Monash School Newsletter

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www.monashps.act.edu.au

NEWSLETTER NO: 4 – 28 MARCH 2014

Dates to Remember

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 2 April</td>
<td>National Museum (Year 3 and 4) Teddy Bear’s Picnic (Kinder and Year 5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 3 April</td>
<td>Tuggeranong Swimming Carnival Last date for ICAS competition entry forms</td>
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<td>Friday, 4 April</td>
<td>AFL Clinics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, 5 April</td>
<td>Working Bee 9.00 am – 11.00 am</td>
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<td>Tuesday, 8 April</td>
<td>AFL Clinics</td>
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<td>Wednesday, 9 April</td>
<td>FFA Schools 5-a-side soccer Gala Day</td>
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<td>Friday 11 Friday</td>
<td>AFL Clinics End of Term Celebration</td>
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Notes Going Home This Week

P & C Fundraiser – Hot Cross Buns
Tuggeranong Swimming Carnival

Principal’s Message

Dear Parents and Carers

Today, our SRC facilitated a special assembly to commemorate ANZAC Day which will occur in the upcoming school holidays. It was wonderful to see the reverence in our students as we remembered our fallen war heroes. Also at our assembly today, many students were presented with ribbons recognising their efforts at our recent swimming carnival. Congratulations to all these students, some of whom will go on to represent Monash School in the upcoming Tuggeranong swimming carnival next Thursday.

I would like to congratulate our year 5/6 boys rugby league team who represented the school so well in the finals of the Mal Meninga Shield competition on Wednesday of this week. It was a great achievement by the team to reach the finals.

In recent weeks, our classes have been participating in the online dance programme “Every Chance to Dance”. This modern dance programme has been designed by Kulture Break and is in line with the Arts component of the Australian Curriculum. Students and teachers alike have been enjoying the programme so far.

Yesterday, our year 1 / 2 students enjoyed their excursion to Questacon. This excursion was linked to the current unit of work on ‘Water’. The students had a wonderful day and I would like to thank them for being such great representatives of Monash School.

Thanks to those parents/carers who completed the recent online survey regarding our proposed sensory garden. I am happy to confirm that this
project will proceed. Plans based on the feedback of the survey and the work of the parent committee are currently being designed. It is planned that construction in this area will commence next term and our students will soon have a wonderful new alternate outdoor learning area.

On Wednesday evening the P & C AGM was held. Thanks to the many parents/carers who attended especially to those who nominated themselves as office holders. I would like to congratulate Jess O’Meara who was voted in as President. There are a number of unfilled vacancies which will be advertised in the newsletter.

Finally, in staffing news I would like to announce that Belinda will be returning to Monash School after a short leadership stint at Isabella Plains Early Childhood School. Belinda will replace Katie as team leader of the 3 / 4 unit. Belinda will assume a teaching role previously filled by Katie in 3 /4 KM. The class will now be known as 3 / 4 BM. On behalf of the school, I would like to thank Katie for her contributions to our school and wish her well as she returns to her substantive position in the Curriculum section of the Education and Training Directorate.

I would like to thank all parents/ carers for their ongoing support.

Have a happy weekend.

Shane Carpenter
Principal

MONASH SCHOOL You Can Do It MOSAIC
When: Saturday 5 April 2014
Time: 9.00 am – 11.00 am
Where: Monash School
What to Bring: Any spare paint brushes, spray paint or drop sheets!

Goals
1. To prepare the wooden boards, ready for the children to commence their mosaic. This will involve painting the edges of each board with paint to seal it from the weather when hung.
2. Spray paint pre-prepared stencils onto the boards ready for the children to start their mosaic with their buddies.

Questions? Please call Kylie 62057555

ATTENTION VOLUNTEERS AT MONASH SCHOOL
If you would like to volunteer your time at Monash School please be aware that you will need to obtain a Working With Vulnerable People Card. Information and application form can be picked up from the Front Office. The completed form can then be lodged at the Government Shopfront with the cost of the card being free for parent/carer volunteers. We encourage all our volunteers to sign up for a card.

Preschool Unit News
The past two weeks have flown by for the Possums and Echidnas. We celebrated Harmony Day last Friday by creating 3D balloons and
discussing how we are different and how we are the same. We have been learning about healthy foods and different sorts of lunches. We also are looking at Australian Indigenous art to explore different mediums and develop respect for Indigenous Australians culture and traditions. The children have enjoyed threading the different colours during outside investigations. We aim to have the whole front verandah ablaze with beautiful threading by the end of the term. The next colours are brown and orange. We will do white and black next term if you could please continue bringing in patty pans or anything that can be threaded in these colours.

**Bimbi Unit News (Kinder)**

Kindergarten have been very busy this fortnight. Last week in our Maths groups we learnt about ordinal numbers. We explored this concept through a variety of different activities including participating in match box car races during Discovery Learning and through reading the story by Eric Carle “10 Little Rubber Ducks”. This week we have been exploring mass and capacity and have been comparing everyday objects to see which is lighter and heavier. We even used hefting (to lift something in order to judge or estimate its weight) to order the food in our lunch boxes from heaviest to lightest. Next week we will be learning how to use “counting on” as a strategy to solve addition problems.

We are continuing to have-a-go at writing every day and we are becoming more confident with writing our letters. This week we have learnt the sounds that z, ch, sh and th make and for the last two weeks of this term we will be revising all our initial sounds.

Last week we started our Every Chance to Dance Program in the hall, we will be continuing to do this on a Thursday afternoon for the rest of the term. We learnt how to clap and move to a repetitive beat.

Last Friday was Harmony Day and Kindergarten looked great in all their orange clothing.

We have started our new Science topic of seasonal changes in our environment. We have been documenting the weather each day and talking about how the weather and seasons effect what we wear.

**Yerra Unit News (1 / 2)**

**What We’re Learning**

**Reading**
We have been working on developing independent reading behaviours and building up our reading stamina, ready to start focus groups. We have become pretty good at Reading to Self and are now working on Writing About Reading and Reading to Someone Else. All assessment for Reading Focus Groups has been completed and teachers are working on getting these ready to go before the end of term.

**Writing**
Apart from thinking about Writing About Reading, we have been learning to Write to Inquire and have become more confident at asking questions. This ties in with our Science work where we have been asking questions about little creatures in our environment and how we use water. Writing Focus Groups have been organised based on the writing we have been doing and spelling inventories, and should be up and running in the next week.

**Maths**
In Maths we have been focusing on recognising and counting numbers and reviewing strategies for adding and subtracting. This week we have been completing assessment to measure how well we have been doing and what we need to focus on from here. Maths Focus Groups will be reorganised based on the outcome of the assessment and teacher observations.

**Science**
For Yerra Heights the Schoolyard Safari is almost over and we have learned a lot about the features of little creatures in our environment. We have started exploring How We Use Water and will be looking at the Water Cycle next, while Yerra will be finalising their learning about Water (for now) and starting to join the Safari. This week our Science work was celebrated with an excursion to Questacon, where we attended a performance about Water and explored all the great exhibitions.
Notes From the Teachers

We have had a great start to the year in Yerra, with lots of fabulous things happening in all the Home Group rooms. Just a reminder that Year 2 Maths Homework needs to be handed in on Tuesdays and will be sent out again on Thursdays – this gives us time to mark and assess progress. Please encourage children to bring their work in.

Home Readers should be read every day and changed regularly – although it doesn’t hurt to re-read something familiar and find a different way to respond to the text if the book hasn’t been changed.

Dulma Unit News (Year 3 / 4)

This is an exciting time of Term 1 for Dulma Unit as the students are now beginning to use the information explored over the past six weeks to complete their own Individual Research Projects (IRPs). Students have chosen an Australian who they find interesting or inspiring and for the remainder of this term will be creating a poster based on their Australian which answers the following focus questions:

- What are some key features of Australia’s landscape?
- What are Australia’s special days?
- Who has made a positive contribution to our community?
- Why do people come to Australia?

During IRP time, students in Dulma have also had the opportunity to look at some genuine ANZAC artefacts. The students were very sensible and engaged as they used protective gloves to examine various objects. We may have some keen future curators!

In Literacy, the year 3/4s have written some amazing narratives and we are now moving on to persuasive texts. Students are investigating the key features of persuasive texts and have enjoyed critiquing children’s advertisements.

Dulma Unit students (and teachers!) are looking forward to our excursion to the National Museum next Wednesday. Please remember to return permission slips to the front office ASAP.

Bural Unit News (Year 5 / 6)

It has been a busy, productive and exciting week in our 5/6 unit. We have been engaged in our Cooperative Reading programs, where students have started reading chapter books by authors such as Michelle Paver and Michael Morpurgo. During Cooperative Reading students have been learning about the Roles of the Reader. For example students might take on the Discussion Manager role where they need to keep their team talking about the text, direct discussion and provide support and encouragement. Students have been looking at SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Time-Bound) goals and have been rehearsing thick and thin questioning techniques. In the coming weeks students will be looking at the Investigator role and will begin formal Cooperative Reading sessions with their teams.

In Maths, students in Year 5 have been looking at creating formal algorithms for addition and subtraction, factors and multiples and three-dimensional shapes. In the coming weeks they will be looking at two-dimensional shapes and angles. In Year 6 we have refreshed our memory around formal algorithms and have looked at negative numbers and three dimensional shapes. In the coming weeks we will be looking at translations and angles. Both years have had a focus on mental computation, specifically the compensation strategy. The Compensation Strategy is a mental strategy used to solve problems such as 199+20.

Writing groups have been focused around the Narrative text type. They have been examining what makes writing engaging and have been looking at grammatical features to improve their writing. In the coming weeks students will be beginning to revise and publish their stories using both written and digital elements. Our Independent Research Projects have had a focus around research skills and students have learnt how to use Google, Britannica, the library and how to determine whether a website is useful. In the coming weeks students will be conducting their own research in preparation for the production of an information report on earthquakes.
We are looking forward to another fantastic week in 5/6.

**Winyu Unit News**

Last week the children in Winyu had a fantastic day at the Dream Cricket Gala Day. The students participated in a variety of gross motor tasks that challenged their hand-eye coordination with throwing and batting activities. The children represented Monash School in a positive way, as their behaviour was exceptional.

Dream Crickets aim is to ‘Maximise the quality of sporting experiences for primary school students with a disability’, ‘raise the standards of citizenship and behaviour through high expectations, discipline and enjoyment’ and ‘to provide a model for schools and communities in arranging similar activities’.

We would like to thank Rotary International, The Movement Disorder Foundation and the Bradman Foundation for organising this day for our students. We would also like to thank Mr Dave Gray for taking some photos on the day. The students are looking forward to using our new cricket kit that was donated to Winyu on the gala day.

It was great to see some Winyu students come dressed in orange for Harmony Day. The children enjoyed their sushi special lunch a lot.

A big thank you to all the families that were able to send in bikes and scooters for our wheels session on Ride to School Day. The children really enjoyed participating in the session.

Have a great weekend from everyone in Winyu!

**Library News**

**CHIEF MINISTER’S READING CHALLENGE**

It is great to see students borrowing books from the Chief Minister’s book list. The children have until 5th September to read twelve books. If you would like to check the list at home it can be accessed at [http://www.det.act.gov.au/teaching_and_learning/chief_ministers_reading_challenge/book_lists_and_forms](http://www.det.act.gov.au/teaching_and_learning/chief_ministers_reading_challenge/book_lists_and_forms). The students have a form that needs to be signed by a parent or teacher as they read each book. The completed forms are to be given to teachers.

**OVERDUE BOOKS**

As the end of term is fast approaching we are encouraging children to return any overdue books. Overdue reminder notices will be sent home with students next week. There are a number of good reasons for Returning books on the due date or before:

- It develops the children’s organisational skills (one of our YCDI values)
- It encourages regular reading
- It means that books are available for all students particularly the popular series.

**SPIKEY THE LIZARD**

The children have enjoyed watching Spikey eating and watching him shed the skin from his tail.

Veronica Melville and Margaret Brittan

**Dirt to Dish Kitchen News**

This week we have been continuing to work with dough, discussing various types of bread and its significance in food history & culture.
Bread has been a staple food in many countries for over a thousand years and is represented in many
different ways around the world, so it is of great significance in our kitchen at Monash as we are represented
with so many diverse cultures here!

During the week the classes have been making Paratha – a fried Indian flatbread usually served at breakfast
or dinner as a side to other dishes.

Our Paratha was stuffed with a mixture of cooked potato, cumin, mustard seeds, ginger and turmeric. It has
been very popular with almost everyone wanting seconds – including Mr Carpenter!

This involved us mixing & kneading a simple flour, water & oil dough, rolling it and frying it, as well as
“toasting” spices.

The Paratha was served with two dips – a refreshing cucumber and yoghurt Raita as well as a carrot,
coriander and yoghurt dip.

We will continue to work with dough next week and while I can’t give too much away – the children might
be very excited to make a popular “fast food” choice from scratch with healthy fresh ingredients….any
guesses?

This rain has been great news for the garden with our zucchinis starting to flower and bear crops as well as
our lettuce bed looking very healthy! We have planted peas, eggplants, kale and cabbage and look forward
to planting silverbeet, Chinese broccoli and beetroot over the coming weeks. Please feel free to come and
see the garden at any time and if you would like to help in any way, don’t hesitate to contact me.

Happy cooking everyone!
Jess

HOCKEY
A group of parents are organising a mixed school hockey team for the under 9 Hook Into Hockey
Competition run by Tuggeranong Vikings Hockey Club.
Who: boys or girls born in 2005 or 2006 (no hockey experience required).
When: Saturday mornings commencing 3 May
Where: Chisholm Playing Fields
How much: $60 for the season (hockey kits with a stick, shin guards, ball and carry bag were available for
approximately $30 last year).
If your child is interested, please contact Cathy or Rachael via the front office. Please let us know if you are
interested in helping with coaching as well. For more information about the competition go to
www.vikings.org.au

2013 INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS SCHOOLS (ICAS)
The UNSW will again conduct academic competitions for students in Years 3 to 6 this year. Below is a list
of the competitions being offered and the cost of each. It is very important to note that the closing date for
the registration of all competitions is Thursday, 3 April 2014. This will allow sufficient time for the school
and the university to complete the registrations. NO REGISTRATIONS AND MONEY WILL BE
ACCEPTED AFTER 3.30 PM ON THURSDAY, 3 APRIL 2014 as per UNSW requirements.

Please discuss the competitions with your child/children and complete the registration form
carefully. Please ensure that you circle the correct grade level so that the right exam papers are
ordered. Once the form is completed it can be forwarded with the money/cheque to the locked
box in the front foyer of the school. Please make cheques payable to Monash Primary School.
Entry includes admin/postage costs.
Thank you for your cooperation.

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<tr>
<th>Competition</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Competition Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Computer Skills</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
<td>Tuesday, 20 May</td>
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2014 International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS)
I wish to enter my child __________________________ of class ______ in the following competition/s and enclose payment for these (please tick the box below)

My child is in Year  3  4  5  6 (please circle)
If your child is in a composite class please indicate the grade level of your child.

☐ Computer Skills ($8.00)
☐ Science ($8.00)
☐ Writing ($17.00)
☐ Spelling ($11.00)
☐ English ($8.00)
☐ Mathematics ($8.00)
☐ All competitions ($60.00)
☐ I enclose total payment of $ __________

Parent/Guardian Name and Signature:

Nut Allergies
As you may be aware Monash School has a number of students who are allergic to nut products and if they were to come in to contact with these products, they could have a life threatening reaction. We are asking our school community to avoid sending in products that contain nuts.

School Grounds
Please note that bicycles and scooters are not to be ridden within the school grounds or school corridors. Thank you.

School Rule

“At Monash Primary School we all try to keep ourselves and others safe and happy”

P & C NEWS

The P&C AGM was held this week and it was fantastic to see so many in attendees and particularly a number of new faces.

Firstly a big thank you to the outgoing committee for the roles they have undertaken over the past year. Thanks also to all those who contributed, in many ways, to the activities of the P&C over the past year. It was a great year and I hope that we are able to continue to build on these achievements over the next year.

The elected committee is as follows:
President: Jessica  
Vice President: Belinda and Karen  
Treasurer: Rachael  
Public Officer: Lisa  
Preschool Sub-Committee Chair: Leanda  
School Representative: Principal (or their delegate)  
General Committee Members: Liz and Kerryn

These positions, (with the addition of Secretary and Canteen Sub-Committee Chair) are your elected P & C Office Bearers and General Committee Members.

In addition we also have the roles of:

Pre-school Sub-Committee Treasurer: Kristy  
Pre-school fundraising Coordinator: Natalie and Kimalee  
Pre-School Sub-committee ordinary Member: Kellie  
Canteen Sub-Committee Ordinary Member: Eleanor  
Fundraising Coordinating Team: Cathy, Mel, Amber, Natalie, AnneMaree

Big thanks to all these people for the commitment they have made.

There are a number of positions we are still looking to fill:

- Secretary  
- Canteen Sub-Committee Chair  
- Canteen Sub-Committee Treasurer  
- Canteen Sub-Committee Secretary  
- P&C Council Delegate  
- Fete Coordinator

If you would like further information on any of these roles please contact Jess at monash_pandc@hotmail.com.

A Special General Meeting will be held at 3.00 pm on Friday 4 April to provide the opportunity to consider nominations and undertake elections to these positions. All are welcome to attend this meeting, to be held in the Community Hub. Please note nominations can be received via email up until 11.00 am Friday 4 April or provided in person at the meeting.

In addition to the formal roles outlined above the P&C is always very welcoming of anyone able to assist. Key areas we are currently seeking assistance with are:

- **Grants Writing** – Grants are available throughout the year and are a great way to raise additional funds to support P&C activities. However to access these grants we need help to monitor for grants and then work in consultation with the P&C Committee to complete the required applications. If this sounds like something you might be interested in we would love to hear from you.

- **Sports Liaison** – The P & C support a number of after school, Monash School sporting teams, such as: Netball and Tee Ball. The P & C is looking for someone to liaise with each team, 3 to 4 times a year, to
identify needs and issues (e.g. sporting equipment, insurance etc). The Sports Liaison will then work in consultation with the P & C to prioritise and address the needs and issues of our sporting teams.

Of course if you would like to help out with the P&C but aren’t exactly sure in what capacity, I encourage you to contact a Committee Member. There are always plenty of ways to help out and sometimes we don’t even realise the help we need until someone offers their skills.

Please remember that the P&C is in place to represent the views and issues of our parent and citizen community and to work together to support our school. The best way the P&C Committee is able to do this is by hearing from you on the issues you feel are important.

At any time you are welcome to provide feedback, raise issues or ask questions of any Committee Member or via email to the P & C email address monash_pandc@hotmail.com.

Next term the P&C is trialling a change of meeting time to Monday 7.00 pm, to be held in the Community Hub. The next P&C meeting will be held Monday 12 May. All parents and citizens of the Monash School Community are invited to attend meetings to raise issues and ideas and participate in discussion.

**Canteen News**

**Flexischools online lunch ordering** is now available for you to order your school lunches. Register now and make an order this term to go in the draw to win a Nutrimetics Pamper Pack!!! It’s free to register and extremely easy to do. Logon to flexischools.com.au and follow the prompts! There is absolutely no charges by us to use this service, there is only a small 25c charge by flexischools.

**Did you know?** We make fresh mini muffins everyday…… yummo!

**Harmony Day Special Lunch** Hot Dogs and Sushi was as great treat and enjoyed by all. Well done to those who gave sushi a try! Thank you to our parent volunteers: Kahly, Rachael Norris, Tonia, Diane and Annie for your help on the day to help make it such a success!

**Hot Cross Buns Fundraiser** will be available to order online on flexischools.com.au – make sure you register asap.

**Canteen Committee** members are needed! We need parents to join a committee of parents to add input to the running of the canteen. Please contact Veronica if you can help in a position as **Secretary** (takes minutes and organises meetings twice per term), **Treasurer** (pays bills and reconciles accounts), **Chairperson** (reports to PandC meetings).

**Canteen Roster**

**Mon 31st** – Gill  
**Tues 1st April** – help needed  
**Wed 2nd** - Rachael  
**Thurs 3rd** – Lynn  
**Fri 4th** – Diane

**Mon 7th** – Jo  
**Tues 8th** – Eleanor  
**Wed 9th** - Rachael  
**Thurs 10th** – Julie  
**Fri 11th** – Pia

To be added to the roster or for roster changes please contact Veronica at monashpscanteen@outlook.com

**School Uniforms**

School uniforms are available from Savvy School & Formal Wear, Shop 32, Homeworld, Soward Way, Tuggeranong. For any enquiries, please phone Savvy on 6293 4342. All Monash parents receive 10% off
uniform purchases. Bomber jackets are unavailable at the moment – notification will be given when they become available.

**SCHOOL BANKING**

Why not join in the fun at your school!! School Banking has begun and will operate each Friday, except the last day of term. Please bring completed bank books to the Front Office.

**COMMUNITY NOTICES**

Canberra PCYC presents Bluelight Disco on Saturday 5 April, 5pm - 7pm.
PCYC Erindale Centre Grattan Court Wanniassa
Ph:62961292 or email: bluelight@pcyc.net.au.
Kids are encouraged to dress up and this event is designed for Primary School kids with a strict no drug and alcohol event. Younger Siblings are welcome. $5 entry

**Kidsoccer Holiday Clinics and winter programs**

Registrations are now open for Kidsoccer’s April holiday programs. We run skills based, age appropriate programs for 3 to 12 year olds. Our emphasis is on fun, participation, fun, development, and did we mention - fun!

Visit our web page - kidsfc.com.au – and click on the program link for all the details. A fantastic 35% discount is available if you register before 8th April.

Whilst you are looking at our website, check out our winter program – special early bird discounts also apply if you register before 18th April. Our program caters for the very beginner through to the more
experienced player, and we take kids as young as 3! It is a great way to keep your kids fit and active and improve their skills. Kidsoccer – it’s just more Fun.

The School, its staff and the Territory are not aware of, and make no representation as to, the truth or accuracy of the information provided in advertisements/community notices appearing in this publication. Readers should make their own enquiries in relation to the information.”