Dear Parents/Carers

Week 3 has been another productive and busy week at Monash School. It has been very pleasing to observe the children settling into their routines in their new classes. Staff have been busy preparing, engaging and challenging work for the students.

All students have been provided with forms so that their parents/carers can confirm times for parent/teacher interviews in Week 5 (2 March to 5 March). I urge all parents/carers to take the opportunity to meet with staff and discuss children’s learning goals and their start to 2015. Please ensure that the confirmation forms are returned to the front office as soon as possible so that you are able to secure a suitable timeslot.
Next Thursday, our annual swimming carnival will occur at Tuggeranong Lakeside Leisure Centre commencing at 9.30 am. I encourage all interested parents/carers to attend. Mr Smith, the coordinator of this event, would be very grateful if any parents are able to assist on the day.

Please note that on Monday next week the voting process for our new School Board will commence. Information on the voting process is included later in this newsletter. I encourage all parents/carers to vote given the crucial role that the School Board plays in the strategic direction of our school.

This morning Ms Berry and I were pleased to host the first Principal’s Morning Tea for 2015. These celebrations occur every fortnight and provide us with an opportunity to recognise the hard work and commitment of those students who have been nominated by their teachers.

Next Friday we will be conducting our first whole school assembly for 2015. This assembly will provide us with an opportunity to recognise those students who have been elected to leadership positions for 2015. Students who have been voted as School Captains and Vice Captains, House Captains and Vice House Captains and SRC members will all be presented with their badges at this assembly. Parents, as always, are welcome to attend this assembly which will commence at 9.15 am.

Have a great weekend everybody.

Shane Carpenter
Principal

**Deputy’s Message – ‘Just Wondering’**

Have you been wondering about your child’s ‘Unit of Inquiry’ this term? Teachers have been busily developing each Inquiry Unit for term one and will commence their Unit of Inquiry shortly. Each inquiry at Monash Primary strives to develop student capacities to:

- manage themselves as people and as learners;
- understand the world in which they live; and
- participate effectively in that world

… so that they can become lifelong learners, build strong communities and build a future that is innovative and sustainable.

A core part of each inquiry are students own ‘wonderings’. In your child’s Term 1 Unit Overview sent home today there is more information about the line of Inquiry and the essential questions that students will explore across the term. We encourage you to ask your child… ‘what are you wondering….’ about the Unit of Inquiry that they will be exploring. This provides a great opportunity for you and your child/ren to share their thoughts, ideas, understandings and perspective about the Unit. Remember there isn’t a ‘right’ answer to the questions – the key to great ‘wonderings’ are providing the opportunity for your child/ren to develop their own understandings as they delve into the unit.

Renee Berry
Deputy Principal

**MONASH SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS**

We have received three nominations for parent representative on the School Board of Monash Primary School. An election will be required to vote in two parent representatives to the School Board.

Voting will be held by ballot on each school day beginning Monday, 23 February 2015 at 11.00 am and concluding on Monday, 2 March 2015 at 11.00 am. Those eligible to vote are parents/carers of students at the school including teachers who are a parent or guardian; or a member of the Parents and Citizens' Association of the school; or a person of 18 years or more, resident in the area, who has requested that his/her name be entered on a roll maintained by the Principal.

Ballot papers are available from the Assistant Returning Officer (Front Office). A person may vote only once in the ballot at an election and have their name crossed off the School Register. Please tick one box
only for the person you are electing then place the completed ballot paper in the envelope provided and hand in at the Front Office.

Suzan Visentin
Assistant Returning Officer

**Head Lice**

We have had cases of head lice in Winyu and Dulma Units. Information has been sent home with students in these units. Please check your child’s hair and, if necessary, please treat. Thank you for your assistance.

**Library News**

It has been a busy and exciting start to the year in the library.

**Library Lovers’ Day**

Saturday 14 February was Library Lovers’ Day and we celebrated last week by creating a wall of hearts saying what we love about our library, with borrowing books and reading featuring on many hearts. We also had a lucky borrowers draw with 2 very happy borrowers receiving goodie bags. On Friday Lori was our guest storyteller sharing the adventures of Nanny Piggins with the students.

**Library Bags**

It is important that all students have a library bag to protect the books from damage in their school bags. This week we have lost 3 books to water damage. The bags can be shopping bags. Please label the bags so that they can be easily returned if mislaid.

**Helping in the library**

Thank you to all the parents who have assisted with covering books. I will continue to collect names people of interested in helping with this task, however at this stage there are no new books ready for covering.

**Encyclopaedia Britannica**

This year Monash School has continued our subscription to Britannica School, an online encyclopaedia to assist the children with researching topics of interest and for their projects. The children are able to choose a reading level that matches their reading level and includes features such as read aloud and a dictionary to assist with unknown words in text. Children will be using Britannica School during library and class times to assist with research. There is a letter with the log on details attached to the newsletter.

**eBooks and Audio books**

The Education Department has set up and supplied the e-books and audio books for ACT government schools. The students are able to access e-books and audio books from both school and home. They are able to borrow 5 items and will have access to them for 2 weeks. There are detailed instructions recently updated by staff from Information and Knowledge Services attached, that will step you through the process. For the audio books the students will need the Overdrive App that can be downloaded for free and for anyone under 13 they can choose the “I’m under 13” option. If there are any issues please email or contact the library and I get back to you with a solution. The Digital Backpack has been updated and students will log onto it and then just click on the Oliver icon without having to log in a second time. New students will receive a card with their log on details next week.

Happy reading!

Veronica Melville and Margaret Brittan
“Hub Happenings”

Last week we had a great attendance for our first breakfast club of 2015, it was good to see new and old faces and hear about all the holiday adventures.

Breakfast club would love more volunteers to join our team, if you are able to help please let me know.

Breakfast club: Mondays and Tuesdays 8.15 am to 8.55 am

Fitness group: Mondays 9.30 am, this week we will be going on a brisk walk through Monash.

Playgroup: Tuesdays 9.30 am to 11.30 am. Great fun for children and relaxing atmosphere for parents/carers a chance to connect with other with other parents. Gold coin donation and please bring a piece of fruit to share.

Up coming events

Mother/carer and daughter movie, nails and baking night.
Friday, 20 March  6.00 pm
This is going to be one fun night. Please put your names down at the front office.

Easter book fair.
Monday 23 to Friday 27 February in the Hub. This is a great opportunity to purchase some Easter gifts.

Relay For Life - wear Purple day.
Friday 27 March. This day is to raise money for the Cancer Council by wearing the colour purple and bringing a gold coin donation.
We also have a Relay for life team. If you would like to join, hop on line, our team name is Monash Community Guys and Dolls.

Goodwin Village Easter visit.
Wednesday, 1 April from 10.30 am to 11.30 am. If you would like to volunteer to bake something or help in the morning, please let me know.

One year celebration and fund raiser block party for the Hub.
Friday 8 May 3.30 pm to 7.00 pm.
There will be various stalls and entertainment and it’s on the Mother’s Day weekend. Good opportunity to maybe buy a gift from one of our many stalls.
If you would like to be involved or have a stall let me know.

Virginia Martin
Hub coordinator

P & C News

Canteen News
Today's special Friday treat was Bulla mini fruit yoghurt sticks and for next Friday, I am planning on serving animal melons (water melon cut into various animal shapes). If any of you have any ideas for the Friday snack specials, I would be glad to hear from you. The snack specials need to meet the requirements of the healthy eating traffic light system, i.e. they need to be green or amber. I will be finalising the date for our first special meal deal this week and will be giving you the details of this in next week’s newsletter.

As always if you find you have a few hours to spare we are always looking for volunteers for our morning rush period 9:00 am - 12:00 noon.
Towards the end of last week ten of our year 5/6 students started serving in the canteen at recess. So far it has proved to be a great success. A big thanks to all the students who are involved in the program and keep up the good work.

Rachael Norris  
Canteen Manager

Second Hand Clothing Pool
The pool will be running every Monday of the school term out of the Monash Family Hub. Opening hours are 8.30am to 9.30am. We have range of brand new and second hand t-shirts, jumpers, skorts, shorts and dresses. New items are $5 and second hand items are $2.

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. There are 2 new items to come in Term 2 as well!

Remember our school earns 5% commission on every deposit made (to a maximum of $10 per individual deposit).

To encourage regular savings behaviour the program offers an exciting Rewards Program. Every deposit earns your child a Dollarmites token, and once they’ve collected 10 tokens they can redeem them for a reward.

The rewards items available during 2015 are:

- ET DVD, released Term 1
- Planet Handball, released Term 1
- Invisible Ink Martian Pen, released Term 2
- Intergalactic Rocket, released Term 2
- Glow-in-the-Dark Solar System, released Term 3
- Cosmic Light Beam Torch, released Term 3
- Outer Space Savers Money Box, released Term 4
- Lunar Light Band, released Term 4

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.

Sue Visentin  
Student Banking Coordinator

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.
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