NEWSLETTER NO: 1 – 14 FEBRUARY 2014

Dates to Remember

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 17 February</td>
<td>School Board parent nominations end</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 19 February</td>
<td>P &amp; C Meeting 7.00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 20 February</td>
<td>Scholastic Book Club orders due back</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 24 February</td>
<td>School Board voting begins (if required)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 28 February</td>
<td>Assembly Year 5 / 6 at 9.15 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 5 March</td>
<td>Board Meeting 5.00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 6 March</td>
<td>Monash Swimming Carnival</td>
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<td>Monday 10 March</td>
<td>Canberra Day</td>
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<td>Tuesday 11-21 March</td>
<td>Parent / Teacher Interviews</td>
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<td>Wednesday 12 March</td>
<td>Mal Meninga Cup Year 5 / 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 14 March</td>
<td>Assembly Year 1 / 2 at 9.15 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 21 March</td>
<td>Harmony Day</td>
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<td>Wednesday 26 March</td>
<td>P &amp; C Meeting 7.00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 28 March</td>
<td>ANZAC Day Assembly 9.15 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 3 April</td>
<td>Tuggeranong Swimming Carnival</td>
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<td>Friday 11 Friday</td>
<td>End of Term Celebration</td>
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Notes Going Home This Week

- Monash Swimming Carnival for Years 2 to 6 (notes to be returned by 21 February – no late entries)
- Canteen Menu (attachment)
- P & C News (attachment)

Principal’s Message

Dear Parents and Carers

We have had a wonderful Week 2 as we continue our very positive start to 2014. Our students have returned to school and have continued to approach their work in an enthusiastic manner despite the very trying weather conditions.

I would like to thank all parents/carers who were able to attend the Parent Information Night on Wednesday. This provided our staff with a valuable opportunity to convey key messages and at the same time make initial contact with parents/carers. Over the coming weeks there will be opportunities for parents/carers to make times for formal parent/teacher interviews. Notes containing specific information will be sent home this Monday, 17 February. Please return these notes to your child’s teacher as soon as possible to ensure that you are able to secure you preferred meeting time.

Yesterday, notes were sent home explaining procedures for our school swimming carnival on Thursday, 6 March. Nomination forms are due back to school on Friday, 21 February at the latest. It is important that nomination forms are in by this date to enable staff to have sufficient time to enter data and create
This week has seen the reintroduction of our Kitchen Programme. We are fortunate to have Jess Schroder coordinating the programme which the children are thoroughly enjoying. This week students in all year levels have had the opportunity to experience the Kitchen Programme in small groups. We will ensure that all students have the opportunity to participate at some stage during the year. Please look out for the recipe from this week’s activities that Jess has included in the newsletter.

Thank you for your patience with the school car parking situation. I am aware of the current difficulties that exist and consequently I have been in discussions with the Directorate of Education and Training about a solution to the problem. In the interim period I urge all drivers to be vigilant as we try to protect the safety of all of our students during these peak periods.

A reminder that nominations for the vacant Parent Representative position on the School Board close on Monday, 17 February at 3.30 pm. Nominations must be returned to Sue Visentin in the Front Office by this time.

Have a great weekend and thank you for your ongoing support.

Shane Carpenter
Principal

MONASH HOUSE CAPTAINS
Gudgenby House Captains       Jayden and Kobi
Gudgenby House Vice-Captains  Ben and Tyra

Molonglo House Captains       Jordan and Stephanie
Molonglo House Vice-Captains  Ali and Ashley

Namadgi  House Captains       Riley and Jessica
Namadgi House Vice Captains   Chris and Kim

Orroral  House Captains        Francis and Grace
Orroral House Vice Captains:   Ryan and Lily

School Board
The following position is vacant for 2014 commencing 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2016 – one parent representative on the School Board.

Nominations open on Monday, 3 February 2014 from 11.00 am and close on Monday, 17 February 2014 at 11.100 am.

Returning Officer

Preschool Unit News
Joeys And Koalas
Our new preschoolers have begun the year bright eyed and bushy tailed and are enjoying all their new friends and activities. The Joey and Koala classes are focusing on friendships: what is a friend, how to make one and what words to use. We are learning how to ask for help, express our needs, take turns and share. This is of course a work-in-progress!! We are learning the routines of preschool, how to help our friends, reset our environment after activity times and how to sit, listen and contribute our ideas during group times. We are learning to recognise and write our names, name the major parts of our bodies and draw a person. We are learning how to handle a book carefully and how to look after our belongings at preschool.
Outside investigation time has a focus of ‘safe climbing’ (motor planning), water play and sharing space, time and equipment with other children.

A great start to an exciting year for us all!

**Possums And Echidnas**
What a great start to the year! Both Possums and Echidnas have settled in beautifully and are very busy making new friends and enjoying all the experiences preschool has to offer. We are currently focussing on how to make friends, what a good friend is, listening bodies, getting to know each other, daily routines and what it means to be a preschooler!

The children’s interests are ranging from lizards and birthdays, to who is in my family. We thank those families who have brought items in for our room; we appreciate it so very much.

Library days are Tuesdays for Possums and Fridays for Echidnas. If you would like to purchase a library bag they are $5 and available from your child/ren’s teacher. During the week both Soon-Lien and I have release times. They are on Tuesday afternoons for both of us and I have Friday afternoons off also. During this time Veronica will be the classroom teacher and Margaret the learning support assistant. We are looking forward to establishing positive relationships with you and your child/ren in 2014.

**Preschool Matters Website**
For Information

As a part of the ACT Government's commitment to early childhood education, the Education and Training Directorate has developed a website to support parental engagement in preschool education.

The website contains information for parents and carers about various education and support services on offer in the ACT for preschool aged children and highlights the importance of parental involvement in preschool education.

The website can be located [www.preschoolmatters.act.gov.au](http://www.preschoolmatters.act.gov.au)

**Bimbi Unit News (Kinder)**
Kindergarten have had a great start to the year and are settling into being at school. During Discovery Learning in the morning students have been getting to know each other and have been involved in a range of hands on activities. Our box construction areas have been very popular so any donations of boxes for use in these areas would be greatly appreciated.

Cooking groups started this week and we had two Kindergarten groups make Muesli Bars 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.

On Monday of Week 3 (next week), Kindergarten will begin lining up in the mornings in their home group lines at the whole school meet and greet on the senior basketball court. This will continue for the remainder of the year.

**Yerra Unit News (1/2)**
Year 1/2 have hit the ground running! Children are settling in well to their classrooms and are excited about the year ahead. We have been getting to know the people in our home groups as well as the other children across the unit. Welcome to the new students who have joined us; we hope they are enjoying year 1/2 so far. Discovery learning has begun this week and the children are engaging in many different activities. Some of the favourites have been making butterflies, making salt pictures, playing maths games and writing. A camp
site has been set up in the dramatic play area as it was a popular destination over the holidays. We have also begun introducing the Discovery Grid to help children independently select an activity and ensure they are being regularly exposed to a variety of learning experiences. Thank you to all the families who have sent in the book packs for children to start using. We appreciate your organisation in returning books promptly. We would like to remind parents to label all clothing and items bought to school so if they get lost so they can be returned.

Homework in 1/2 will begin in week 3. Year 1 students are encouraged to read their home reader every night. In the front of their reading folder are prompts to help your child read and ways to check for comprehension. Year 2 students will be asked to read every night. They are to also complete a unit from their ‘Step It Up’ Mathematics homework book on a weekly basis.

Teachers would appreciate any parents who can spare time to come in and help in the classroom. You might have a particular skill such as playing a musical instrument, or a passion you would like to share. Alternatively, if you would like to assist in the classroom such as helping out with reading, Discovery Learning or gross motor it would be very valued. We are also seeking more volunteers for our class coordinator programme. Information notes about this are still available at the Front Office. Please contact your home group teacher to organise a time that would best suit or to review the timetable.

**Dulma Unit News (Year 3 / 4)**

Welcome back to a new and exciting year in the Dulma unit. It is fabulous to see all of the wonderful students coming to school each day with a positive attitude ready for learning. We have many new students joining us this year and would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of you and your families. In addition to new students we also have some new teachers and would also like to welcome them to the unit.

Over the last two weeks we have been engaged in a variety of rotations which have enabled us to move around to different teachers and experience different groups.

Wednesday night was the school information evening. It was fabulous to see so many of you able to attend this highly successful event. If you were unable to attend please ask your child to get a handout of information that was given out on the night. Also please feel free to drop in one afternoon to introduce yourself to your child’s teacher, if you have not already done this. It would also be great if you could complete a ‘My Child’s Profile’ information sheet that was also given out on the night and return it as soon as possible.

Finally don’t forget Library is scheduled on Monday for 3/4E and 3/4KM and Tuesday for 3/4F and 3/4L. Students will need to bring a library bag.

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

The Year 5/6 Students started off the year with a bang! They all had bright smiling faces and were ready to start the school the year. Throughout the unit we have been working on a number of team building activities within our class groups and have been creating some wonderful looking tote tray labels. As the first week came to a close we started to develop our speeches for School Captains, Vice Captains, House Captains and SRC members. The students of 5/6 displayed wonderful commitment to writing their speeches and have developed speeches that are sure to blow you away!

As we entered our second week of school the 5/6 unit had many different learning opportunities available to them. We have been very busy beginning the first of learning areas in Maths, IRPS and Cooperative Reading. We had our first lesson in the kitchen, we campaigned, presented and voted for our school captains, we also had P.E lessons, Art lessons and lessons in the library. We look forward to a great year ahead!
Winyu Unit News

Welcome back to the school year. Winyu Unit has been buzzing with the excited voices of children glad to be back at school and with their friends.

This term Winyu N are doing a numeracy unit called ‘Using Units of Measurement’. In this unit students will be doing a lot of ‘hands on’ numeracy activities involving pouring, weighing and timing. This unit will link well with our weekly cooking lessons and our Discovery Learning Unit on Forces. If you are doing any measuring at home, please talk to your child about what you are measuring and why you are using that measurement. It really helps when children see numeracy applied in their daily environments and it builds their vocabulary.

In Winyu B the children are on a journey of shape discovery in numeracy. They are currently focusing on 2D shapes and some of the students will move onto 3D shapes. Ask your child about shapes in their environment and talk to them about how shapes are everywhere! Children find this very exciting and start to look at their environments in a new way.

In Winyu N in our Discovery Learning unit, we are very excited to be using all of the new science resources that the school bought over the school holidays. There are many exciting activities, investigations and experiments for the children to do. Winyu B are discussing the body and health and they are enjoying learning all about themselves at the moment.

In literacy, students will be following their own individual literacy programs and as always the focus is reading, reading and more reading. This year we have introduced reading groups to the class timetables. Reading group activities provide opportunity for students to work on their literacy skills in meaningful and interesting ways in a group environment. It also provides opportunity for peer learning and interaction. Please continue to read with your child at home. Home reading is valuable to your child’s learning. Further, the opportunity for spontaneous writing at home, such as, writing a birthday card to a friend or filling out birthday invites or writing shopping lists is also valuable.

Individual Learning Plan (ILP) meetings are coming up in Weeks 5 and 6. If there is anything you would like to discuss with us before the ILP meetings, please feel free to contact us and we will make time to meet with you.

Thank you for supporting your child in their learning.

Kitchen News

Welcome to the first DIRT TO DISH instalment of the Monash School Newsletter.
My name is Jess and I am the new Kitchen Garden Teacher at Monash.

I am honoured to take up this position at our School. As a Parent of two Monash children I am incredibly excited our School Leadership Team has invested so much time and energy into relaunching this Cooking programme and providing our children with an opportunity to extend their learning in a fun & engaging way.

This week I have had the pleasure to see students from Preschool to Year 6 and they have made this the best first week at work…ever! The children have been patient, polite, enthusiastic (and forgiving) as I find my feet in the kitchen.

I suspect we have some amazing junior chefs in our ranks and I cannot wait to see their “magic” unfold. Every group joined me in making “Funky Chunky Muesli Bars”. Originally they were called “Munchy-Crunchy Muesli Bars” but thanks to some very imaginative 3/4 students, they have justly been renamed! You will find the recipe attached.

I wanted to begin with a fun and easy recipe so I could get to know your children and gauge their individual skills (It didn’t hurt that I sweetened the deal with chocolate!)
I have been blown away by both the children’s ability and knowledge as they have shared so much with me already about what cooking means to them. Every week I hope the children will grow in confidence and be able to share with me (and you) what incredible things they are capable of.

As the term rolls on, our Monash School garden will become more productive and we will begin to source ingredients directly from the Veggie Patches. Not only will we incorporate them into our recipes, but the children and I will also work together to strategically plan recipes based on what we are producing and harvesting seasonally. I believe our children will instinctively want to explore this further, at school and home, broadening their horizons and giving them the courage to try new foods they may not have been open to trying before.

I would encourage any Parents/Carers/Families who would like to participate to please get in touch with me via the school. There are many meaningful ways you can assist in the Kitchen or Garden (no experience necessary!). Also, if you wish to discuss any issues/concerns regarding your child’s individual dietary requirements, please do not hesitate to come and see me. I welcome your feedback and look forward to getting to know all of your children over the course of the year.

Until next time, Happy Cooking!

**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**

Please see information attached to this email from the P & C.

**Canteen News**

Oops, please adjust your canteen menu – I missed adding toasted sandwiches (no extra to toast purchased sandwiches)

Welcome to canteen and thank you for volunteering Eleanor. Welcome also Tonia, Rachael and Melanie, looking forward to having you in canteen.

Canteen needs and appreciates parent helpers. If you can spare some time from 9.00 am - 12.00 pm any day of the week to come and help contact us at canteen or on monashpscanteen@outlook.com

Canteen Committee members are also needed. If you are interested in a role as Secretary, Treasurer, Special Lunch Co-ordinator or Chairperson, please let us know.

**Canteen Roster**

Mon 17th - Jo  
Tues 18th – Eleanor  
Wed 19th - Rachael  
Thurs 20th - Melanie  
Fri 21st - Diane
Mon 24th - Jo  
Tues 25th - Eleanor  
Wed 26th - Rachael  
Thurs 27th - Lyn  
Fri 28th - volunteer needed

To be added to the roster or for roster changes please email 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.

**SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB**

Scholastic Book Clubs operate eight times a year and offer 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 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 2014.**

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

**SCHOOL BANKING**

This year we are all deep sea divers!! Keep an eye out for the bright blue parent packs that will be coming home with your children, inside is a fantastic token tracking chart that your children can use to let them know when they have saved for a reward! Also a perforated rewards chart to let the children know what reward is available throughout the year.

School banking has been teaching children smart savings habits and life-long money skills for over 80 years by simply bringing their money in each week, as little as 5 cents!

As we are an underwater theme this year there are fantastic rewards which includes, penguin or shark plush toy keyrings, whale pencil case, swimming bag, sea streamers to name a few.

Remember that your school earns commission through the School Banking program with $5.00 for every new child that joins through the school and 5% commission on all the children’s deposits throughout the term.
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

Kinder students will receive an information pack shortly with details on how to open an account. If your child has an account open already with the Commonwealth Bank, they will be able to begin banking.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

**Tuggeranong Lions Junior AFL**

The open day for the Tuggeranong Lions Junior AFL will be held on Sunday, 16 February from noon to 4.00 pm at Kambah 3 Playing fields (opposite the Burns Club on Kett Street). There will be a range of activities including a AFL Skills clinic, jumping castle, face painting, a BBQ and more.

**Tuggeranong Arts Centre**

Tuggeranong Arts Centre is delighted to present the children’s workshop in conjunction with our current exhibition *Smaller Details of Suburbia*, by Steve Roper and Paul Summerfield.

Children aged 7 – 13 are invited to join the artists for a hands-on art workshop at the Tuggeranong Arts Centre. The kids will create a large cartoon mural out of funny drawings and paintings of their friends and family.

To enrol, please contact the Tuggeranong Arts Centre on 02 6293 1443 or info@tuggeranongarts.com before 20 February (numbers are strictly limited).

**What:** Art workshop with Steve Roper and Paul Summerfield  
**When:** 10am – 1pm, 22 February 2014  
**Where:** Tuggeranong Arts Centre, Gallery 2. 137 Reed Street, Tuggeranong.  
**Cost:** $10, materials provided. BYO snacks.

Morning tea is available for parents and carers to purchase in the café space. For further information phone Narelle on 6293 1443 or visit [www.tuggeranongarts.com](http://www.tuggeranongarts.com).

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