Principal’s Message

Dear Parents and Carers

It’s hard to believe that we have already reached the end of school week six; the term is certainly flying by with so many things happening in our busy school!

Our five 1/ 2 classes put on a wonderful show in their assembly this morning and introduced us to a new focus value. In what only could be described as a dance and drama spectacular, what it means to be resilient was illustrated in various ways through movement and song. Congratulations Yerra!

Thank you to all parents and carers that have set aside time to make an appointment and meet with your child’s home group teacher over the past week. The idea of these interviews is to inform you about how the school year has started for your child both socially and academically as well as flag any early concerns through our Interim Report. These interviews will continue into next week and I would like to encourage anyone that hasn’t had the opportunity to meet their child’s home group teacher to make an appointment to do so.

We have a number of events and celebrations coming up on our school calendar. I would like to draw your attention to Harmony Day or Bullying No Way Day as it is otherwise commonly referred to. Our SRC have organised for us to celebrate the day (Friday 21 March) by dressing in orange to raise awareness around taking action against violence. Veronica in the canteen has also organised a special lunch to coincide with the
celebration. Please encourage your child/ren to wear something orange on the day in support.

We are also taking part in National Ride to School Day on Wednesday, 19 March. Students are encouraged to ride their bikes and scooters to school. There will be a number of rotations for children who have ridden to school to take part in directly after meet and greet on that morning. We encourage as many students as are able to take part. Children are reminded to return permission notes to their home group teacher and also to wear the appropriate safety equipment.

Plans are underway for the development of a ‘sensory garden’ on the Bimbi Unit side of our playground, an area that is currently not utilised by staff and students at school. A committee has been formed and have been working closely with Shane Carpenter in discussion and design for what would best suit the needs of our children. We are seeking ideas and feedback around what should be included through an online survey. A link to the online survey can be found on our school Facebook page or you can type the following into your web browser: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=W_2bFqEoXyOluKYSabyrdjVQ_3d_3d

The survey will only take a few minutes and your thoughts and feedback would be very much appreciated as we make plans for the garden.

Congratulations to our 3/4 and 5/6 Rugby League 7-a-side teams that represented Monash on Wednesday. There was plenty of success on the field, but many comments from onlookers about the sportsperson like way our children handled themselves throughout the day. Thank you to the staff and parent helper/super coaches who made this experience possible for our students.

Finally, there have been some concerned looking faces entering the front office area of the school in the last day or so. Please be assured that Spikey the lizard still resides at Monash, he has just relocated to the Gadi Building (library) to free up some front office space. Spikey would love to see his regular visitors before meet and greet each day!

Thank you for your ongoing support. Enjoy your weekend!

Andrew Buesnel
Deputy Principal

Monash School Board Report

Welcome to our first board report for 2014. Firstly I would like to thank Mark and Judith for their commitment and contribution to our school board. Both Mark and Judith are handing over their positions as their term on the board has expired. The newly appointed parent and citizen member and staff member representatives will be announced in the coming weeks.

Sensory Room
I would like to thank Shannon who took the time to present to the school board a proposal for a sensory room at our school. Shannon’s proposal was well-researched and clearly demonstrated the need for this room. The school board approved this proposal and we look forward to hearing about the impact it has on children’s learning at Monash. Shannon’s time and commitment in preparing this proposal is a wonderful example of the committed and passionate teachers we have here at our school. We are very lucky indeed!

Sensory Garden Project
The school board also discussed the sensory garden project which is currently in the planning and consultation phase. This project will enhance all children’s outdoor play time as well as provide for additional opportunities for curriculum extension as an outdoor learning space. Thank you to all of our community members who are involving themselves in this project.
School infrastructure improvements - School car park and school hall

The school is investigating options for improvements to be made to both the school car park and the school hall. The school is in discussion with the Education Directorate so that we can better understand what our future options are.

Parent forums

Thank you to the families who attended and provided feedback in the recently held parent/carer forums. This feedback will help inform decision making within our school.

Board correspondence

If you have any proposals that you would like the school board to consider please don’t hesitate to contact us via the wooden ‘mailboxes’ in the school foyer or via email at monashschoolboard@outlook.com

Please remember that the school board also reports at each P&C meeting so this is also a great way to stay in touch with what is happening at our school. We look forward to working with you all in 2014.

Kind regards
Monash School Board Chair

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.

Community Hub

Our newly renovated Community Hub which is located adjacent to the Preschool is now ready for use. At present we are exploring ideas and opportunities for different parent/community groups to utilise this venue. Already, a playgroup and a mothers group are organised. Virginia has kindly offered to be the parent coordinator for the hub and is currently seeking quality donations of the following items:

- Quality toys/puzzles/games and books
- Coffee table
- First aid kit
- Cushions red and black or bean bags
- Kitchenware/plastic cups and plates
- Cutlery
- Toaster
- Kettle
- Dolls house/dolls/prams
- Children’s kitchen
- Dress up’s
- Ride on toys
- CD player/children's CD's
- Craft items (new)
- Items for play-dough/table
- Climbing frame
- Cleaning items broom/dust pan/broom/vacuum cleaner.

If you have any of these items that are an excess in your home, we will gladly accept them. Please do not send in anything broken. Virginia can be contacted via the Front Office.
Preschool Unit News
All preschool groups have enjoyed their Teddy Bear’s picnic this week. We walked to the park at the back of the primary school, shared yummy fruit, sang songs and helped our bears to do the actions. We had a great play on the equipment then walked back to preschool for lunch.

Joey and Koala groups have been interested in colours and have been bringing things in for the colour table. This is a language/social skills activity where the children share the item they have brought in and talk about it briefly in a small group. This activity is especially good for our many EALD children. Other interests have included volcanos and making one from vinegar and bi-carbonate soda, Autumn and collecting natural bits to add to our Nature Table, making magic wands, patterns, homes around the world, copying words, percussion instruments, fairy tales and treasure hunting.

Possums and Echidnas are having a marvellous time investigating the mixing of primary colours and feeling the paint between their fingers. They are showing great interest in learning how to be a great friend and how to approach someone and ask them to play. In the afternoons we have been playing with bean bags and the children love shaking them and singing the song. All the children are trying really hard to recognise and write their names. Thank you to those families who have been practising at home. The progress the children have made in the last few weeks is very noticeable. Our favourite time of day is when we sing our goodbye song and say goodbye, see you and thankyou to our friends and our teachers.

Bimbi Unit News (Kinder)
Kindergarten has been wonderfully busy this week. Students are working well in the Open Learning Environments and are becoming more and more settled every day.

Last week in our Maths groups we learnt about patterns. We made patterns with musical instruments, toys, blocks, shapes and numbers. This week during Discovery Learning, students have been making patterns with their drawings and peg boards. We have begun to explore 2D shapes this week and the students are finding shapes everywhere – out in the playground and inside the learning environments. They can tell you how many sides and corners shapes have and can even name some tricky shapes like hexagons!

We have been reading every day in our home group and in Guided Reading groups. We have started to learn the Magic 100 Golden words and can find them in our big books and guided reading books.

We have-a-go at writing every day and have learnt some new sounds and letters and how they all work together to make words. We have learnt the sounds that n, v, e and w make most of the time and next week we will learn about j, y, x, q and z.

This week we started AFL clinics on a Tuesday afternoon. We learnt how to ‘hand-ball’ and next week we will be learning a few kicking techniques.

Kinder’s have been growing plants, learning about what living things need, sorting living and non-living things into groups and explaining why they made that choice. Our alfalfa seeds have really grown. Kinder really does know what living things need!

Our next Science topic will be an inquiry into the daily and seasonal changes in our environment. We will be looking at the weather and how that affects us – such as the clothes we wear, where we play, the sports we play and how things grow. The weather has been changing throughout the day, which makes it easy to talk about changes in weather!

Thank you to the parents who have come in for the parent teacher interviews this week and we look forward to meeting with you next week too.
Yerra Unit News (1 / 2)

The 1/2 Unit have been practising hard this week to get their ‘Resilience’ performance ready for assembly. Those who came along this morning witnessed our students singing, dancing and performing role plays to show the rest of the school that being resilient means picking yourself up and trying again when things are hard, and being positive and happy. All the classes did a fantastic job sharing roles and working together.

Australian Football League (AFL) clinics also started this week. Students enjoyed learning how to ‘scoop the icecream’ to do a handball pass. The clinics will continue for the rest of the term.

In Discovery learning for the next fortnight, activities include writing surveys, French knitting, and playing maths games to work on subtraction. There will also be a Tinkering Table where students take apart various old and broken electronics and appliances, so any donations would be appreciated. Donations of yarn would also be very greatly appreciated.

1/ 2 staff have been pleased with students’ efforts regarding our Year 2 Step It Up maths homework program. We also encourage both Year 1 and 2 students to keep up their regular home reading to improve fluency and comprehension skills.

Dulma Unit News (Year 3 / 4)

It was pleasant to start this week off with a long weekend as it provided both teachers and students time to rest and reflect on the year to date. There were a few challenges last week with teachers away and the swimming carnival but it was pleasing to see that most students were able to take the changes in their stride and continue with quality learning.

To date the writing focus has been on narrative texts. Students are being explicitly taught about the components of a narrative through deconstructing the text. They have also examined fairy tales and fables and then rewritten these from a different point of view. With their personal writing the emphasis has been on using adjectives and adverbs to enhance their writing so that pictures are formed in their audiences’ mind.

IRP immersion is still continuing. It is satisfying to observe the interest on the students faces as they learn about: why people immigrate to Australia and the contributions they have made; celebrations; nearby neighbouring countries; ceremonies and means by which Australians can be recognised for their contributions to Australia.

A number of students attended the Rugby League Gala day on Wednesday. Although the day started overcast the weather was perfect for exercise. Behaviour was excellent and a good day was had by all. This week also saw the beginning of AFL clinics. These are held Tuesday morning during sport, Japanese and library rotations. Please ensure your child has the appropriate footwear and clothing to participate in sport as this can happen any day although Tuesday and Friday are designated sport days.

All students should have their Mathletics log on details now. If your child is still having difficulty please do not hesitate to contact us. Homework goes out on Thursday and is to be returned the following Tuesday. At present homework comprises of a unit (2 pages) in the Step It Up books and Home Readers unless otherwise stated by your child’s home group teacher.

It has been a pleasure meeting some parents at the Parent/ Teacher interviews to date and we continue to look forward to meeting everyone to enable a sharing of information about your child. If you have not made an appointment as yet please contact your child’s Home Group teacher to do so.
5/6 students are currently practising the four roles of Cooperative Reading. Code Breaker and Investigator have been examined in some depth, with Discussion Manager and Illustrator to follow. Teachers have been reading fiction and non-fiction texts aloud to their groups - an activity which all students seem to enjoy! During these reading aloud sessions teachers model a variety of reading strategies to the class.

Our writing groups are continuing with the Narrative unit. Not only is story-writing fun, it’s also an excellent way to prepare for NAPLAN. Students should now be able to confidently identify and define plot structure. The focus of our writing has been on creating images in the reader’s mind – this involved lots of detailed descriptions of characters and settings. For the following two weeks, we will begin the process of story development.

Number remains our focus in maths groups. We like to begin numeracy sessions with mental computation warm-ups and consolidate what has been taught with a maths game to finish. Explicit teaching of addition and subtraction strategies is occurring, and an emphasis on times tables too.

With the students happily immersed in the world of Natural Disasters, we have reached the research stage in our IRP lessons. The research phase will teach specific skills required including using Google wisely, assessing the reliability of websites, and making use of the library. It is important to note that, for Term 1, students will be heavily guided with their Independent Research Project so that they clearly understand what is expected. In order to model the expectations of IRP all students will write an Information Report about Earthquakes for their IRP this term.

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**Winyu Unit News**

We have been busy in in Winyu N learning about Forces. The students have been learning about magnetic force using all sorts of magnets and chain reactions using dominos. The room has been buzzing with excitement when their experiments work. During the domino experiment the students demonstrated a lot of persistence trying to stand up their dominos without knocking them down. We will continue with our forces unit and start to look at levers and how these simple machines work for us in our daily lives.

In numeracy, Winyu N has continued with their exploration of measurement. The students are starting to use the terminology for measurement correctly, such as, longer, shorter, heavier, lighter, thicker, thinner, full or empty etc. The next part of measurement we will be exploring is time. If your child has a watch please encourage them to wear it to school. Children like to try to tell the time on their own watches. Winyu B students are continuing to discover shapes in their environment and they can be heard discussing the shape of things as they walk past the classroom.

Winyu N are continuing with their reading groups in literacy and the students are enjoying spending the week doing activities based on their books. They will also start their spelling program in Week 6. Initially they will start with learning to spell their 200 sight words and they will also participate in a phonics based spelling program. The students are also writing procedures after cooking each week and they are becoming more independent with their writing. If you are using a recipe at home, please discuss why you are using a recipe and how you follow it with your child. Winyu B are learning about rhyming words and building word families with three letter single sound words. Singing nursery rhymes in car really helps develop the skill of rhyming.

We have an exciting week coming up in Week 7. On Wednesday, 19 March it is Wheels Day. Your child needs to come to school with a bike or a scooter and their helmet. They also need a signed permission slip to allow them to participate. On Thursday, 20 March we are going on excursion to Manuka Oval to play cricket for the day. The Excursion is $10 and permission slips need to be into the front office early next week. On Friday, 21 March, it is Harmony Day. The children are asked to wear orange or come out of uniform with a gold coin donation. The canteen has also organised a special lunch for that day. The canteen lunch information is in the reading folder with the other notes.
Library News

Britannica Encyclopaedia
All students have received a letter about Britannica the online encyclopaedia that the school has subscribed to for students to use for research. If you have any question concerning this resource please contact the library.

Library Days
KP and KC: Thursday
KM: Friday
Yerra Unit and Yerra Heights Unit: Wednesday
Dulma Unit: Tuesday
Winyu: Friday
5/6C and 5/6D: Monday
5/6F, 5/6G and 5/6R: Tuesday

Chief Minister’s Reading Challenge
The school has registered for the chief Minister’s Reading Challenge for 2014. To complete the challenge the students are required to read 12 books before 5 September. Eight of the books need to be from a list of books set by the Chief Minister. There are copies of the list in the library and with class teachers, or it may be accessed at:
The students have a form that needs to be signed by a parent or teacher as they read each book. For younger students the books can be read to them. The completed forms are to be given to teachers.

World Storytelling Day
Thursday 20 March is World Storytelling Day and the theme is Monsters and Dragons. We have a guest storyteller from the Monash community visiting students from Preschool to Year 2 during the day to share stories.

Dirt to Dish Kitchen News
For the last two weeks we have been very busy making pasta in the Dirt to Dish Kitchen.

The children have had a turn at mixing, kneading and rolling…and making mess! All of the pasta was exceptionally good quality (well done to everyone!)

We discussed the various types of pasta available as well as the different methods used to make them. While week 5 was dedicated to making the pasta, in week 6 we expanded our pasta adventure by making the classic Napolitano sauce - a staple tomato sauce that is the building block to many familiar dishes and can be used in a variety of ways – very fast and easy. With only a few simple, tasty ingredients, it was enjoyed by everyone.

The children had the opportunity to sit down together in our outdoor eating area after working together to set the table and show off their beautiful table manners. A few people have commented on how great it was to see the students sharing their cooking experience in this way and I hope we will be able to keep this up until winter sets in!

We learnt some more about different herbs this week and built upon prior lessons in complimentary foods – a few weeks ago it was pumpkin and nutmeg, while this week it was basil and tomatoes – friends in the garden and the saucepan!!

If you are passing by the garden, be sure to take a look at our flourishing pumpkin patch, zucchini, rhubarb, celery, carrots, spring onions and lettuces….with many more to come!

Happy cooking!
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competition</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Competition Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Computer Skills</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
<td>Tuesday, 20 May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
<td>Wednesday, 4 June</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>$17.00</td>
<td>Monday, 16 June</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>$11.00</td>
<td>Tuesday, 17 June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
<td>Tuesday, 29 July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
<td>Tuesday, 12 August</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$60.00</strong></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:

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**Ride 2 School**

Preparations are under way for Ride to School day on Wednesday 19 March. To celebrate riding, walking, skating and scooting as a fun way to travel to school, we are organising a wheels session.
We support our students to walk or wheel to school because:

- Students feel fresh and alert at the beginning of the school day.
- There are fewer cars around the school which eases “drop off congestion”.
- Students are more likely to reach the recommended 60 minutes of physical activity they need each day.
- Students feel happier, healthier and perform better in the classroom.
- Parents can join in the fun by walking or wheeling with students.

Please fill out the permission note and return to school as soon as possible.

**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**

**Canteen News**

**Online Lunch Ordering** is now up and running fantastically 😊 Register and make an order this month to go in the draw to win a nutrimeletics pamper pack. Go online to flexischools.com.au and follow the prompts to register.

**Pre-purchased Items Vouchers** - Lunch orders that have purchased items such as frozen yoghurts, icy poles, slushies or nachos, will receive a voucher in their bag to bring back to pickup their item from canteen. Please let your children know to look in their lunch order bag for the voucher.

**Harmony Day Special Lunch** is next Friday 21 March. Hot Dog or Sushi meal deal orders must be in to canteen by this coming Tuesday, 18 March. Please note, no other lunches will be available to order on the day.

**Jelly** is now being made fresh in canteen from 99% fruit juice – yummy and healthy!

**Canteen Roster**

Thank you Annette Wigan for helping in canteen this week, we hope to see you again soon.

Mon 17th – Gill
Tues 18th – Pia
Wed 19th - Rachael
Thurs 20th – Julie
Fri 21st – Tonia and Diane
Mon 24th – Jo
Tues 25th – Eleanor
Wed 26th - Rachael
Thurs 27th – Lynn
Fri 28th – **HELP NEEDED**
To be added to the roster or for roster changes please contact Veronica at monashpscanteen@outlook.com

Second Hand Clothing Pool
The pool will be running every Wednesday 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 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
Lost
The description of the ring is: 9 carat gold signet ring with 2 hearts. It has a diamond in the upper heart and the initials ‘KS’ engraved on the lower heart. If anyone has found this ring, please hand in to the front office. Thank you. 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.”