**Principal's Message**

Dear Parents and Carers

Today, we celebrated the official launch of our Monash School Community Hub. The facility will be a wonderful resource for our school as we aim to build community and inclusiveness. This project has been a work in progress over the last year. I would like to thank the numerous parents/carers who have generously donated their time and expertise over time in developing this area from a storage facility into wonderful community gathering area that it now is. In recent times, Virginia (mother of Levi) has been appointed coordinator of the Hub and will work in the Hub two days every week. Her role will entail working with the school to embed the KidsMatter programme within our community. If you did not have the opportunity to attend today’s launch I encourage you to visit our school Facebook site to view some of the wonderful art work on the outside of the Hub created by Virginia’s husband, Patrick. In coming weeks, Virginia will communicate through our school newsletter some of the programmes that will be available for
members of our community to access.

Also this morning, many of our students participated in our annual Mother’s Day stall. As always, this provided our children with a wonderful opportunity to purchase gifts in preparation for Mother’s Day on Sunday. I would like to acknowledge the efforts of our P & C Fundraising Committee and other volunteers who coordinated this project which involved the purchasing, wrapping and selling of gifts. Today’s stall raised in excess of $1200!

Over the last two days, students in Years 3 to 6 have had the opportunity to participate in sessions facilitated by professionals from Sexual Health Family Planning ACT. These sessions provided our students with a wonderful opportunity to discuss personal development and ask relevant questions. An information sheet covering the content of these sessions was sent home last week. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any questions.

Thank you to all families who have supported our fundraising efforts for this year’s Cross Country Carnival. A reminder that all funds raised will be directed towards our new Outdoor Learning Area. Please ensure that all forms are returned, either with sponsorship funds or without. Prizes will be drawn at assembly next Friday, 16 May. This assembly will be run by the Kinder students of Bimbi Unit.

On Tuesday of this week we conducted our Monash School Open Night. This information session provided an opportunity for families interested in enrolling at Monash to learn more about our school. It was great to see the level of interest from P to 6.

Next Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, NAPLAN will occur on each day for students in Years 3 and 5. These testing sessions will occur mainly between 9.30 am and 11.00 am. The school canteen will provide Milo and toast before the testing for any students who would like some extra sustenance. Staff have been working with our children in an effort reduce anxiety levels. Please do not hesitate to contact your child’s Home Group teacher if you have concerns about your child’s participation in the testing process. Results of the testing will not be released until late September.

Finally, I would like to wish all mothers in our community a very happy Mother’s Day and I hope that you are all spoilt on Sunday by your families.

Have a happy weekend.

Shane Carpenter
Principal

Monash School Board Report

Welcome to our second board report for 2014. Our second board meeting for the year provided an opportunity to warmly welcome our newest board members Lori (parent representative) and Jillian (teacher representative). After this meeting I am thrilled to say we yet again have a vibrant and passionate team working to improve our school.

Sensory Garden Project
The school board received an update on the sensory garden project. Plans have been professionally drawn up for this project, reflecting the feedback that was gathered from the school community. As discussed previously 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. Plans of the sensory garden will soon be placed in the school foyer for families to peruse. I am sure you will all be very impressed. It is hoped that this project will be completed (Stage one) at the end of this year. Again we would like to thank all of our community members who are involving themselves in this project.
Curriculum news

Mr Carpenter provided a report to the board outlining exciting new opportunities for students and families at our school. In the near future parent support and education workshops will be provided to support parents in implementing numeracy strategies with their children. This support will ensure consistent approaches are happening across both school and home. This again exemplifies the schools commitment to working in partnership with our families which is wonderful to see.

Some kindergarten, year one and year 2 students are being provided with extension opportunities with neighbouring schools. The utilisation and sharing of resources across our Tuggeranong School network is great to see.

Our wonderful teacher librarian is preparing a strategic plan for the library. This planning will support a consistent framework across the school and set strategic directions for the library and a clear role within our school.

Four new SMART boards have been purchased for the school (two mobile and two replacements for classrooms). This investment is appreciated by the school community.

SRC

The school board tabled the SRC minutes and heard all of the wonderful ideas and concerns that our students are raising in this forum. Student voice is always appreciated by the board and we value their insights greatly. In particular the school board has supported additional sanitary bins to be provided in the girls toilets as requested by students and a number of their concerns have been elevated to the Executive teacher meeting agenda to be discussed. The school board will continue to correspond with the SRC to ensure that open communication with our most important stakeholders is maintained.

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. The next P&C meeting is Monday, 19 May 2014 at 7.00 pm.

Kind regards

Monash School Board Chair.

Enrolling in an ACT Public School

New arrangements for 2014 and 2015

The ACT Education and Training Directorate has updated the enrolment and transfer arrangements for all ACT public schools.

All new student enrolment applications for 2015 open from 28 April 2014 (day 1 term 2). If you are enrolling your child to start school in 2014 or if your child is transferring to an ACT public school at any stage you will need to use the same online form.

To make this process easier for those wishing to enrol or transfer, please use the online enrolment/transfer form and Parent/carer guide to enrolment/transfer for ACT public schools located on the ‘Enrolling in an ACT Public School’ section of the Education and Training Directorate website www.det.act.gov.au

Preschool applications for 2015 close on 30 May 2014.
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.

Preschool Unit News

Possums and Echidnas
Autumn is here and so is the cold weather. The children have loved raking the leaves up and watching them fall from the trees. Next week we are collecting leaves and anything autumn related for our creative art work. If you and your child would like to bring in nature items from home that would be much appreciated.

This term we changed the coast into a home corner. The children are really enjoying being able to dress up, act out familiar roles such as mum and dads and playing cooperatively together. Our current interests include dinosaurs, fairies, measuring, bugs, Autumn, weather, Princesses and Princes, using our manners, and giving our mother’s five minutes peace.

We are very proud of the children’s accomplishments this term towards recycling, rubbish and composting. Each eating time they are vigilant and very keen to correctly place their rubbish in the right bin.

Our Mother’s Day stalls were a huge success and the children chose very carefully what their mothers might like as a gift. We thank all the volunteers who helped the stall be a success.

As the weather has turned cold quickly we ask that the children please have warm clothes when coming to Preschool. This includes jackets, beanies, gloves and covered toed shoes. We wish all our mothers a relaxing and special Mother’s Day and we hope you get at least five minutes peace.

Joeyys and Koalas
Children in the Joey and Koala groups have been introduced to ‘Kelly Koala’ and ‘Jimmy Joey’. These furry friends are going home with 2 preschoolers each night – with 22 in each group we are learning patience while we wait our turn!! The small koala and joey soft toys will arrive in a backpack with a book to write all their adventures in – and photos if parents wish to. Children are encouraged to only use 2 pages per visit, draw a picture and have mum or dad or a grandparent write a bit about the visit. The children share the adventures with the class the next day. This activity is designed to develop the children’s expressive language skills. They are fully supported in their discussion and take questions (a new concept for most) at the end of their sharing time. Parents are asked to encourage children to keep the toys clean and in-tact so the rest of the group can enjoy a visit.

Portfolios will also be coming home in special library bags. There is a sheet inside called “Two stars and a wish”. This is an opportunity for parents to share two things they are happy with concerning their child’s development this year and one thing they would like their child to focus on.

Tracey and I have completed a survey to find out what the children most enjoy at both inside and outside activity times. This information helps us to program for the children’s interests as well as their needs.

In the classroom children have enjoyed painting large boxes and murals on large strips of paper at Outside Activity Time. Fine motor skills can be developed in many different ways! They have enthusiastically watered the gardens (and themselves), caused hysterical laughter trying to hit tennis balls in stockings strung up along a rope (great hand/eye co-ordination).

Mother’s Day preparations have been in full swing and we have counted the ‘sleeps’ until we can give mums the cards and gifts! The children have made great efforts to keep their gift a secret!!
Bimbi Unit News (Kinder)

It has been a wonderful start to Term 2! Everyone has settled back into school well and with a fabulous attitude – ready to learn!

To begin the term, we continued our Literacy groups. We have started writing sentences using a starting star (showing us where to start writing), capital letters at the start of sentences, finger spaces between words and full stops at the end. Teachers have been very impressed with students having-a-go and writing the most obvious sounds they can hear in words.

We have been learning more about counting on (starting with the biggest number) and this week our focus is friends of ten. Two numbers that make ten are friends and knowing these helps us to add to ten quickly. Next week we will be learning about subtraction!

In Science we have started new topic. During Discovery we have been integrating this topic by using our 5 senses to taste, smell, see, touch and hear. We have been making great looking paintings that are spicy and nicey! We went for a nature walk outside and closed our eyes to help us use our senses in the outside learning and playing areas. There were some loud sounds, quiet sounds, low pitch sounds and high pitch sounds.

The cooking program has also commenced up again with 24 new students from across the unit learning to use the garden and make delicious food. We made two adventurous salads last week and they were very tasty! This week we made zucchini cupcakes! Yum!

To tie everything together we are very excited to be presenting the assembly in week 3. We can’t wait to show the community how we have integrated all our learning. We will be showcasing our weather unit, reading, dancing skills and a whole lot more!

Next week we are very excited to be hatching our very own chicks! We will have an incubation tank with several eggs and we will learn about the life cycle of chickens as they hatch and we must look after them. This follows on from our Science topic at the start of the year where we discussed what living things need. We do need to remember that they are living things and we must be careful to respect their home and them at all times. Please remind young children to not tap on the glass or make loud noises around the chicks. They are very sensitive and it is a special honour to have them in our unit and to look after them. We will be observing their growth, taking notes and taking pictures so as to learn more about their life cycle.

We look forward to a productive and fun term. See you in Bimbi!

Yerra Unit News (1 / 2)

What We’re Learning

The new timetable with our Literacy Block during the morning session has been implemented with great success, with one small tweak to help reduce the confusion as children moved from Reading to Writing / Spelling groups. Children are returning briefly to their Home Groups for Fruit Break after Reading Groups to enjoy listening to a story before they move on to Writing.

Reading

Now that the children have become proficient in using the independent reading behaviours we were focusing on last term, we have moved into our Reading Groups and are continuing to work on targeted development of the skills needed to become better at decoding and understanding texts. Teachers have organised small learning groups and are working intensively with each group during the week while other children practise reading independently, or with a partner, and complete activities based on their texts.
Writing
This term we will be focusing on writing narratives through Writing to Entertain and Writing to Recount. Students have been placed in Groups based on their individual learning needs and will be working through a range of activities to enhance their understanding of this genre and support their writing. Spelling instruction will continue as part of Writing Groups, based around the children's own writing, themed activities, and Words Their Way sorts and activities.

Maths
Maths Groups have been reorganised to provide a more flexible learning structure, with some smaller groups to assist and engage students with higher support needs while more independent learners have been placed in targeted groups to allow for continued progress. This week we have been reviewing place value to better understand number and help with addition and subtraction.

Inquiry
Our new approach to student directed learning, with classes rotating through Inquiry Learning areas is working well, with children still able to choose from a range of different activities based on Literacy, Numeracy, Dramatic and Creative Play, Technology and Construction, and Information and Communication Technology, but in a more directed setting. This inquiry time is happening five afternoons a week with each learning space providing a number of choices where children can actively engage. Similar to Discovery, our new approach is student directed, however due to the structures we have placed around the program, children will be exposed to each of the five areas listed above over the week.

Notes From the Teachers
We have had a great start to the term in Yerra, with everybody working very hard in their new Personal Learning Focus Groups. Just a reminder that Year 2 Maths Homework needs to be handed in on Tuesdays and that Home Readers should be read every day and changed regularly.
Please check that all items of clothing and other belongings have your child's name on them. With cold mornings and warm afternoons a lot of jumpers are being left around and we can't always find their owners. Also, please make sure your child has a lead pencil for completing their work.

Dulma Unit News (Year 3 / 4)

3/4 Dulma Unit has hit the ground running this term (literally!) starting with Cross Country in Week One. It was great to see all of the students putting in a magnificent effort to complete the race. We saw some great sportsmanship and students having lots of fun! Special congratulations go to Logan, Jaycee, Kai, Jess, Rose, Jack, Ben, Keira, Kayla, Nicholas, Grace, Jack and Myles who qualified for the District Cross Country Carnival – well done! This term students have also started the ‘Every Chance to Dance’ program and Oz Tag Clinics. The enthusiasm that the 3/4 students have shown during these activities is fantastic!

Following on from the end of last term, students have been working on using their ‘power of persuasion’ to create persuasive texts. They have been focusing on the structure of a persuasive text and the type of language that is used in a persuasive text. As a result, they have created some thought provoking texts, including a letter to Mr Carpenter to convince him that teachers should wear school uniform!

During this term 3/4 students will be discovering how people from different cultures express themselves through the arts. This week we have started the immersion lessons for the Independent Research Project. Students have explored music, arts, drama and dance of Indigenous Australia. Over the next three weeks students will also be exploring the arts of Indonesia, Japan and China. We encourage discussion and assistance researching this topic at home.

Next week the Year 3’s will begin their NAPLAN tests on Tuesday 13 May 2014. An individual student NAPLAN report will be issued by the school later this year. Parents can use this information to monitor how their child is progressing and to identify any areas of concern. More information is available at www.naplan.edu.au. Milo and toast will be supplied to those students who would like some extra sustenance.
A reminder that the 3/4 unit are currently on Twitter! We would love you to follow @MonashDulmaUnit to keep up with the latest news and student work.

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

News from Year 5/6

**English**

This term students in Year 5/6 are continuing to engage in Cooperative Reading. In groups students read the same text and each individual completes one of the four roles (Code Breaker, Investigator, Illustrator/Radio Reader and Discussion Manager). This fortnight we are focusing on building students ability to have a quality discussion within their Cooperative Reading group. We encourage students to share with their parents/carers information about the text they are reading and what they have found out about the text through the different roles.

In Year 5/6 we have begun working on the Persuasive text type. Students are using their exceptional verbal persuasive skills, to write a convincing text. You may notice your child beginning to use some new persuasive language as they ask for things at home!

**Mathematics**

In Maths groups, our focus is on Multiplication. Quick recall of multiplication facts is just one component of Multiplication. Students are learning how to use an array, mental computation strategies and how to unpack a multiplication word problem.

**IRP**

This term marks the beginning of our new unit focus on Australian History. Throughout the term students will experience a range of activities and complete an interest based project focusing on the question: How has Australia changed over time? Areas being covered over the next few weeks include British settlement of Australia through to Federation. We encourage students to begin to think about their IRP that they would like to complete.

**Other**

Next week Year 5 students will participate in NAPLAN testing. The NAPLAN schedule is as follows:

- **Tuesday 13 May** – Language conventions (morning session) and writing (middle session)
- **Wednesday 14 May** – Reading (morning session)
- **Thursday 15 May** – Numeracy (morning session)

Students are encouraged to have a good night’s sleep and bring a water bottle to school on each of these days. Milo and toast will be supplied to those students who would like some extra sustenance.

**Winyu Unit News**

Winyu staff and children would like to thank Amy for kindly donating her time to help assemble our new equipment for the sensory room. Our sensory room will be an integral part of the LSU. Students will not only be able to use this room as a calm space during times of stress but also provides an avenue to support student learning.
Winyu B are focusing on money this term. They are learning to identify Australian coins and notes, write amounts in cents and dollars and make simple calculations. Thus far, the children have shown particular interest in creating their own games using the play money.

Winyu N are learning about days of the week, months in the year and time. They are learning to identify times on analogue clocks with a focus on half past, quarter past and quarter to. Winyu N are also looking at simple machines. The children made cardboard catapults to learn about and experiment with push and pull force.

Home Reading: We cannot stress enough the importance of home reading. Regular practise of take home books and the Magic 100 words makes the world of difference to student progress, performance and confidence at school. Taking 15 minutes out of our busy days for reading, practising the sounds letters make and playing games with words will help reinforce activities completed at school.

Reminder: With Winter approaching we would like to ask that all items of clothing be clearly labelled with your child’s name. Throughout the day jumpers are often discarded; names make it easier to find the jumpers’ owners.

Library News

**National Simultaneous Storytime**
On Wednesday 21 May Monash students from Preschool to year 2 will be participating in National Simultaneous Storytime. At locations across Australia Too many elephants in this house by Australian author Ursula Dubosarsky will be read to children to promote the value and fun of reading.

**Chief Minister’s Reading Challenge**
This year all students from preschool to Year 6 will be participating in the Chief Minister’s Reading Challenge. The aim of the Challenge is to develop a love of good books. The children are to read 12 books between now and Thursday 5 September. Eight of the books must be from the Chief Minister’s list of books that will be located in tubs in the library. For children who are not yet reading, the books can be read to them. All students who read 12 books will receive a certificate from the Chief Minister.

The preschool children will be read books from the challenge at preschool and a log of the books kept. Preschool parents are also most welcome to visit the library with their children.
Dirt to Dish Kitchen News

Welcome back to the kitchen everyone. In particular the new students who are doing cooking in Term 2 – you have all been so enthusiastic about spending time in our Monash Kitchen.

Well, we came back after break to find a pretty huge haul of zucchini and lettuce in our veggie garden, so naturally we had to put them to good use. In week 1 we talked about salads. What makes a salad? Can it be hot, cold, creamy or crunchy? The children made a delicious raw zucchini noodle salad with a simple dressing of olive oil, lemon juice and mustard. I must say I was very impressed with the way everyone tried this dish as it was the first time many of the children had eaten raw zucchini.

This week we have continued using our bumper crop to make delicious zucchini muffins with a fresh lemony cheesecake icing…a BIG hit all round!

Sadly, our zucchini patch has come to an end with the first big Canberra frost finishing it off, this also meant we lost our pumpkin patch – even though we knew there was a good chance our pumpkins wouldn’t make it, it was still sad to come in on Monday morning and see everything wilted when it had looked SO healthy the Friday before.

Oh well…that’s gardening for you!

A very big thanks to Monash mum Rachel for getting stuck into some weeding during her precious free time – weed warriors are always welcome!

I look forward to updating you with more garden news over the coming weeks and keep an eye out for notices about our Garden Green Team and also Garden Club which will be operating during lunchtime on a day that has yet to be finalised.

Happy cooking everyone!

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

Reminder the the P&C meeting will be held Monday 19 May at 7.00 pm. All are welcome to attend. Please note the agenda for this meeting will be included in next week's newsletter.

The preschool sub committee is looking for more volunteers. If you think you would be interested in a role on the sub committee (the roles of chair and treasurer are currently vacant) please email monashpandc@hotmail.com. Nominations will be accepted by email until 4.00 pm 19 May or in person at the P&C meeting.

Thankyou to all who volunteered in the organising all our Mothers Day stalls this year, across both the Preschool and Primary School. The children are always so excited to come and purchase their gift and I'm sure all the Mums will be very excited to see their loving purchases on Sunday. The
Primary School stall raised $1,200 and counting for the preschool stall is still underway.

**P & C President**

**Disco: Friday 26 May**

The countdown to the disco has started. We need more helpers in the hall for the senior disco - without enough helpers this event cannot go ahead. This year **entry is by pre paid ticket only**. We have extended the deadline for forms to Monday 12 May. Tickets will be handed out via class teachers on the days leading up to the disco. The disco will be heaps of fun with glow products, coloured hair styles and tattoos for sale. Don't forget about the special meal pack that is being offered by our school canteen. It's not just for the kids, mums and dads can pre-order hot dogs for an easy Friday night dinner.

![DISCO DINNER](image)

Notes have gone out for the disco on Friday. The dinner meal deal is now available to order on flexischools (as of today)! The Hot Dog Meal Deal is $6.00 and orders/payments must be in by Tuesday. Extra options are available for parent/carers/ siblings if you wish. Canteen will be open to purchase tea/coffee and snacks on the night.

**Pre-School** are more than welcome to order lunch from the canteen and can also order online at flexischools (go to flexischools.com.au to register and setup your account).

**Flexischools** online ordering prize for signing up and ordering online lunch order goes to Matthew Robey of 3/4F – congratulations, you have won a nutrimetics pamper pack for your mum for Mothers Day!

**Canteen Roster**

There are a few days next fortnight where we don’t have any helpers. If you can help please contact us at canteen or on monashpscanteen@outlook.com / 62916357

Mon 12th – Jo & Gill  
Tues 13th – help needed  
Wed 14th – Rachel  
Thurs 15th – Lyn  
Fri 16th – Diane  
Mon 19th – Jo  
**Tues 20th – help needed**  
**Wed 21st - help needed**  
Thurs 22nd – Julie  
**Fri 23rd – help needed**

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**THE ENTERTAINMENT BOOK IS HERE!**

Entertainment books were handed out to students yesterday. If you would like to keep your copy of the entertainment book, please enclose your payment in the envelope the book came in and return to the Front Office Friday, 16 May 2014. The P & C receives $12 on each copy sold.

Any unwanted copies of the Entertainment Book must be returned in the envelope it came in to the Front Office **immediately**.
If you would like to order additional copies of the book, please see the Front Office.

Thank you for your support.

**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.

**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.

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.”