

# Mernda Park PS Newsletter

ISSUE #5

## Principal's Message

### NAPLAN

National testing (NAPLAN) will be conducted with Year 3 and 5 students next week. The students will undertake four assessments in language conventions, writing, reading and numeracy. Students will undertake practice assessments to prepare them for this testing. If parents have any questions regarding NAPLAN please feel free to speak to our Yan Yean LC teachers Briony and Mirella. Results will be available to parents next term.

### Information /Tour Sessions

We are currently getting a large amount of interest in our school regarding 2018 enrolments. In the first week of this term, 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 the tour numbers but we will definitely be hosting other sessions as the year progresses with our next scheduled tour on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June at 5pm. 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. The interest in MPPS is growing and we are confident we will have a good number of enrolments for 2018 especially in the P – 2 area.

### Carome Homestead Invite

Last week Caroline and I were invited to the launch by Danielle Green (our local MP) of the Carome Site Management Plan. We were treated to a delicious morning tea by the staff of Two Beans and a Farm Cafe and Restaurant. During morning tea we listened to the exciting future plans of Working Heritage to improve and develop Carome Homestead to ensure it is a valued and well utilised



place for the local community and beyond. We were especially excited to hear this development news as we already have a community garden partnership with Carome and one of our Learning Communities is named Carome.

### Principals Conference

On Friday I attended a very worthwhile Conference for Principals focusing on building an inclusive school. This was especially relevant as we are working hard to develop our school culture based around what we value at MPPS -

### Collaboration Achievement Responsibility Empathy

On June 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> I will be attending the North-Western Victoria Regional Principals Conference. The theme of the forum is *Inspired Teaching and Learning: Creating the Education State*. This will provide an exciting opportunity for myself and other Principals to collaborate with colleagues and international education leaders about school and system excellence. I am always keen to learn new ideas and discuss system and processes with other educators especially in this our first year of operation.

## Important Dates

### Term 2

#### Friday 5th May

Responsible Pet Ownership Incurion

#### Tuesday 9th,

**Wednesday 10th & Thursday 11th May**

Naplan 2017 Testing

#### Monday 5th June

Whole School excursion to CERES

#### Tuesday 20th June

School Tour 5pm

#### 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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## Student of the Week

Focus — Collaboration

Term 2 week 1 & 2



**Yan Yean LC**

Grace J

**Simon LC / 1-2**

Matilda S

**Plenty LC / Preps**

Jaxon B

Eliana G

**Visual Arts**

Dilsher K

**Physical Education**

Hugo A

**Performing Arts**

Isaac D

**Environmental Award**

Manjir K

**Assistant Principal's Award**

Ridham A

**Principal's Award**

Wyatt G

Sean R

Kiahna M

Yalda J

Jackson P

Luka M

Inara V

Cooper C



## Responsible Pet Ownership

On Friday 5th May students will take part in a Responsible Pet Ownership (RPO) Program. The program is aimed at 5-12 year olds and includes a dog visit, multimedia tools, role play, song and story time.

The Program focuses on teaching students about dog safety:

- when dogs should be left alone
- things we should not do to dogs
- how can you tell if a dog is happy, frightened or angry
- a safe way to approach and greet a dog
- what to do if approached by an unknown or aggressive dog.



# Mernda Park PS Newsletter

## The 2017 Attitudes to Schools Survey

### We want our student to tell us what they think

Our school is conducting a survey to find out what your child thinks of our school. The Attitudes to School survey is an annual student survey offered by the Department of Education and Training. The survey assists schools in gaining an understanding of students' perceptions and experience of school.

Our school will use the survey results to plan programs and activities to improve your child's schooling experience.

This year the Attitudes to School survey will be conducted at our school between Monday 22 May to Friday 23 June. The survey only takes 20-30 minutes to complete and occurs during your child's class time.

Students from *Years 4, 5 and 6* at our school will participate in the survey. Your child will complete the survey online during school hours using a purpose built secure online survey tool.

The survey results will be reported back to the school in Term 3. The survey results will be communicated to parents through our newsletter.

The Department has updated the survey for 2017 to include important new measures that are known to influence student engagement and performance.

### Students privacy is our priority

Your child will be provided with a unique login to complete the survey. The student login is an assigned identifier that may be used by the Department to combine data for research purposes only. Your child's privacy and the confidentiality of your child's survey responses will be protected at all times. No identifiable personal data is included in the survey response file.

This survey is not a test and your child has the right to refuse or withdraw from the survey at any point before, during, or after completion.

## From the Office

### Material Charges

**Material charges are now overdue**, payment can be made on Compass, at the office or by phone. We accept Eftpos, Visa, and MasterCard. If you are having difficulty with payment please contact Finoula in the office.

### School Banking

Bendigo Bank School banking will be collected every Thursday from your child's Learning Community. Account opening forms are available on our website.

### School Excursions

Payment and consent for the CERES Excursion are due by Thursday June 1st. Payments and consent are completed through Compass. Please come and see us if you are having any difficulty in using Compass. Families who are eligible for CSEF (Camps, Sports and Excursion Funds), only need to submit their approval on Compass the payment will be deducted from their child's CSEF.

### 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.

### 2018 Enrolments

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



# Mernda Park PS Newsletter

## Parents & Friends Association

### Purpose Of Parent Clubs

Many government schools have a parent club. A parent club not only benefits students, but enriches and contributes to the wellbeing of the school community through positive interaction and support. The role of a parent club is to:

- provide support, in various forms, for the school, its students and community
- work in co-operation with the principal, staff and school council in building effective partnerships between home and school.

According to the Department of Education and training a parent club:

- is not a sub-committee of school council.
- has no formally prescribed powers or duties.

Parents and school staff are partners in children's education. By interacting with the school and other parents, parent club members gain a firsthand understanding of how schools operate and the rhythm of school life. Parents participating in a school's parent club can use, and build on, their skills and confidence, develop friendships and work collaboratively with other parents interested in supporting the school.

### Activities

Parent club members provide invaluable support and organisational input to the school in a number of ways, including:

- establishing valuable links between teachers and parents
- working in consultation and agreement with the principal
- organising information and welcome events for new students and parents at the school
- helping with other school events and functions, such as a fun run, book fair, organising second-hand book and uniform schemes
- organising fundraising activities
- helping to cater or work at fundraising activities

### Mothers' Day Stall

The Mother's Day Stall will be held on Thursday 11th May. Students will be invited to purchase gifts ranging from \$2.00—\$5.00.

### Mothers' Day Raffle

Tickets have been sent home this week for our Mother's day raffle. Prizes will be drawn on Friday 12th May.



### PFA Meeting

The next PFA Meeting will be held on Friday 19th May at 8.45am in the front conference room, everyone is welcome, your input and ideas would be valued and appreciated.