Monash School Newsletter

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NEWSLETTER NO: 2 – 28 FEBRUARY 2014

Dates to Remember

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<td>Board Meeting  5.00 pm</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>Mal Meninga Cup  Year 5 / 6</td>
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<td>Friday 14 March</td>
<td>Assembly  Year 1 / 2  at 9.15 am</td>
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<td>Harmony Day</td>
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Notes Going Home This Week

Dirt to Dish Kitchen note
Mathletics Information for students Kinder to Year 6
Britannica Information

Principal’s Message

Dear Parents and Carers

Today at assembly we recognised our school leaders for 2014. This included our School Captains, House Captains and SRC representatives. Congratulations to all elected students and I am sure that they will do a wonderful job in representing their peers.

Also today at assembly, Mr Buesnel introduced our You Can Do It value for this fortnight. The YCDI value for Weeks 4 to 6 is “Getting Along”. As always, staff will be explicitly teaching this social skill. We appreciate any reinforcement and consolidation of the skill that you are able to provide at home.

A reminder that our school Swimming Carnival will occur next Thursday, 6 March at the Lakeside Leisure Centre pool in Tuggeranong. Parents/carers are encouraged to attend and participate in this community activity. This year we will be joined by students from Isabella Plains Early Childhood School.

In Week 6 parent/teacher interviews will occur. At this interview, parents/carers will be provided with an interim report outlining how their child has settled into the 2014 school year. These interviews provide an excellent opportunity to establish parent/teacher partnerships which are a crucial part of our vision and philosophy here at Monash School. Thanks to those parents/carers who have already returned notes to teachers indicating preferential times for interviews.

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.

In recent staff meetings, we have been focusing on the importance of regular dialogue between parents and teachers. Please feel free to approach your child’s teacher to touch base or if a longer discussion is required to make a time for an appointment. I would also like to remind parents/carers that the school leadership team are available and also welcome feedback.

Have a wonderful weekend everybody.

Shane Carpenter
Principal

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.

Footwear

We would like to remind students that “roller” shoes are not to be worn at school.

Preschool Unit News

Over the last two weeks our Preschoolers have been settling in beautifully, showing great resilience in the transition from home to school.

We have been busy creating covers and labels for our portfolios that are starting to fill up with our play-based learning. You and your child are welcome to look through them at any time.
This week the Possums and Echidnas made fried rice which links to our focus on Chinese New Year and Chinese culture. The children were very interested in learning how to cut the vegetables and some even stated, during group time, that broccoli is their favourite vegetable!

Our favourite song to sing at the moment is Skidarmarink and we are busting a move in the morning doing the Exercise Song.

All the children enjoyed the Obstaclathon and many of the children did more than the 8 laps. We were very proud of them and we thank everyone who has brought back their fundraised money.

**Bimbi Unit News (Kinder)**

It has been another busy fortnight in Kindergarten! Students have been doing an excellent job learning their sounds each day, and nearly all students across the unit have completed the PIPS testing. The week students learnt about the sounds o, g, l, p. Next week’s focus will be h, u, c, b. Kindergarten will be beginning Open Learning groups in Mathematics next week, and the week following we will begin Guided Reading groups. In Numeracy this week’s focus has been patterns and next week students will begin to explore the concept of addition.

If your child is having a lunch order, please ensure the order and money is dropped off to the canteen before school and notify your classroom teacher. If they have money for the canteen it would be appreciated students give their money to their teacher for safe keeping until lunch time!

Students are encouraged to leave their hats in their tote trays at school to ensure they have them for lunch, recess and other outdoor activities.

Thank you to parents/carers that have brought in boxes for our box construction during Discovery Learning, the students have been very creative with them. We would appreciate donations of small boxes only so students can fit their work on the table.

One last reminder, please pack at least one piece of fruit for your child and pack a labelled drink bottle!

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

Yerra Unit have been very busy settling into Discovery Learning and engaging in a variety of activities. The students have been very proactive in filling out their grids each fortnight making sure they are visiting different learning areas.

The students have enjoyed learning about the Daily 5 and discovering different reading strategies. At the moment we are focusing on how we can be ready by ourselves. We are learning to read books by looking at the pictures, reading the words and retelling a story. We are building up our reading stamina and love becoming independent readers.

Throughout writing groups the students have been writing to inquire. Surveys have been conducted and we are asking lots of questions to find out information. We have been talking about different types of questions and how we can gather and present this information. Visitors will be welcomed into the unit for a Q&A session later in the term. If you would like to assist teachers with our writing unit by discussing your job and answering questions, we would greatly appreciate it and the children will enjoy the experience. Please let your child’s home group teacher know if you can assist in any way.

As of next week all year 1/2 classes will have library on Wednesday. Please pack a library bag and any books to be returned with your child so they can be changed during their library session.

Thank you to the parents who have assisted with morning readers and reading with children. We greatly appreciate the time you take out of your day to better the learning for children at Monash. If you are able to assist, please let your home group teacher know.
**Dulma Unit News (Year 3 / 4)**

This week saw the beginning of our Individual Research Project (IRP) lessons. Many of the students were extremely excited. The topic for our IRP lessons this term will have a history and geography focus. The title of the topic is ‘What does it mean to be Australian?’.

As part of these lessons the children will be finding out about their parents’ country of origin and if or where they might have migrated from originally and why. It would really help if you could have this discussion with your child.

In the next few weeks the children will also be looking at NAIDOC week. If any Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander parents would like to share some information about this topic could they please get in contact with us.

Parent teacher interviews are scheduled in weeks 6 and 7. If you are unable to attend the allocated times and dates or are yet to arrange an appointment please get in contact with your child’s teacher.

Finally congratulations to our newly elected School Representative Council (SRC) members. They are Rose and Sam from 3/4F, Jaycee and Logan from 3/4L, Kara and Peterson from 3/4E and Emma and Jake from 3/4KM. We are looking forward to hearing about all of the exciting things that the SRC will be doing this year.

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

5/6 students have begun to unpack the four Cooperative Reading roles. Over the next fortnight we will be looking at the following roles:

**In the Code Breaker role** students look at the word and sentence level of a text. They find interesting words, words that have interesting spelling patterns, students find synonyms for words in order to increase their vocabulary. In this role students also look at the grammatical features of a text. In the Investigator role students begin to question what they are reading. They ask “fat questions” that are open-ended and allow the responder to answer with more than one word.

In writing groups we are looking at the text type of narrative writing. Students will continue to look at the narrative structure and begin to develop their writing ideas. Our focus during narrative writing is to write to a particular audience and investigating writing techniques that makes their writing more exciting.

Our focus for the next fortnight in Mathematics is number. We are investigating place value, number sentences as well as looking at Mathematical strategies, including mental computation strategies.

Currently students in Years 5/6 are being immersed in the study of Natural Disasters. In classes students are being exposed to various Natural Disasters including volcanoes, tsunamis and earthquakes. Over the next fortnight students will begin to decipher between natural and manmade disasters. During these IRP sessions students are learning research skills including searching for information, checking for accuracy and referencing sources.

**Winyu Unit News**

The children in Winyu have continued to settle in well to our new class structures. Congratulations to Chloe, Tyson, Christian and Samantha n on becoming our Student Representative Council (SRC) members for Semester 1 2014. We trust that they will take their responsibilities very seriously and represent Winyu Unit well.
Winyu B has been a hive of activity with 2D shapes this week. The children have been busy hunting for examples of 2D shapes in our classroom. They learnt how to record their findings on tally charts. Our next task is a giant shape hunt outside, where we will take the iPads with us on the hunt to photograph the shapes we find. Later, these pictures will be made into posters about 2D shapes in our school environment.

Winyu N wish Luke and Samantha the very best for a successful time at next week’s Monash Swimming Carnival. School students in Years 2 to 6 were invited to participate in the carnival only if they are able to confidently swim 50 metres. We hope that they have a great time and try their best.

**Library News**

**OPENING TIMES**
Monday to Friday 8.30 -9.00
Monday to Friday 11.35 – 11.55
The children are able to come during these times to return and borrow books. Borrowing is not restricted to their class library time.

**LIBRARY BAGS**
We are encouraging all children for Kindergarten to Year 6 to have a library bag to assist in the preservation of the books. It may be a cloth bag or a plastic bag or a shopping bag.

**Dirt to Dish Kitchen News**

This week has seen us challenging the idea that vegetables are "YUCK"....sorry Monash students....I don't buy it!!

By baking some delicious pumpkin cupcakes, our junior chefs have seen that cake doesn't necessarily have to be made with chocolate to be delicious, and thinking outside the box with some ingredients can have surprising results.

The recipe we cooked is similar to a carrot cake but has used the whole pumpkin, skin and all (apart from the seeds, which we saved for planting). We saw that as the pumpkin cooks in the cakes, it breaks down to a soft, sweet and fluffy texture, helping the cakes to stay moist and tender.

We continued to explore spices this week, learning about the origins of cinnamon and nutmeg. The overwhelming response was that the nutmeg smelled "interesting" which I guess is a step up from "gross"! We discussed how nutmeg and pumpkin are "BFF’s" meaning that they make a great team and help enhance each other’s greatness.

Our garden pumpkin patch has been planted and is looking great - fingers crossed the neighbourhood snails don't find out!

Over the coming weeks we will be spending some more time out in the garden and hopefully the children will have an opportunity to get their hands dirty.

Speaking of getting messy, in the kitchen we will be learning about handmade pasta before we explore some of the different ways to use this wonderful ingredient.

A big thank you to Candace and Lee for coming to visit the kitchen and lending a hand this week, it’s great to have parents joining in this wonderful experience with their children. All are welcome.

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

Canteen News

Canteen Menu – Apologies for a few little typo’s on the menu.

- Toasted Sandwiches are available for purchase everyday (no extra cost).
- Pizza is available on Thursday’s only (made fresh in canteen).
- Vegie Burgers are new and available on Wednesday Burger Day.
- Caeser Salad and Salad boxes are new!
- Weaties, Snack bags and Popcorn should have GREEN smilie faces!
- Pretzels are also now available for $1.00
- Frozen juice cups are now available for $1.00. Flavours are Apple, Orange & Apple/Blackcurrant

To avoid disappointment, lunch orders must be handed in to canteen by 9.15 am. Early lunch orders (before canteen is open) may be dropped in the blue box out the front of the canteen.

In regard to the recent media publication of banning fruit juice and sugary drinks in canteens, please feel assured our canteen proudly follows the national healthy canteen guidelines. The juice and flavoured milk we sell are approved by Nutrition Australia – the juice is 200ml and 99% fruit juice, the milk is low fat and 250ml size, they are all tasty, healthier and meet the guidelines.

Canteen is seeking parents to join our committee in positions as Secretary, Treasurer, Special Lunch Coordinator and Chairperson. For more information please email Veronica monashpscanteen@outlook.com

Canteen Roster
Mon 3rd March – Gill
Tues 4th – Eleanor
Wed 5th - Rachael
Thurs 6th – Julie
Fri 7th – Diane

Mon 10th – n/a
Tues 11th – Eleanor
Wed 12th - Rachael
Thurs 13th – Lyn
Fri 14th – Helper needed
For Roster changes or to be added to the roster please see Veronica at canteen or email 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**

**Hockey**

Looking for a fun, active and social sport for the winter? Why not give hockey a try! Come and try trial on this Saturday, 1 March from 10.30 am to 1.00 pm at the Lyneham Hockey Centre, Mouat Street, Lyneham. For further information visit [www.ochc.com.au](http://www.ochc.com.au) or email ochc@ochc.com.au.

**Canberra PCYC**

presents Bluelight Disco on Saturday 5 April, 5 pm to 7 pm at the PCYC Erindale Centre Grattan Court Wanniassa.

PH: 6296 1292  or email: bluelight@pcyc.net.au

Kids are encouraged to dress up and this event is designed for Primary School kids with a strict no drug and alcohol event. Younger siblings are welcome.

$5 entry

Peter Abrahams, Bluelight Facilitator
Canberra Police Community Youth Club inc.
Ph: 02 6296 1292
[ peter.abrahams@pcyc.net.au](mailto:peter.abrahams@pcyc.net.au)
[ www.pyc.net.au](http://www.pyc.net.au)

**Vikings Tuggeranong Rugby Union**

**Try Rugby Evenings**

If you are new and want to learn about Rugby Union, here is the perfect opportunity to enjoy an evening with Canberra’s Premier Rugby Club -Tuggeranong Vikings. **TryRugby** is designed with structured activities for the kids to enjoy the wonderful game of rugby union with some of Australia’s leading coaches and players.

**Friday 28 February & Friday 7th March 5.30pm – 6.30 pm**

Viking Park, Erindale
Corner of McBryde Crescent and Amsinck St, Wanniassa Canberra ACT
Cost: Free - Registration forms will be available on the day.
Age: 6-12 year old boys and girls, all skill levels are welcome to come have some fun and try rugby
What to bring: Runners or boots, hat, drink bottle etc
For more information contact: Ryan 0418441655 Peter 0438225212
ryan.roberts@vikings.com.au peterhawke@primusonline.com.au

“Get into Vikings Rugby, you’ll love it!”

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