Dear Parents and Carers

It’s been another exciting and busy week at Monash School as children settle back into the school year and routine. It was wonderful to have an opportunity to meet families at this week’s information evening and discuss the exciting learning opportunities that Monash will be embarking on this year.

Congratulations to those senior students who have been elected as school and house captains. These roles present valuable leadership opportunities for our students who will now have the added responsibility to be great role models for all other students. Students will be presented with their badges at an assembly on Friday, 27 February at 9.15 am. Parents of students receiving badges will be notified as a courtesy reminder.

It has been wonderful to see so many entry nominations coming in for our annual swimming carnival to be held at Tuggeranong Pool on Thursday 26 February. A reminder that all students attending this day need to be competent swimmers and that lessons will continue as normal at school for those students not attending the carnival.

A focus for Monash this year will be the introduction of inquiry learning and units of inquiry across the school as a core component of the curriculum. This work builds upon the Independent Research Project and Play-Based Learning approach previously utilised at Monash and will continue to encourage our students to be active participants in their learning. The inquiry-based approach allows us to carefully meet the learning needs of students, while aligning with the requirements set by the Australian Curriculum.

Units of inquiry concentrate on significant content that recognises the student’s cultural perspectives, their prior knowledge and identities and support student understanding, skills and knowledge in a range of Key Learning Areas (KLA) including Science, History, Geography, Technology, The Arts, Language and Health and Physical Education and align with the Australian Curriculum.

Teaching teams will work collaboratively to develop units of inquiry to provide our students with learning and understanding that is significant, relevant, engaging and challenging and reflects the importance of current world issues such as climate change, the world economy, conflict and Indigenous issues, as well as covering our rich Australian history, our scientific, artistic and sporting endeavours and achievements.
Every 6 to 8 weeks each grade level will begin a new unit of inquiry that will focus on a core concept and include key questions to explore. As a part of the inquiry process students participate in a range of ‘tuning in and finding out’ activities including attending excursions, listening to guest speakers, watching videos, reading information, looking at photos and other relevant resources. Within inquiry learning students are both problem posers and problem solvers working collaboratively with their teacher in the learning process.

A core part of all units of inquiry is family and community involvement. In the coming weeks as we introduce the units of inquiry to classes we will be encouraging students to discuss them with families at home. We welcome parent and community involvement in the development of curriculum at Monash Primary School and look forward to working with you as we embark on this exciting journey.

The Australian Curriculum v7.3 can be accessed online at [http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au](http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au)

Have a great weekend everybody.

**Renee Berry**  
**Deputy Principal**

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**Chicken Pox**

There has been a reported case of Chicken Pox in Yerra Unit (1/2). Information regarding Chicken Pox is attached with the newsletter email.

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**KINDER HEALTH SCREENING**

The Child, Youth & Women’s Health Program, ACT Health is offering a health check for all Kindergarten children in the ACT. The 2015 health check includes vision, hearing, growth (height and weight) and development.

All Kinder students have received a Health Screening information pack this week. This assessment is designed to identify health issues early, to allow for appropriate referral and intervention. The program is committed to the ongoing development of a coordinated and collaborative approach to care by liaising with the school and parents to ensure each child is given the opportunity to reach their potential.

**Please return all questionnaires to the Front Office by Monday, 2 March 2015 at the latest.**

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**2015 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 **Friday, 3 April 2015**. 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 FRIDAY, 3 APRIL 2015** 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competition</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Competition Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Digital Technology</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
<td>Tuesday, 19 May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
<td>Wednesday, 3 June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject</td>
<td>Fee</td>
<td>Date</td>
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<td>-------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>$17.00</td>
<td>Monday, 15 June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>$11.00</td>
<td>Tuesday, 16 June</td>
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<td>English</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
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<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
<td>Tuesday, 11 August</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$60.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**2015 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: ________________________________

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**Mr D’s Sports Report**

Netball ACT will be running clinics on Monday 16 and 23 February for Kindergarten to Year 6 and will provide plans for our staff to continue the program for the next four weeks.

We are also doing Jump Rope for Heart this year. If you are able to provide your child a jump rope so they can practise their skills at home as well as at school, it will assist us to have a fantastic Jump Off Day in Term 3.

Mr Nixon, our Rugby Union coach, and Ms Libbis, our Rugby League coach, have already commenced preparations with the students for the upcoming Matt Gitaue Cup and Sullivan Shield competitions. In addition we are preparing for our lunchtime Buroinjin competition which will begin next week.

**Tad Dufelmeier**  
Sports Coordinator

**Bimbi Unit News (Kinder)**

Kindergarten have had a fantastic start to the year and are settling into being at school every day. Each class have been getting to know each other through a range of hands on activities and have had the chance to meet all three Kindergarten teachers through afternoon art lessons.

During our literacy block in the morning we have learnt the letters s, a, t, p, i, n, m and d and their corresponding sounds.
We have been doing a terrific job identifying words with that sound as well as coming up with words of our own. In KB children have been drawing some fantastic pictures of words beginning with our daily sounds!

Each class has been focusing on a big book each week and have been completing lots of early reading and writing activities. In KC children made their own cat from the big book ‘Ratty Tatty Cat’.

If you would like to consolidate the sounds and high frequency words with your child/ren at home there are applications for iPads/iPhones that we use in class that are educational and lots of fun! Letter School is an application to help with your child’s letter and number formation and is $6.99. Eggy Words is an application to identify and spell high frequency words and is free.

In Maths we have been identifying and counting numbers one to ten. We have been learning lots of hands on counting games to consolidate our learning. In KM children counted how many letters were in their name and made a graph to show how many students had the same amount of letters. Next week we will be learning about mass and capacity by comparing containers and objects.

Guided Reading will begin next week, students will begin to develop early reading strategies such as one-to-one correspondence, recognising high frequency words and begin to use their letter/sound knowledge to blend.

Home readers will also begin next week. Each day your child will be given a book to read at home. We welcome parent/carer helpers to change home readers each morning. If you would like to help please talk to your child’s classroom teacher.

Cooking groups started this week and we had two Kindergarten groups make corn fritters on Monday and Tuesday. The children had a great time and can’t wait to go again next week. Throughout the year all students will get an opportunity to cook in the kitchen once a week for a term.
Reminder: Commencing next Monday morning Kindergarten children will line up at meet and greet on the senior basketball courts with the rest of the school at 9:00am.

Lauren, Brett, Jillian Coulthart, Laura Mackinnon, and Denise McMahon
Kylie Smith (Team Leader)

Yerra Unit News (1 / 2)

Year 1/2 students have had a busy, fun and happy start to 2015! All the teachers are impressed with the positive attitude and energy that the students have brought to their learning, and the kindness and inclusiveness shown as new friendships are formed.

Weeks 1 and 2 have focussed on building relationships between students and teachers, and making sure everyone feels like they belong in the Yerra Unit. As a Unit, we have created rules, played PE games and learnt new songs. In home groups, we have been thinking a lot about our school values, and about how to be a good friend.

Reading groups began this week, and students have been learning new games and activities. Writing lessons have been taking place in home groups, and we have focussed on reviewing sentence structure and punctuation, and learning how to write within the lines of our new books. Maths groups also began this week. Year 1 students reviewed numbers up to 20 and Year 2 students looked at numbers up to 100. Next week, Year 1 students will be looking at solving addition problems and Year 2 students will be doing addition and subtraction problems.

The first assembly of the year will be hosted by 1/2RF, 1/2P and 1/2KF on 13 March (Friday Week 6). Parents and carers are invited to come along and see the students introduce a new school value. We look forward to seeing you there!

Roe Audsley, Karen Farrell, Rhiannon Freckelton, Jane Mahar, Dianne Peios, Alex Taylor and Carol Mongan.
Kylie Smith (Team Leader)

Dulma Unit News (Year 3 / 4)

3/4 have been busy settling into the new year. We have spent the past 2 weeks in our home groups getting to know each other and finding out each other’s interests, likes and strengths. We would like to welcome the new students who have joined 3/4 and hope they are feeling settled in the Monash community.

During home group time we have completed resources to make our own Maths folder. These resources will help us with various mathematical strategies throughout the year. We have created some beautiful self-portraits and artworks in our classrooms that are now up on display. During writing we have retold some memorable events from our holidays and are beginning narrative writing.

This week we began cros class reading groups. Teachers have really enjoyed interacting with children from across the 3/4 unit.

Thank you for being organised and prompt in returning book packs. If you have any questions about the book packs or items on the list please see your child’s home group teacher. A reminder that homework will begin in week 3. This includes reading every night at home and completing Mathletics tasks.

Dannielle Carney, Tessa Dorman, Jess Du Rieu, Natasha Ecimovic, Laloma Ware, Lorraine Wile, Julie Scerri and Michelle Cartwright.
Ben Smith (Team Leader)
Bural Unit News (Year 5 / 6)

2015 has got off to a flying start for Year 5/6!

It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces to start the school year. During week one, students engaged in a number of unit, class and team building activities. During the first week all students wrote and presented a speech. Many students gave a speech in the hopes of becoming SRC members, School Captains and House captains/vice-captains. We would like to congratulate all students who presented a speech. The students of 5/6 displayed wonderful commitment to writing their speeches and showed great confidence in presenting their speech.

As we entered our second week of school the 5/6 unit had many different learning opportunities available to them. Students have begun their Maths and Writing groups. For the next 6 weeks students are focussing on persuasive writing. We have looked at the structure of persuasive writing and investigated the language features including persuasive devices.

Students have started their Maths groups by learning about place value, looking at numbers in the millions. We have also begun our Inquiry unit on “War and Conflict”. Students began by examining artefacts, songs, images and poetry from World War 1. Students began “wondering” about these items to question what they may have been used for.

We look forward to a great year ahead!

Hayley Gannon, Mikaela Logan, Dominic Nixon, Hebe Petkovic and Renata Russell-Jones
Kylie Libbis (Team Leader)

Winyu Unit News

Welcome to Winyu for 2015! We have had a wonderful start to the year and are exploring lots of new topics and are building on the things we learned last year. We have started off our new inquiry unit of ‘Space’ and we are working all together as whole unit for this learning area. Ms Burgess arrived in the classroom dressed as an astronaut and the children were delighted with the ‘astronaut visit’. This stimulated very exciting discussion about space and the students came up with some very interesting questions for our wonderings wall. For example, they have thought about space and its connection to Earth, what astronauts do in space and the big question— “what is space?”

During our literacy blocks we are working on our Snap words and we are becoming really good at them! We practise our spelling every day and read to our teachers, friends and ourselves. We are also working hard to learn the letters of the alphabet and the sounds of each letter.

In Numerary the whole unit is working on number. Students are developing their recognition of numbers, their ability to count to back and forth as well as count by 2s, 5s and 10s. We are also working on our counting skills and practise counting and adding different amounts of objects each day.

We would like to ask if possible, could each child please bring in a paint smock (a large old shirt) to wear when we are painting and letting our creative juices flow as we would like to keep our uniforms clean! We are having such a lovely time in Winyu and we cannot wait for more fun times and exciting learning adventures in the future!

Kerry Burgess, Shannon Nuzum, Cath Croxford, Glenda Johnson, Louise Rapson and Jodie Shipway.
Shannon Nuzum (Team Leader)
**Japanese News**

こんにちは！ Konnichiwa! はじめまして！ Hajimemashite! Hello, and pleased to meet you!

It has been a great week as Japanese classes kicked off. I am thrilled to be teaching Japanese at Monash School. I am quite familiar with the school having done a fair amount of relief here over the last two years. Please let me introduce myself a little. I studied Japanese and Asian Studies at university. During that time I lived in Japan for three years. After returning to Australia to complete my Diploma of Education I then went to China, and lived there for seven years. Culture and language has always interested me, and it is great to be living back in Australia in a position where I can share what I have learnt, both academically and through experience, with young minds. My Japanese teaching is based on the Draft Australian Curriculum: Languages – Japanese and on my own teaching experiences, both abroad and in Australia.

This week in Japanese all year levels had an introduction to the Japanese room and our class routines, such as taking the roll in Japanese, and starting the class with a Japanese-style greeting and bow as is customary in Japan. We also imagined what it would feel like to be in Japan through watching a short video of sights, and discussed what we had seen and heard. Students were excited about how it must be (or how it is, for those students who have been to Japan) to visit Japan.

Next week all year levels will be learning classroom language, such as “please give me the pen”, “sit-down” and so on. Senior students will also be learning some emotive words such as “keep trying!” and “wow”, so they can make comments in Japanese during class. These activities are aimed at supporting students to understand classroom Japanese, and use classroom Japanese with myself and with each other, as soon as possible.

This week there has been no homework. Japanese homework will begin next week.

じゃまた らいしゅう！
Ja mata raishuu!

See you next week!

**Kleine Sensei**

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**Dirt to Dish Kitchen News**

Welcome back to Dirt to Dish news for 2015!

I'm amazed at how grown up everyone is after the holidays, must be all the quality cooking going on at home!!

It’s great to have everyone back in the Monash kitchen ready to learn some new skills this year. Last year was so much fun getting to know you all and seeing what amazing things we could achieve together in the wonderful Kitchen & Garden environments at Monash School.

We were blessed with an abundance of rain and sunshine over the summer break and as a result our summer crops have done really well.

At the moment you may see our tomato jungle if you are walking past the garden, it is bursting with 4 different varieties of tomato, but we also had success with our eggplants which are starting to flower and our sweet corn, which is absolutely beautiful. For that very reason I have decided to kick the year off with a repeat of a popular recipe from 2014 – Corn Fritters.

This easy, tasty snack can go from breakfast to lunch as well as a side dish, a snack or even as a lunch box filler. The sweet corn can be substituted for any other vegetable meaning you can tailor it to your taste buds!

We have discussed the origin of corn and some of its uses besides just being delicious on its own.

As the weeks of term 1 fly by, we will be looking towards planting our winter crops and using up the bountiful harvest from our summer veggies.
Keep your eyes out for information about market stalls in the coming weeks.

Fridge quote for week 2:

“You can’t always make everybody happy. After all, you’re not a jar of Nutella”. Happy cooking.

Jess Schroder

"Hub Happenings"

**Breakfast club** will be held on Monday and Tuesdays from 8.15 am to 8.50 am. We encourage students, parents/carers to attend this event and enjoy sharing a meal together. Breakfast club is open to all students to provide a healthy start to the day, parents/carers always welcome. If you would like to be a part of the breakfast volunteer team I would love to hear from you.

**Playgroup** will occur on each Tuesday from 9.30 am to 11.30 am. Everyone is welcome! A relaxed atmosphere where children play and create while parents connect with others and enjoy a cuppa. Gold coin donation and please bring along a piece of fruit to share for children's morning tea.

**Relay for life.** This year Monash School and community have a Relay For Life Team. We would love more team members to join in. Children are welcome. You can walk, run or hop your way around the AIS track to raise money for the Cancer Council. Registration is only $25 which provides you with a shirt, entry and a hot breakfast. Our name is Monash Community Guys and Dolls. To register hop on line to [www.relayforlife.org.au](http://www.relayforlife.org.au). This is a fantastic event and one close to many hearts.

Virginia Martin
Hub coordinator

**SUPA Club**

SUPA club is starting up again next Friday 21 February. All students from K-6 are welcome to join us each Friday lunchtime in the after school care room for games, crafts and to learn about God from the Bible. Students need a signed permission form to be able to attend. For more information and the permission form, please see the attachment to this newsletter. Alternatively, students will be able to pick up a form at our first SUPA club of the year. We are looking forward to seeing those keen to try SUPA Club, next Friday, when the playtime bell goes at 11.15am.

SUPA Club leaders - Kellie, Cath, Carla and Sarah.

**P & C NEWS**

**CANTEEN NEWS**

Hello everybody. I’d just like to introduce myself to those of you who don’t know me. My name is Rachael Norris and I’ve just taken over the role of canteen manager at the beginning of this term. I have two children attending Monash, Sarah who’s in year 3 and Angus in year 2. I’m hoping to continue the good work of all our previous canteen managers and to keep our menu as healthy as possible.
This term’s menu is the same as the Term 4 menu from last year. The only changes that I’ve made are that we will no longer charge for paper bags and there will no longer be a charge of $0.50 for toasting sandwiches. I will be making changes to the menu for Term 2 and a new menu will be distributed before the end of Term 1. If you have any suggestions, please feel free to pass them on.

I am introducing “treat Fridays”. A one-off treat item will be available for purchase, along with all of the normal snacks every Friday. The treat item will change every Friday and will only be available on Fridays. This item will be advertised on the canteen notice board, just outside the canteen and mentioned during the week at the ‘meet and greet’. Today I have been selling Valentine’s Day biscuits and chocolates. Next Friday I will be selling ‘Rainbow jelly’ in cups.

The canteen is run by myself on behalf of the P & C in order to raise funds for the school. In order for us to keep our costs low, we do rely heavily on help from our wonderful volunteers. The times when I need most help are between 9:00 am and 12:00 noon. This is the time slot in which we have to prepare the lunches for serving at 11:00 am and then to serve snacks to the children during their lunch hour. If you are available to help on any day, I would really like to hear from you. We also need volunteers on our “special lunch order” days. There will be 2 special order days each term this year and we quite regularly serve up in excess of 200 lunches on these days. As you can imagine we need all the help we can get on these days. I will announce the dates for these in next week’s newsletter.

Finally, we are starting a new initiative this term with the year 5/6 unit. Pupils from the unit will be helping serve in the canteen at afternoon recess. The pupils have had to submit ‘job applications’ to their teachers for their position in the canteen. I’m sure you’ll agree that this is a great opportunity for the students to gain experience in dealing with money, customers and learning to take responsibility.

Rachael Norris,
Canteen Manager

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. Wke encourage all our volunteers to sign up for a card.

Please remember to carry your Working With Vulnerable People Card with you if you are volunteering in the school.

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”

SCHOOL UNIFORMS

School uniforms are available from Savvy School & Formal Wear, Shop 32, Home world, Sward Way, Tuggeranong. For any enquiries, please phone Savvy on 6293 4342. All Monash parents receive 10% off uniform purchases.
SCHOOL BANKING

The School Banking program provides children with an opportunity to make deposits into their personal Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account at school each week. The program is about how often your child makes deposits, not how much they deposit.

For every deposit made at school, no matter how big or small, students will receive a cool Dollarmites token. Once students have individually collected 10 tokens they can redeem them for these exclusive School Banking reward items in recognition of their continued savings behaviour. Remember our school earns 5% commission on every deposit made (to a maximum of $10 per individual deposit).

School Banking day is Friday – so please remember to hand your completed bank books in to the front office before school.

If your children are not currently involved in the School Banking program and you would like to know more, please ask for a 2015 School Banking program Information Pack from the School office. All Kinder students should have received an information pack on becoming part of the banking program.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB

Scholastic Book Clubs operate eight times a year and offers a convenient way for your child to select and purchase worthwhile and appealing books. Simply select books your child would like and fill in the Order Form on the back page (remember to fill in child's name and class). Return the order together, with payment, to the Front Office by the closing date.

Please note – there is now only one Scholastic Book Club pamphlet per year level/s.

Please remember the following:

- **PAYMENTS FOR BOOK CLUB MUST BE SENT TO THE FRONT OFFICE**
- Cheques must be made out to “Scholastic” (one cheque for the whole family will do). A credit card facility is available for ORDERS OF ANY AMOUNT (one credit card payment for all orders)
- Orders should be in a sealed envelope with your child’s name and class listed
- **Orders must be back by 20 February 2015.**

Many thanks for your support as our school library benefits from your orders.

Suzan Visentin, Book Club Coordinator

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Canberra City Cheerleading, the longest running and most awarded cheerleading club in Canberra, offers cheerleaders of all ages the opportunity to compete at State and National competitions, in high-energy routines made up of stunts, gymnastics tumbling and dance. For further information on the club email ccc.feemanagement@gmail.com or visit www.canberracitycheer.com

Jacinda Stewart

Valleys Hockey Club's Registration Saturday 14 February from 10.00 am - 2.00 pm. Tuggeranong Hockey Centre, Soward Way Greenway. Returning and new players from U7's to U18's are most welcome
For information or later registrations contact Annette Wallington 0408350511 or wallou2@bigpond.com

Annette Wallington
Junior Convenor
If you’re aged between 5 to 14 years old and want to play footy in 2015 then...

In 2015 the Tuggeranong Lions continue our ongoing commitment to provide the boys and girls of Tuggeranong and surrounding areas with a family oriented, friendly, and fun Aussie Rules footy environment. If you’re looking for a great experience this winter, meeting new friends and learning new skills then visit our website.

For information on the 2015 season including registration, training times and fees visit our website or contact us.
web: www.tuggeranonglionsjafc.affswact.com.au
email: tuggeranonglionspresident@gmail.com
mob: 0437 470 582 (Sean)

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