**Dates to Remember**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Events</th>
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| Monday, 27 October | Year 5/6 Camp to Cooba  
Swimming Lessons begin  
Kulture Break Dance lessons |
| Tuesday, 28 October | Year 5/6 Camp to Cooba  
Swimming Lessons  
Preschool Farm excursion  
Lanyon Homestead 1/2A and 1/2W |
| Wednesday, 29 October | Year 5/6 Camp to Cooba  
Swimming Lessons  
Kulture Break Dance lessons  
Preschool 2015 Information Night 6.30 pm |
| Thursday, 30 October | Preschool Farm excursion  
Swimming Lessons |
| Friday, 31 October  | Swimming Lessons |
| Sunday, 9 November  | Working Bee – planting in the Sensory Garden |

**Notes Going Home Last Week**

- **Overviews**
- **Stationery lists** (due 5 December 2014)

**Principal’s Message**

Dear Parents and Carers

Today we were treated to another wonderful assembly performance by our fantastic Year 1 / 2 students. The assembly introduced our new school focus value of “Organisation”. Well done to the students and their teachers for **organising** such an entertaining event. Thanks also to the many parents and relatives who attended.

This week our Preschool students have participated in the annual “obstacathon” event. Students and teachers alike really enjoyed this event which serves as a terrific fundraising opportunity for our Preschool. The exact amount raised should be known within the next two weeks.

Our Kindergarten students have been busy this week completing their final PIPS assessments for 2014. This core assessment tracks progress in key learning areas from February through to October. Results will be made available to parents/carers in Week 8.

Executive staff are at present busy finalising 2015 class
formations. This process has involved input from students, parents/carers and 2014 teaching staff. Our aim is to make these lists publicly available at the end of Week 6 in preparation for our transition process.

Yesterday, some of our 1/2 students visited Lanyon Homestead as part of their current history unit. All reports indicate that a wonderful time was had by all despite the weather. Next week, 1/2A and 1/2W will have their chance to participate in this wonderful excursion.

Stationery lists for 2015 were handed out to students this week. Please ensure that completed lists are handed to the front office by 5 December if paying by credit card or cheque. Stationery lists can also be purchased online and should also be completed by 5 December. Packs can be picked up on 22 January 2015 from 2.00 – 4.00 pm from the school.

I am pleased to announce that our new school car park will be open for the first time next week. This area will provide approximately 20 additional parking spaces and should certainly ease the congestion during the afternoon pickup period. I encourage parents/carers to still also utilise the pickup zone are the front of the school. This zone will continue to be monitored by staff.

Next Monday swimming lessons will commence for students in Kinder to Year 3. Please check the information sheet to ensure that your children have the necessary requirements. A reminder that parents/carers are welcome to visit the Lakeside Leisure Centre at Tuggeranong to watch their children participating in the lessons. Information regarding session times was sent home with students yesterday.

Next Wednesday night at 6.30 pm we will be holding our annual Preschool Information Night. This session provides parents of students commencing in 2015 with opportunity to meet staff and learn about some of the important routines in the Preschool schedule.

Following months of anticipation and excitement our Year 5/6 students will embark on their long awaited camp at Cooba next Monday. Please remember that all students who are attending this camp need to be at school by 7.45 am. A reminder note of camp requirements was sent home last week and is attached to this newsletter.

Finally, I would like to remind families about our working bee on Sunday, 9 November from 10.00 am to 12.30 pm. This community event is designed to plant the shrubs and trees in our Outdoor Learning Area prior to the onset of the hot summer weather. Hopefully, the plants will have time to establish in readiness for the opening of the area at the beginning of the 2015 school year.

Have a great weekend everybody.

Shane Carpenter
Principal

**Arrival at School**

Please ensure students arrive at school each morning as close as possible to 8.50 am unless they are going to Breakfast Club. We are concerned that quite a number of students are arriving at school from 8.00 am onwards. It is important to note that no formal supervision for students is provided before 8.50 am.

**Deputy Principal’s Brief**

School Refusal

With a major event like school camp coming up for our students in years 5 and 6, it is timely to have a quick look at a topic that most parents encounter at some point during their child’s school years: school refusal. Most children are occasionally reluctant to go to school or have some anxiety about activities like school camp. It is normal for children to miss some days of school during the year. School refusal is a more persistent problem that might be characterised by some of the following signs:
• tearfulness before school or repeated pleas to stay at home
• tantrums, clinginess, dawdling or running away before school
• frequent complaints of illness before or during school, such as stomach aches, headaches, dizziness or fatigue
• difficulty attending school after weekends, holidays, school camps or sports days
• long, unexplained absences from school
• periodic absences or missed classes for which no explanation is given
• frequent lateness to school
• long periods spent in the sick bay or principal’s office.

There are lots of reasons why a child might refuse school, and pinpointing the cause can be difficult. Often there are a number of factors that contribute to a child’s non-attendance. It is important to understand and address underlying issues when supporting children to return to school or attend consistently. The following factors might be involved in school refusal:
• anxiety about social situations or activities that involve a performance or evaluation, such as sports days, speaking in front of the class or tests
• anxiety around being separated from significant parents or carers
• academic problems or learning difficulties
• peer issues, such as social isolation, bullying or conflict with friends
• difficulty or conflict with teachers
• traumatic events, such as family illness, grief or parental separation/divorce
• difficulties with transition, such as moving to a new school, returning to school after a long absence due to illness or entering/exiting

We use a variety of strategies to reduce and manage school refusal based on each individual child and their needs. If school refusal is something that you are experiencing with your child, please do not hesitate to make contact with us so that we can work with you to support your child.

LIBRARY NEWS

e-books and audio books
All students at Monash Primary will have received a card with log on details for borrowing e-books and audio books through the library catalogue. Please keep these details in a secure place. Please ensure that you place a “0” at the beginning of the ID number, when the cards were generated this number dropped off. The log on will not work without this number at the beginning. The instructions were sent out with the newsletter on 26 September. If you have any issues please drop into the library or email me.

Children’s Book Council of Australia ACT Branch- Children’s Week Competition
The Children’s Book Council of Australia ACT branch is running a competition for Children’s Week. The competition involves the children taking a photo of their favourite reading spot with the CBCA logo sitting in the spot, and writing about why it is their favourite spot and their favourite Australian book. The winner receives a book and books for their school library. Details of the competition are at http://act.cbca.org.au/competitions.

HAPPY READING!
On Wednesday we had a visit from Liz McPherson from the Sydney Thunder Cricket Team and she also brought ACT Meteor and New Zealand International, Sarah McGlashan to Monash. They came to promote the MILO T20 Blast GIRLS ONLY program that started on Wednesday 22 October to our 3 to 6 female students. This program will introduce girls to real games of cricket in the T20 format in a fun, inclusive and action packed environment where they can build and develop their skill. Hopefully some of our girl students will participate in the MILO T20 Blast.

Our Kindergarten to year 2 students have been learning how to jump rope for the first few weeks of Term 4 and will continue to work on those skills for a few weeks. It would be good if all the students at Monash had a jumping rope at home to work on their jumping rope skills.

The Year 3 to 6 students have been working on their hockey skills in modified games to build on skills learnt last term. We will continue to do that for the next couple of weeks before we move on to cricket.

The 5/6 lunchtime basketball competition continues to be very popular. As the competition has progressed it has been great to see how the skills of the players have improved.

Mr D
PE Teacher

PRESCHOOL
Joeys and Koalas

We welcome our new student Matthew to the Koala group.

Joeys and Koalas have had a fun start to the term with the “Hatching Chicks Program” in the Possum and Echidna room and baby magpies in the Joey and Koala room. We learnt about the way magpies collect all they find to make a nest including fishing line, bailing twine and eight gage wire! These things can be lethal when they get their foot caught in them in the nest, a good reason not to litter! The children enjoyed watching the birds get fed every half hour for the first week and every hour during the second week. They have now gone to a Wildcarer with a larger aviary where they will learn to eat for themselves and fly before being released.

Interests and activities this fortnight have also included an outside curtain/ stage and dress-ups, building a wooden cubby, making magpies and echidnas in box construction, investigating snail after the rain, painting rocks, making aeroplanes at the woodwork bench, decorating potatoes to make ‘potato people’ and of course going around and around the “Obstaclathon” course for our fundraiser.

Possums and Echidnas

The term has begun with a flying start!

We have been privileged to have had 10 baby chicks with us the past two weeks. We have watched them hatch out of their shells and grow extremely quickly!

The “Obstaclathon” saw most of the children complete 8 or more laps of the course. We were very proud of all their efforts and thank you for the parents who volunteered and who also stayed and encouraged their children around the course.

The Farm Yard Nursery excursion is next week on Tuesday and Thursday. Volunteers are needed so please see your child’s teacher if you can come along. No siblings please.
Our home corner this term is a beautiful fairy tale land with dress ups, tepee, castle, stories and beautiful fairy and Knight toys. Feel free to come in and have a look.

The children are currently learning about the life cycle of a chicken, different farm animals, bugs and their features, numbers to 100, letters of the alphabet and words that begin with certain letters and they are still getting great enjoyment out of the new Avenger toys.

Kindergarten transitions are starting soon so it is a good idea to start having conversations with your child/ren about what they can expect next year. This will build their resilience and start conversations happening at Preschool amongst the children which will help them to process this exciting change in their education.

**Bimbi Unit News (Kinder)**

We have had a busy start to Term 4. Kindergarten was so excited to see the new road for our bikes in the fenced area on the first day back and the children have been having a great time riding around in this area. We began NRL clinics on Monday and Kindergarten enjoyed learning new skills.

In Numeracy we have been focusing on addition and subtraction and in Literacy we have all been reading “The Magic Hat”. We have been working on oral and written retells of books we have been reading. In our literacy groups we are working on long and short vowels.

Just a reminder that swimming starts next week on Monday. An information note has gone out this week. With the weather warming up can you please ensure your child has a bucket or wide brimmed hat and a water bottle.

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

Students in 1/2 have started the term on a busy note, continuing with persuasive writing in writing groups and designing their own menus and voting campaigns. They have also been watching Behind the News and discussing their point of view on various topics.

Year One maths groups have been learning about chance and the likelihood of certain events occurring. Students are familiarising themselves with chance and probability language, such as certain, likely, unlikely, highly unlikely and impossible.

Year Two maths groups have been learning about 3D shapes and position. The children have been engaged in rotations and playing the game “find the treasure”. This games requires children to be blindfolded while their classmates are directing them to the treasure. A very fun game enjoyed by all.

1/2D, 1/2P and 1/2M visited Lanyon Homestead as part of our History unit yesterday. The students had the opportunity to learn about life during the 1800’s and compare it to life today. It was very interesting to see how people lived a long time ago, including the food they ate and the houses they lived in. As a group we all discussed technology today and how difficult times may have been for others. We had a fantastic time and know that 1/2A and 1/2W will enjoy their experience on Tuesday 28 October (Week 3).

To finish Week 2, all students in Year 1/2 presented a fantastic performance at the assembly today. For weeks the children have been putting together TV ads and learning a fabulous dance routine. All of the teachers are extremely pleased with the effort made by the students!
**Dulma Unit News (Year 3 / 4)**

Dulma unit has started Term 4 with a bang, jumping head first into our Geography immersion, exploring the big question “Is Water a Finite Resource?”

The students are enjoying researching “Wetlands”, “The Great Barrier Reef”, “The Murray Darling Basin” and “Water in Africa” and are creating some amazing artwork in response to their immersion.

In Numeracy this week Year 3 students are continuing to explore fractions and are strengthening their understandings of equivalence. Year 4 students are consolidating their understandings of time, calculating durations and applying their knowledge of time to solve problems. In mental computation Year 4 are expanding their strategies for division through the use of factors and partitioning.

Last week Year 4 were exploring volume through a range of hands on experiences as illustrated in the photo.

This term our writing focus is descriptive texts and students are exploring the power of rich descriptive language to create mental images to engage the reader.

A reminder to our Year 3 students who have opted for swimming lessons this year that lessons begin on Monday. Make sure you come to school with your swimming gear and don’t forget to bring a plastic bag to put your wet things in.

**Bural Unit News (Year 5 / 6)**

5/6 has had a wonderful start to Term 4, everyone came back from the holidays with a big smile and ready to learn!

All students have been working hard in writing groups and are producing some wonderful free verse poems to share with the unit. During Maths Groups the Year 6 students have been working on percentages, decimals and fractions and the Year 5 students have been working on data displays and fractions. We have started Geography immersion for their IRP topic this term. The students are highly motivated, researching information about Asia, North America and Europe and have been discovering some interesting facts.

Year 6 have started to organise their graduation and are learning some new songs and dance moves to impress their parents on the big day. Year 6 students are also reminded to continue working on their memoirs at home and are encouraged to bring in a baby photo for use during the ceremony.

Year 5/6 are heading off on camp next week and we couldn’t be more excited about it. The teachers have packed their bags and are ready to go! Students are reminded to pack their lunch and recess for Monday as we will be busy travelling and having fun. We advise that students pack an extra pair of shoes and clothes that can get dirty as some of the activities planned require them to get down and dirty in some mud and water!

There will be no homework going home this week due to camp and that it will go out on Thursday of Week 3.

A reminder that lessons will continue at school for students not attending camp.

**Winyu Unit News**

The children were all happy to be back at school after the holidays and they excitedly shared their holiday news with their classmates, drew pictures and wrote their own recounts.
This term we will start our new mathematics topics. Winyu N will be doing ‘Shape and Pattern’ and Winyu B will be doing ‘Introduction to Fractions’. There are photos of Shyanna’s and Logan’s fraction work below.

In Literacy we are continuing with learning our initial and end sounds as well as spelling three letter single sound words. The children are also learning to spell their sight words and the older children have been introduced to the third set of 100 MagicWords. We now have 300 Magic Sight Words that we will be learning in Winyu.

In Discovery we are continuing with our very popular art unit. This fortnight we have concentrated on using different media to create art works. The children created a spring painting and a monster blob painting. They were so proud of their artworks, particularly their monster artworks.

We have continued with our Kulture Break dance lessons on Mondays and the children have improved with their ability to follow and remember the steps. We are so excited about how much they have improved since last year. The children have started to bring in their costumes for the concert. Thank you for being so organised.

Swimming lessons start next week on Monday. The children will need to come dressed in their swimmers under their school uniforms and have spare underwear as well as goggles, towels and plastic bags for wet clothes. Winyu B will be swimming from 12:00 pm to 1:15 pm each day and Winyu N will be swimming from 12:35 pm to 1:45 pm. A reminder letter has gone home in the reading folders this week. On the back there is also information about the ‘Safety and Survival Skills’ component of swimming.

Finally, children are coming to school without their hats. We are a SunSmart school and all children are required to wear a hat on the playground. Please ensure your child has a hat in their bag.

**Dirt to Dish Kitchen News**

This week we have been embracing the magical ingredient that is cheese!

The children learnt that cheese was invented as a way to preserve all the extra milk that can be produced from keeping livestock such as cows, sheep and goats. Before refrigeration, farmers/families would turn any
leftover milk into a variety of cheeses as a way of preserving the milk so it could be enjoyed for months to follow.

Cheese is not only delicious, but is also a wonderful source of protein for strong muscles and calcium for healthy bones.

We have made delicious pea, feta and ricotta fritters which are light, healthy and make a great protein-rich snack that can be enjoyed hot or cold (and go really well in lunchboxes!).

Green peas are starting to flourish in our school garden so we discussed how peas are harvested commercially and why they are one of the great success stories of the food industry. Did you know that as soon as peas are picked from the vine, their natural sugars begin to break down and turn to starch? Meaning they begin to taste floury and lose all that lovely sweetness.

Commercially grown peas are snap-frozen (usually within half an hour of being picked) and as such, none of their sweetness or nutritional value is lost in the process. So the peas in your freezer at home are the best quality you can get – apart from growing your own of course!

You can substitute a wide variety of vegetables in the recipe – play around with different flavours or try adding different types of cheese.

Parents – these fritters are a fantastic (slightly sneaky) way of getting your children to try different vegetables as well as eggs and cheese which are both great for their growing bodies.

Happy Cooking everyone!

"Hub Happenings"

This week we have enjoyed scrambled eggs on toast for breakfast club. Eggs were kindly supplied by one of the school parents and cooked on the Hubs newly installed oven. Students really enjoyed their treat, it almost felt like a mini restaurant.

During playgroup last week we decided to make something bright to pretty up the outside of the Hub. We made some flower bags. Everyone helped to put soil in the handbags and plant the flowers. We hung them up and the children watered them. The children loved them I think the adults did too.

This coming Tuesday 28 October from 9.30 am to 11.00 am the Hub has been invited to take part in a research project that aims to improve our understanding of parent engagement and school communities in the A.C.T. They are interested to find out some of your thoughts about parent engagement. This is a great opportunity and I encourage you to come along. A yummy morning tea will also be supplied.

Friday 21 November is our first Pj's pizza family games night. Cost will be $8 per family. This is going to be one fun night. Please put your names down at the front office.

The Monash Primary dream team is part of the Canberra community sleep out to help the homeless in partnership with Communities@Work and St Vincent de Paul. There is a Facebook page created for this sleepout where you can join the team or donate towards the cause or both. The sleepout is on Friday 14 November.

Every night in Canberra, nearly 2,000 people are homeless, giving our city the second highest rate of homelessness in all of Australia. Sadly, many Canberrans who seek emergency housing are unable to find accommodation.

By curling up in our sleeping bags for one night, we can create greater awareness of this issue and raise
much needed funds to change the lives of those who are currently experiencing homelessness in our community and assist those at risk of becoming homeless. If you would like to join the team but your having trouble joining please let me know.

Hub coordinator

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.

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”

THE ENTERTAINMENT BOOK!

Please return this book if you still have one at home. Thank you.

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

School Banking operates each Friday, except the last day of term. Please bring completed bank books to the Front Office.

Small Boxes

If you have any small boxes at home ready for recycling please consider bringing them in to Kindergarten. Please do not send in toilet rolls.

Many thanks