

# Mernda Park PS Newsletter

ISSUE #4

## Principal's Message

### Welcome Back

Welcome back to Term 2 which promises to be a very productive and busy term. Special events will take place this term including Education Week including whole school sporting activities, school tours, NAPLAN, three way conferences, Art Project, Raspberry Pi and whole school excursion to CERES. All of our students and staff look rested and enthusiastic and we look forward to a productive and enjoyable term of schooling.

### ANZAC Day

To acknowledge the significance of ANZAC day we will be having a special commemorative ceremony assembly next Monday morning at 8.45am.

I hope everyone enjoys the ANZAC Day public holiday on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April.

### Year 7 Enrolment Applications

This week our Year 6 students received their applications for Year 7 enrolment forms as per Department of Education and Training guidelines. The forms must be returned to us by Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May.

### Kindness and Mindfulness

At MPPS we promote, on a daily basis, the importance of thinking about and being responsible for our own behaviour and about being kind to each other. A clear mind can help us all to think more positively before we act!

The mind is a lot like a jar of murky water. Constant agitation and movement of the jar causes the water to remain murky but when you can keep the jar still for long enough, the sediment will settle to the bottom and you will have a jar of clear water. In order to be able to gain insight into the nature of your mind, you must learn to calm the mind before it becomes clear.



### Information /Tour Sessions

We are currently getting a large amount of interest in our school regarding 2018 enrolments. Last night, in response to this interest, we held an information session followed by a school tour. The response from the families who attended was extremely positive with many positive comments about our wonderful facilities. Due to the high level of interest we had to cap last night's numbers but we will definitely be hosting other sessions as the year progresses.

If you know someone who is interested in attending our next session please ask them to email the school at [mernda.park.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:mernda.park.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au) to register their interest. Our office staff will then alert interested people via email once the next session date is confirmed.

### Bike Riding Safety

Today we had Wendy Shields, a Community Liaison Police Officer, come to our school to talk to the students from Yan Yean LC. The main focus of the visit was to reinforce the importance of our students riding safely when travelling to and from school and at all times. Bike riding is a lot of fun, but accidents can and do happen. Every year, about 300,000 kids go to the emergency department because of bike injuries, and at least 10,000 kids have injuries that require a few days in the hospital. We want all of our students to stay safe so please reiterate this important message with your children.

## Important Dates

### Term 2

**Tuesday 25th April**  
ANZAC Day Public Holiday.

**Monday 1st May**  
School Photos

**Monday 5th June**  
Whole School excursion to CERES

**Friday 30th June**  
Last day of Term 2.

### Term 3

**Monday 17th July**  
Term 3 commences

**Friday 22nd Sept**  
Last day of Term 3

### Term 4

**Monday 9th October**  
Term 4 commences

**Friday 22nd Dec**  
Last day of Term 4





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## Raspberry Pi Program

We are very excited to begin our Raspberry Pi program in partnership with the City of Whittlesea. This term, our grade 3/4 students will be using Scratch to code their own animation or game. By using Scratch, students will be challenged to think creatively, reason systematically, and work collaboratively — essential skills for life in the 21st century.

## 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 8776 9700.

## Parents & Friends Association

If you are interested in joining the Parents & Friends Association there will be an informal gathering on Friday 21st April from 9:00am in the Conference Room.

## Easter Raffle

Thanks again to Penny and Judy for arranging our Easter Raffle, thanks also to the families who contributed to the raffle. We raised \$409.05 to purchase books for our Resource Room.

## Mother's Day Stall

The Mother's Day Stall will be held on Thursday 11th May. Further details will be posted closer to the date.

## School Photos

School photos will be on Monday 1st May. Full school uniform, as always, is required.

## School Banking

School banking will be collected every Thursday from your child's Learning Community.

## 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. Application forms are available from the school website [www.merndaparkps.vic.edu.au](http://www.merndaparkps.vic.edu.au)

## State School Relief Package

The State Relief Package is now open for applications. The package includes uniform items for prep students and is available for families who are eligible to receive CSEF.

## Material Charges

Material charges were due at the end of term 1. Payment can be made either in person at the front office or by phone or alternatively on Compass, we accept Eftpos, Visa, and MasterCard. If you are having difficulty with payment please contact Finoula in the office.

## 2018 Enrolments

Enrolments are now open for 2018. Please contact our office staff for enrolment forms.

## Canteen News



Our first Special Lunch Day on Tuesday 28th March was a great success. Congratulations to the Taofiga and Miles families on winning the Our Online Canteen Vouchers! Congratulations also to Kiahna, Kyle, Ridham, and Sarah for winning the Special Lunch Day student raffle.