**Principals Report**

**Victorian Bushfires**

In the last few days I have been asked some questions in relation to a number of our students understanding the recent bushfires around Victoria. Each child will be very different in how they process such events. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development does have a number of publications you may like to consider. [http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/health/Pages/2009bushfires.aspx](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/health/Pages/2009bushfires.aspx)

I have included a section from this website for your information.

A natural disaster such as bush fire may have made children worry for the safety of their family, pets, possessions and self. Such events often result in signs of tiredness and anxiety. In children we may notice such behavioural changes as uncharacteristic quietness or tearfulness. This is not unusual. Children need as much normality in their lives as possible. They need boundaries and limits to be in place – this helps to restore predictability, safety and security. Do not be alarmed by temporary lack of concentration. Speaking and acting in a way that values what the children say and do will help them feel good about themselves.

These reactions usually last for a short time.

Children whose thoughts, feelings and emotions are ‘up and down’ for some time after an unusual event are possibly trying to make sense of their experience. The above-mentioned temporary reactions are all normal reactions to an unusual event. If reactions persist please seek support.

If you need any assistance please speak with your child’s class teacher or contact the school office.

**Community Partnerships**

Today a note came home entitled ‘Parent Correspondence: Permissions and Community Partnerships’. This covers aspects such as the use of photographs and local excursions. It also covers access to the internet. A new element includes our ongoing commitment to community partnerships. There is a brief form we would like you to complete. Although it is contained within the correspondence here is the link [http://tinyurl.com/m9bc6fy](http://tinyurl.com/m9bc6fy). Please return this permissions note as soon as able to your child’s class teacher.

**Information Evenings**

Below is a list of the various Information Evenings in regards to the teaching and learning programs within each year level. Communication regarding these events is to follow.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Information Night: 5/6</th>
<th>7.00 pm</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contact Vicki McCormack</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Information Night: 3/4</th>
<th>6.30 pm</th>
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<tr>
<td>Contact Justine Ryan</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Information Night: P/1</th>
<th>7.00 pm</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contacts Jenny Irvine and Karen Ghosn</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Information Night: 2/3</th>
<th>7.00 pm</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contact Kim Simmons</td>
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</table>

Key contacts can be contacted through the office or school email.

**Principals report continued over page**
Principals report continued

**Communication/Newsletter Alerts**

Moonee Ponds West has a commitment to continual improvement. One area of focus has been to make our newsletter as relevant to our community as possible. Alongside this we have improved our school website so that school dates appear on our calendar and notices sent home are stored on our site as well.

If you haven’t done so already, could you register to receive an email reminder that our newsletter is available for reading? [http://www.mooneewestps.vic.edu.au/](http://www.mooneewestps.vic.edu.au/). In two weeks’ time we will be adding the newsletter as a PDF, directly into your email alert. This is in response to the survey results we received last year. We would like to remind all families that our website is now Smart Phone Enabled. This assists people in being able read information such as calendar dates and our newsletter more easily. For those who prefer to read a hard copy we encourage you to print these at home rather than requesting one from school. MPW has a commitment to the environment and keeping our operating costs as low as possible in order to provide the best learning opportunities for our students. If you have been receiving a hard copy and would now like to access the electronic version please email the school so the hard copy isn’t printed. The school’s email address is moonee.ponds.west.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

**School Council Nominations**

In 2014 we have four Parent Member vacancies and two DEECD Employee vacancies for the two year term of office. We have an additional DEECD Employee vacancy for a period of one year.

The role of School Council as outlined in the Education and Training Reform Act 2006 is one of helping to set the long term future for the school and maintaining oversight of the school’s operation. The Principal is responsible for the management of the school and acts as the Executive Officer of Council.

School Council Responsibilities can include:

- Contributing to the development of the Strategic Plan
- Approving the annual budget
- Working with the school to develop, review and update policies
- Representing the views of the school community
- Arranging for things needed for the running of the school
- Raising money for the school needs
- Making sure the school grounds and buildings are maintained
- Creating interest in the school within the community

The timeline for the nomination process is as follows:

- **Nomination forms available from the office Friday 14th February**
- **Nominations close at 4.00pm on Friday 21st February**
- A list of candidates and nominators will be posted by Friday 21st of February
- If an election is required, ballots will be distributed on or before Wednesday 26th February
- If an election is required ballots will close at 4.00pm on Thursday 6th March

Any questions can be directed to School Council Secretary Sandra Monaghan via the school office.

**Sun Smart**

The weather is certainly putting on a good show reminding us what summer is all about! If you can see skin, UV can reach it.

From September to the end of April, all children and staff:

- Wear cool, loose fitting clothing that covers as much skin as possible
- Wear a sun protective hat for all outdoor activities
- Apply SPF 30 or higher broad spectrum sunscreen during the day (please see sunscreen tips below)
- Have access to shady play spaces

Teachers at school are not expected to apply sunscreen to students however we remind children to apply sunscreen before they go outside. Regular use of sunscreen has been shown to reduce the incidence of melanoma and squamous cell carcinoma, both in the short and long term. We have a supply of sunscreen in the classrooms and at specialist’s classes. If you are bringing sunscreen from home choose SPF 30 or higher broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen. Make sure it is within its use-by date and is stored below 30 degrees. It is best to apply a generous amount of sunscreen to any exposed skin around 20 minutes before going outdoors. Sunscreen should be reapplied every two hours even if the stated level of water resistance is 4 hours. Families and visitors are encouraged to use a combination of sun protection measures (sun protective clothing and hats, sunglasses, sunscreen and shade) when participating in and attending outdoor school activities. Last year the School Council endorsed an updated Sunsmart policy which can be found on our school website. Go to: [http://www.mooneewestps.vic.edu.au/page/173/Policies](http://www.mooneewestps.vic.edu.au/page/173/Policies)

Enjoy the week,

Jenny, Helen & Randal
Room 13 News: Week 1 & 2

We have been exploring the 6 Writing Traits starting with Ideas.

We used the book ‘The Day the Crayons Quit’ to help us develop our ideas. We wrote letters from inanimate objects in the room.

Here are some exerts from our letters:

- Thirdly, all the stationary in your pencil case tease me because I’m empty. Everyone thinks I’m the least loved. You do love me right? Signed by your very battered friend, Notebook – Doris

- It’s the door here and I have a complaint for your classroom. You have been treating me with no respect, and I do not appreciate it. From your Classroom Door – Tom

- Firstly, why am I still inside my packet? I’ve been in it all my life and I’ve never felt the fresh air before! Your unused, unloved friend, Sticky Notes – Alex

- Secondly, I have been to the doctors many times because you put me in the penholder the wrong way! It’s just not ok! I feel like I am going to throw up! From your grumpy friend, Mr Pen – Olivia

- It’s Laptop here... You have been pushing my buttons too much and now it’s starting to hurt. From your mistreated friend, Laptop – Paris

- Secondly, sometimes when you draw next to me you draw on me and I get messy. From Ruler – Zaiden

- Ok! Listen up kiddo! What’s been going on lately is unacceptable. The slamming is unbearable. You want to know how many headaches I get every afternoon? Too Many!!! From your friend Locker – Lucy

Kylie Ticehurst
Class 56D Teacher

Chess Coach

Have fun learning Chess!!

Where: Conference Room
When: Wednesday’s

lunchtime
12th Feb – 2nd April 2014
Cost: $85 (per child) $65 for 2nd sibling
Benefits: Strategic thinking, improved self-esteem, attention span in class, lateral thinking, team work, analytical skills.

We cater for all skill levels! Each week different lessons are taught & games are played. A trophy is awarded to the “Best & Fairest” player, and a Silver badge to 2nd place and a Bronze badge to 3rd place at the end of term. To enrol your child please make payment of $85 by Wednesday 19th February, Cheques made payable to “Hooton Consulting Pty Ltd”

For more info contact Phil on 0421 901 530

Please pay online or forward payment/form inside an Envelope Marked “Chess Coaching” to Phil at chess club or school office.

Child’s Full Name: _____________________________
Grade: _______ Phone: ________________
School: ____________________________
Email: ____________________________
Payment Due: Wednesday 19th February

CHEQUES: made payable to “Hooton Consulting Pty Ltd”

EFT: Acc Name: Hooton Consulting Pty Ltd Bank: CBA bsb: 063201 Acc #: 1004 9289 (please put school initials & child’s name on transaction)

$85 cash: cheque: eft:

Term Dates and Curriculum Days 2014

Term Dates
Term 1
29th January - 4th April
Term 2
22nd April - 27th June
Term 3
14th July - 19th September
Term 4
6th October - 19th December

Curriculum Days
Tuesday, 28th January
Tuesday, 11th March
Friday, 23rd May
Monday, 3rd November
Sports News

Rotational Sport
The Grade 5 & 6 students have begun our Annual Rotational Sports Championship. The students are placed in teams and participate in a variety of sports on Friday mornings. Teams can earn points for winning, teamwork and sporting attitude. After 5 rounds Team 3 & The Super Tigers are leading the way on 19pts.

Swimming
Friday 14th February students from Grade 4, 5 and 6 have the opportunity to participate in swimming trials. The swimming trials are used to select the MPW swimming team to compete at the Ascot Vale District Sports Swimming Carnival on Friday 28th February. Good luck to all students who are competing.

Helpers
Throughout the school year I will be asking for parent helpers to assist in various aspects of the PE & Sport programs at MPW. I encourage families to be involved with our sports program. During term 1 we will be participating in swimming and cross country. The Grade 5/6’s will also be involved in preparation and trials for Winter Sport – Netball, Football and Tee – Ball. If you would like to be involved please come and see Bree.

Up & Coming Events
- Friday 14th February: Swimming Trials at Ascot Vale Leisure Centre
- Friday 28th February: District Swimming Carnival at Queens Park Pool
- Friday 7th March: Cross Country Trials at MPW

Bree White
P.E Teacher

The Environment Committee News

MPW has an active environment team that meet once a month. The committee has been involved in many projects such as:

- Planning and developing gardens (including working bees)
- Introducing Rubbish Free Lunch boxes
- Harvest festivals
- Community musical evenings
- Healthy Activities weeks
- Junior Green Team
- Stocking the community kitchen with pre loved items
- Designing and sewing aprons for the community kitchen
- Recycling…and many other initiatives

If you would like to know more about this and any other aspects of the Environment group, please drop into room 23 to chat to Helen (on Mondays and Tuesdays) or Lisa in room 20. We are always looking for new members who have an interest in contributing to all things environmental.

Environmentally yours
Helen Lockart & Lisa McLachlan
If you are interested in your child participating in the Victorian Premier’s Reading Challenge for 2014, you will need to collect the consent note from the library or download it from the website. Once signed and returned back, I will then register your child and provide them with all the required paperwork.

More details of the Challenge is available online at www.education.vic.gov.au/prc.

Please read and inform your child of the commitment, what is expected and the responsibility they will need to dedicate if participating in the challenge, as many students find this to be quite a demanding task!

The Challenge aims to promote a love of reading
It is not a competition, but a challenge to each student.
It is open for Preps to Year 12.

So... if you love books ...enjoy reading....or even love being read too.....then this is your mission!

The Choirs are BACK for 2014

MPW junior and senior choirs:
To be held every Monday in the performance room. Anyone interested in joining is more than welcome to come along:
Junior choir (grades 1 & 2) 1.00 to 1.45pm
Senior choir (grades 3, 4, 5 & 6) 1.45 to 2.30pm
Our choir is a fun way to learn about singing and exploring musical elements, style and movement, whilst developing our concert repertoire.
Everyone gets a chance to perform. Our choir helps students learn how to sing in a group, develop their listening and language skills, explore rhythm and movement, develop confidence, self-esteem and make new friends while sharing the excitement of performing.
We look forward to another great year.
Any questions please contact Kate Ridgeway via the school office.

School Banking Day Reminder
Remember School Banking is every THURSDAY
You can bank as much as you like every week,
School Banking is about frequency not value.
Every time a student makes a deposit at school they receive a silver Dollarmite token.
Once they have individually collected 10 tokens they can be redeemed for an exclusive Dollarmite reward at the school office.
MPW MOVIE NIGHT

MORE MINIONS. MORE DESPICABLE.

Family tickets - $30    Adult tickets - $10
Child tickets - $7 Tickets available from the Front Office at Athol Street, Moonee Ponds
Sausage sizzle from 6:00 pm
TERM 1 SOCCER CLINICS @ MOONEE PONDS WEST PRIMARY SCHOOL - BOYS & GIRLS

Details at
www.footballstaracademy.com.au
PLACES FILLING FAST!

BOOK YOUR FREE TRIAL - call ROBBIE
0422 853 411 or email
vic38@footballstaracademy.com.au

Make Your Place Their Second Home
World Education Program (WEP) is inviting Australian families to experience another culture within their own homes by becoming volunteer host families. Choose a student from Italy, Belgium, France, Switzerland, The Netherlands or South America and get a glimpse into the life of another culture without having to leave the comfort of your home! Our exchange students are just as excited about sharing their own culture and life experiences as they are about becoming a member of an Australian family.

Arriving in July:
Pietro (17) from Italy is sporty, representing his region in tennis. He is a member of the scouts and plays the guitar and drums.
Cecile (15) from France is a keen dancer, in both classical and jazz. She is also an excellent skier and enjoys the smaller, non-materialistic things in life.

+ MANY MORE

Find out more!
Getting to know your student before he or she arrives brings fun and joy to everyone involved. Take the next step and contact WEP today to receive a full information pack for your family, including student profiles.

Sylvia Kelly
Manager - Inbound Exchange Programs
Phone: 1300 884 733
Email: info@wep.org.au
Online: www.wep.org.au

Open your home and hearts to an international exchange student! It’s easier than you think and a fantastic experience for all!