



Monash School

Monash School Newsletter



ACT
Government
Education and Training

Kinder to Yr 6 Office
Preschool

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Dates to Remember

(subject to change)

Tuesday, 4 August	Year 6 Band Practice (at Monash)
Wednesday, 5 August	Term Overviews for each unit
Thursday, 6 August	Bural (Yr5/6) and Winyu Unit excursion to Reptile Zoo
Friday, 7 August	Piano/Guitar Recital 2.00 pm
Tuesday, 11 August	ICAS Mathematics
Wednesday, 12 August	Satisfaction Survey
Friday, 14 August	Assembly (3/4TD, 3/4C) – Care & Compassion
Tuesday, 28 August	Birrigai Camp Wakakirri Rehearsal and Performance
Wednesday, 29 August	Birrigai Camp
Thursday, 27 August	Tuggeranong Athletics Carnival

Notes Going Home This Week

Birrigai Camp Clothing and Food Allergy note
Cooba Camp Permission notes

Deputy's Message

Dear Parents and Carers

Have you been wondering about Chromebooks. We were very pleased to see a large number of parents attend our workshop on Tuesday night led by Mikaela and Ben. The workshop provided an overview of how the 5/6 team has been utilising this technology in the classroom to support varied learning opportunities and how parents can utilise it at home to engage in their child's learning. It was great to see parents engaging with the technology and participating in some of the hand on experiences.

Chromebooks provide a great digital platform for children to develop 21st century thinking skills. In today's newsletter a brief overview Google Chromebooks and Google Apps has been included for your information. We look forward to continuing to utilise this technology at Monash and integrating it into the 3/4 unit shortly. I would also like to thank Lori for presenting at the information session and discussing the use from a parent's perspective.

Parental Engagement Survey

Parental engagement is of great importance to us here at Monash and as a part of the "Progressing Parental Engagement in the ACT" Project, Monash School will be working with the Education and Training Directorate to trial a new parental engagement survey. This survey is an ACT first, and utilises research undertaken by the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth. The survey will provide us with important information and strategies about ways in which we can enhance and strengthen parental engagement and partnerships at Monash. Further details about the survey and how you can participate will be provided on Monday when the link becomes live.

Our Inquiry wonderings...

Our inquiry learning continues to be in full swing with classes currently working through different stages of each of their inquiry unit. At the assembly today 1/2KF and 1/2RF presented classes with their recent learning about emotions and created a great class movie to display them.

The 3/4 classes are currently in the '*going further*' and '*taking action*' phase of their inquiry unit and have begun to create and plan sustainable gardens. It was great to talk to some of the students about their learning.

Avari: "I've learnt that water tanks can be used to support sustainable gardens as they wasted rain water."

Amber: "I've learnt how to make a garden sustainable by reusing some old resources like old tyres, wood and tiles."

Ben: "I learnt that a greenhouse protects the plants, and helps the plants grow."

Chandhana: "I've learnt that the trees provide natural shade and oxygen and support a sustainable garden."

I'm looking forward to hearing more from the 3/4 students about how we can ensure we are a school environment that promotes and utilises sustainable practises.

I am also looking forward to the upcoming piano/guitar recital next Friday at 2.00 pm. This assembly will showcase all the children involved in the piano and guitar lessons held at Monash. We welcome parents to come along and join us for this assembly.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Ella who recently received a place in the ACT finals for rostrum. We wish her all the best and congratulate her on this great achievement.

Renee Berry
Deputy Principal

Google Apps

Monash School have invested in Chromebooks. We currently have 60 Chromebooks available in the 5/6 unit and we are beginning the roll-out of 60 Chromebooks into the 3/4 unit. Chromebooks were chosen at Monash because they integrate with Google Apps for Education, they are fast and update automatically.

Google Apps for Education is a set of powerful online applications; Classroom, Gmail, Drive, Calendar, Docs, Sheets, Slides and Sites.

These tools are used to enhance engagement, collaboration and feedback within the classroom.

The ACT Education Directorate has signed up every student in the ACT to a Google Apps for Education account. Permission notes have been sent out to all students in Year 3 - 6. Once the permission form is signed, students can access Google Apps for Education from any device with the internet.

Students can access their Google Apps for Education account by visiting www.backpack.act.edu.au and logging on with their ID and password.

PRESCHOOL NEWS

Joeys

Based on children's interest this fortnight we have been learning about different kinds of transport. Children have identified the different types of transport they take to school including driving in a car or truck and walking. This information has been recorded pictorially and presented on our class display board. Children have also been given various opportunities to participate in art activities including creating aeroplanes from wooden pegs and paddle pop sticks, mosaic traffic lights and paper plate buses and boats. In addition to improving children's fine motor skills they are also learning about specific terminology related to each type of transport for example learning about what a propeller on a plane does.

A racetrack station has also been created for children to explore imaginary play. In addition to making up their own games children are encouraged to make an estimate of how many unifix cubes long they think the

track is. Other areas of imaginary play include Lego, box and train track construction. The children are also learning various transportation songs including 'We are all flying', 'We are all driving', 'Vroom Vroom and Red Light Stop'.



Possums and Echidnas

The Possums and Echidnas have settled into the term beautifully. What difference a rest makes! Currently we are learning about money and where money comes from? Why we need money? How do you get money? The children are very interested in the different types of coins. Trying to explain why \$2 is made smaller than \$1 but has a higher currency has proved challenging! Both groups have been spending a lot of time in the home corner. It is a beautiful fairy land, with dress ups, fairies, puppet theatre and a big castle!

"I'm dressed as a princess. But even without the dress, I was still a princess." Karla- Possums.

Our inquiry unit this term is focused around sustainability. We are currently learning about recycling and how rubbish affects our earth. The children have picked up very quickly why certain items are recyclable and why it is important for our earth to recycle. We will move onto healthy eating and finish the term with farm life and where our food comes from. Portfolios will continue going home with either Elsa-Billie or Chewy. After receiving your child's report you may want to set up a time to chat with myself, if so please don't hesitate to organise a time with me in the morning or afternoon drop off, or call the preschool during school hours. The children have also been learning about Japanese culture. They have loved talking about the different types of fillings in sushi and the traditional clothing worn by Japanese people.



**Amelia Doering, Sandra Levitski, Margaret Brittan and Soon Lien Mynott
Renee Berry (Team Leader)**

Bimbi Unit News (Kinder)



Kindergarten had a very exciting start to Term 3 as we celebrated our 100th day at school last Friday. We were so impressed with the amount of effort that had been put into costumes. From robots to aliens everyone looked amazing! Throughout the day the



festivities included a fashion parade, party games and writing about our favourite part of school. During numeracy all our activities involved the number 100. A big thank you to the parents and carers for all the wonderful healthy food that was sent in for the Kindergarten students. Students went home feeling very full.

In Literacy KC and KB have explored the 'gr' blend and KM have been exploring the 'bossy e' sound through a range of big books and during our Guided Reading sessions. During recount writing we have started to add more detail into our writing. We have been looking at ensuring we have included the 'who', 'what', where', 'when' and 'why' into our sentences.

Last week in numeracy Kindergarten explored 2D shapes. We took a closer look at the octagon, pentagon and hexagon. Students identified the number of sides and corners of a range of 2D shapes and we explored straight and curved shapes. Students also started to read the 2D shape names. This week students have been introduced to 'equality' and have looked at making picture groups using the language 'is the same as' and 'is equal to'. Next week's focus for numeracy will be investigating growing patterns. Students will have the opportunity to determine rules for pictorial growing patterns and relate growing patterns to numbers. Kindergarten will also be focusing on skip counting by 2's and 5's.

Next Friday Kindergarten will begin participating in an Active Sports Leaders program which will run every second Friday throughout the term. Year 6 students run a range of sports programs for our Kindergarten students on the oval.

Just a reminder that hats will be on again for students as of Monday next week.

Yerra Unit News (1/2)

Term 3 is off to a good start with the students settled and working well. It is great to see everyone so keen to immerse themselves in the curriculum.

We would like to welcome Lyndsay to 1/2A for the next four weeks. Lyndsay is a student teacher at the University of Canberra and is in her final placement. We are sure that she will enjoy being part of the Yerra team and she has already made great connections with the students.

The assembly today by 1/2KF and 1/2RF was wonderful and the new value of 'Persistence' was introduced very well. Congratulations!

The Yerra teachers would like to thank all the parents who attended and were so positive during the parent teacher meetings last week. It is always good to catch up and chat about how your child is progressing at school.

In Maths last week the year one students and year two students focused on comparing, ordering and sequencing two and three digit numbers respectively. This week the year ones have been learning about place value with tens and ones, reading and writing teen numbers, and counting on and off the decade. The year twos have been exploring, investigating and constructing patterns.

In literacy we have been continuing with writing procedures as a text type. This unit in writing will be assessed in week four. The students are continuing with their work in reading rotations and also focusing on a big book for shared reading experiences.

Our inquiry unit of work, 'Calm Cool Kids' is nearing completion and the students will be starting a new Science/ Geography topic in week five this term. The students have enjoyed talking about different feelings and understanding triggers and coping strategies for their emotions.

Please label all clothing especially as the inside temperature is much warmer than outside and students are regularly removing jumpers to adapt to different temperatures around the school.

If you are interested in helping the teachers out with changing readers for the 1/2 classes please approach your child's home room teacher so we can discuss days that best suit you. Thank you to those parents who continue to provide us with assistance.

Dulma Unit News (Year 3 / 4)

Welcome back to Term 3! Dulma has had a busy couple of weeks working hard in the classroom. In writing, students are beginning to write their own information reports on a range of topics from animals to countries. They will have the opportunity to share what they have learnt about on their chosen topic. Students are continuing to participate in guided reading or co-operative reading group and reading to the teacher regularly. In Mathematics, students are continuing with B.U.I.L.D rotations, focusing on the topics of decimals and place value and time.

Our Inquiry Unit is coming to an end and students are finalising their sustainable gardens that they have been creating. Students are currently writing speeches on 'why their garden is sustainable and why they have used certain materials in their garden'. We encourage you to have a discussion with your child at home about their garden.

For students who are participating in our homework program, a reminder that homework will be going out this week. Students are also reminded to change their home readers before and after school to ensure they are completing this part of their homework grid.

The roll out of chromebooks in the 3 /4 area is about to commence. Thank you to all parents who attended Tuesday night's hands-on presentation and information session. Just a friendly reminder that if you have not returned your child's permission form and you want your child to be able to use the chromebooks, you need to sign the form and return it to the front office as soon as possible.

Camp is fast approaching (Week 5, Tuesday 18 - Wednesday 19 August). Thank you to everyone who has returned consent notes and payments. Another note went home this week regarding things to bring and food allergies. If you would still like your child to attend camp please return all notes and money promptly.

Bural Unit News (Year 5 / 6)

Welcome back to Term 3!

This term our inquiry unit is: "Survival of the Fittest". This is a science based unit with a focus on how plants and animals adapt to their environment. More information about this unit can be found in the Year 5/6 Term Overview. This inquiry unit will begin with an excursion to the Canberra Reptile Zoo next week.

In Maths students have been learning about time and timetables. Students have learnt about analogue and digital clocks, 12 and 24-hour, reading and interpreting timetables.

Students are also continuing to focus on addition, subtraction, multiplication and division strategies. Students are learning about a range of strategies and continuing to develop their understanding of choosing the most efficient strategy to solve number problems.

In Literacy, students are continuing to write with the purpose of informing. We are continuing to focus on writing information reports looking at the writing process planning, drafting, conferring, revising and publishing. A continued focus for the next two weeks is understanding that when we write we, write to an audience and it is essential to have an understanding of who that audience is.

This term we have introduced spelling journals to consolidate students understanding of spelling strategies. Students' spelling words are derived from their current spelling phase, words they have spelt incorrectly in their writing, interest based words and topic based words.

This week information and permission notes about Camp Cooba were given to students who had previously returned the expression of interest form. We encourage everyone to begin returning these notes and payment as soon as they can.

Our Wakakirri performance, 'iFriend', is on Tuesday night, 18 August!!! Only 3 weeks away! Ticket sales through the school have now closed, however tickets can still be purchased directly through the Canberra Theatre. We have performed several dress rehearsals and the students are looking amazing! The Kindies and Year 1/2's have watched our performance and enjoyed our story. We will be doing more performances for

the rest of the school throughout the next few weeks. A note will be going home next week regarding drop-off and pick up times for performers on the night of 18 August.

Winyu Unit News

The Winyu children have made an excellent start to the term. We have been busy getting our new Inquiry Learning Unit up and running. Our 'Watch It Grow!' unit provides opportunities for the children to learn about the growth of living things. They will explore how living things grow and change through their lifecycle and will use our science lab dramatic play area to use microscopes and magnifying glasses to investigate living and non-living things from the playground.

The children really surprised us with their current knowledge and came up with some interesting 'Wonderings' to explore throughout our unit. Some of their 'wonderings' are:

I wonder.....

-if a butterfly grows?
-if a baby can grow up into a grown up?
-how babies are born?
-if a tree grows from a little seed?
-how the rain makes things grow?
-how a chicken gets out of a tiny egg?

As part of our 'Watch it Grow' inquiry we are going to the Canberra Reptile Zoo with Year 5/6 on Thursday, 6 August. Please be sure to get your child's permission note and payment returned as soon as possible.

As part of our literacy program, Winyu children are participating in Guided Reading groups across the unit. Each group explores an appropriate levelled book on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and the children complete tasks related to their text. Many of these texts relate directly to our inquiry unit 'Watch it Grow!'.

In Social skills we are continuing to learn about the school values. We are currently looking at care and compassion as well as developing the skills to control anger. This week the children watched a short movie about coping with the feeling of anger. They learned that, '*It is ok to be mad but it is not okay to be mean*'. We talked about strategies to cope when feeling angry for example pounding playdough or hitting a pillow or drawing a picture. Please take the time to discuss strategies that you use to control your anger with your child at home and how you show care and compassion in your daily life.

Japanese

こんにちは！ **Konnichiwa! (Hello!)**

We've had an excellent start to the new term. From now on I'd like to introduce a couple of words or phrases in the newsletter which you can practice with your child or children at home. Most of the words this week your child/ren will already know, with one new one.

- おはよう！ Ohayou! Good morning!
- こんにちは！ Konnichiwa! Hello!
- じゃまた！ Ja mata! See you!

Enjoy!

クラインせんせい

Kleine Sensei

