your child with one of his/ her Learning Community teachers. Please use your Compass log in information to book a suitable time and contact the office if you require any further information.



Reminders

- Bikes and scooters must be walked through the school grounds.
- All students riding a bike or scooter must wear an approved safety helmet.
- The bike shed should only be accessed by students dropping off or picking up their bike or scooter.
- The Central Plaza area is a walking only space.
- All families should have received their free reusable coffee/tea mug.
- The yard will be supervised by duty staff in the morning from 8.30am until 8.45am and in the afternoon from 3.15pm until 3.30pm and during all break times. Students need to be in attendance and ready for learning by 8.45am.



From the Office

The school office will be open from 8.30am-4.00 pm, please don't hesitate to call in if you have any questions. The phone number is 0457 657 785 (this will change shortly with the installation of the school land line phone system.)

CSEF (Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund)

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

Families holding a valid means-tested concession card or temporary foster parents are eligible to apply. \$125 per year is paid for eligible primary school students. Applications must be submitted by March the 10th. Application forms are available from the school website www.merndaparkps.vic.edu.au

Material Charges

Statements were sent out this week with your compass log- in details. Payment can be made either in person at the front office or by phone or alternatively on Compass, we accept Eftpos, Visa, and Mastercard.

Husk Coffee/Tea Cups

Our sustainable husk coffee/tea cups are now on sale in the front office for \$15. The money raised from these cups will go toward our resource room.

