**Principals Report**

**Writing Together**

In last week’s newsletter I mentioned the school’s focus on the six traits of writing. The traits underpin the work we are doing with the students to further improve their writing. It would be great if families could use these terms as they speak about writing with their children.

The six traits are:
- Voice
- Word choice
- Sentence fluency
- Conventions – spelling and grammar
- Ideas
- Organization.

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development has a website Connect-Primary which has a range of activities and ideas you may like to look at with and for your children. [www.education.vic.gov.au/primary](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/primary)

One of the activities on the Connect site is called Story Starters. This interactive collection of creative writing prompts is designed to help students get a story started. The story starters allow children to choose a theme such as adventure, fantasy, Sci-Fi and then it gives ideas for character, setting and plot. Children then write a short piece using the notebook, letter, newspaper or postcard templates for their writing. The children can then adjust the story one piece at a time using the spin the wheel buttons. Families can support this activity by asking questions such as:
- How does the main character look and act?
- What words or phrases describe where the story takes place?

Whilst this website is great fun the important message is that writing needs to be an everyday activity. Activities done at home such as these listed will help your child develop the necessary literacy skills:
- Writing a shopping list.
- Writing captions for family photos.
- Making and writing on birthday cards and thank you notes.
- Keeping a family calendar with important events.
- Planning and writing the weekly menu together.
- Using a notebook to write their own ideas and feelings.

Reading and writing go hand in hand. Literacy skills are crucial building blocks in our children’s lives. In primary school, students use reading and writing to learn and explore a range of learning areas and to seek out information for themselves as active learners. Every opportunity at home to write, read, speak and listen is enormously helpful in the literacy development of every child.

Principal’s Report continues over page...
Principal’s Report continued..

Terri Campbell

Terri our language consultant attended MPW yesterday. Terri has been supporting teachers and students with focused professional learning and teaching in the area of writing (6 traits of writing) within the classrooms during 2013. Yesterday was an opportunity to meet with Terri and our Literacy Coordinator Amy Dinsdale to consider the outcomes of the work that has been done and discuss recommendations for future work in the writing area of the curriculum. Terri also had an opportunity to visit classes and teachers to see how they are going with their writing program and to look at some of the work the students have been doing since her last session at the school.

Athletics Carnival

Yesterday 60 of our Year 3-6 students attended an Interschool Athletics Carnival at Aberfeldie Park. It was a fantastic day with all of our students preforming well. The following students received a place; Dan, Stu, Veronique, Tom N, Will, Ethan M and Cyneisha. The weather stayed fine for us which resulted in a fantastic day for all involved. Thank you to our Sport and PE teacher Bree White for all her organisation of the day, to the staff who supported Bree at and before the event and to those parents who also assisted on the day, thank you. Well done once again to all the students for participating.

Curriculum Day

Friday the 30th of August is a Curriculum Day, with a focus on ICT with our consultant Andrew Del Mastro and Student Wellbeing with a focus on Restorative Justice with our Presenter Dave Vinegrad. There will be no school this day.

Have a great week everybody,

Jenny, Helen and Randal.

Music: Count Us In 2013

Thursday 31st October @ 12.30pm.

Following the success of last year’s event, MPW is excited to again be participating in Music: Count Us In 2013.

It’s Australia’s biggest school initiative. With support from the Australian Government, it has run since 2007 and is all about celebrating the value of music education to students’ development, whoever they are, wherever they are.

It involves more than 600,000 students, teachers - and often parents- from schools all over Australia who sign up to learn, rehearse, then perform the same song, on the same day, at the same time.

At next Monday’s assembly we will be beginning to learn this year’s song. The song is called “Keep On”. It was co-written by four students from around Australia (selected from student song submissions) and mentor, acclaimed Australian musician, Katie Noonan.

Darren Percival, Runner Up on “The Voice” last year, is singing lead vocals.

For more information about this great event and to listen to this year’s song, go to: www.musiccountusin.org.au/

. . . . . . Can We Count You In???
Important MVIMP News!

Next week, a group of children from MVIMP will be attending our annual MVIMP Music Camp at Lady Northcote in Bacchus Marsh, from Tuesday till Friday. This is one of the big highlights of the MVIMP calendar – four days of music culminating in a concert for our families on the Thursday night. All four MVIMP schools attend the camp, meaning that we make a whole bunch of new friends to run into later at secondary school and interschool sport, as well as our end of year concert. We aim to give as many children who participate in MVIMP as possible an opportunity to attend a music camp at some point during their time in the program.

All our music and band tutors attend camp to work intensively with the students there. This means that for the students who are not attending camp next week, there will be....

**NO LESSONS OR BAND REHEARSALS HELD from Aug 20th to 23rd except for bass guitar** (who have a double lesson).

Please also book in the date for our MPW Concert…

**Wednesday September 18th 7pm in the gym.**

...and our MVIMP Combined Concert –

**Wednesday November 13th at Moonee Valley Racecourse.**

All children perform at these concerts, and all families and friends are welcome.

Host Families Needed For New Exchange Students in 2014

There are girls and boys aged between 15 and 18 from exciting countries like Italy, Belgium, Germany, Holland, Switzerland, Brazil, Norway, Argentina, Finland, Canada and Austria hoping to come here to study for 3, 5 or 10 months from February next year and stay with a volunteer family that is willing to host and welcome them. If you feel you could do this for them for the length of their stay or even some of it, please contact Klaus Schumann on (03) 97584279 and let him know of your interest.

JAI AND BELLE – RECYCLE FOR LIFE.

Our School is participating in the SIDS and Kids NSW and Victoria – Red Bag Superstar Event.

Your children will be bringing home a Red Donation Bag which we ask you to fill, plus any additional bags with any unwanted Men’s, Women’s, Children’s Clothing, Curtains, Linen, Shoes, Toys, Books, Bric-a-brac, and any Small Household items.

The Campaign commences on 13/08/2013

Please return your donations by 27/08/2013

Please contact the office if you require any additional bags.
Students, teachers, mums and dads, This is the class of 2013, Life is a rollercoaster,
Take a ticket and enjoy the ride.

If we could offer you a piece of advice, Love your family - it is all you’ve got,
Stop, before you criticise them,
Remember the good things they have done for you, Love every second you’ve got.

Family is the most important ingredient for the recipe of life,
Keep them close and treasure every moment you have with them,
Celebrate the good times but don’t forget to help each other through the bad,
Cherish. Friends will come and go,
All are different - enjoy their differences,
You have a choice, Respect.

Eat an apple everyday,
Throw it hard enough it will keep everyone away, Run.
Even with no space - just run, Eat.
Indulge on your chocolate
- but remember your greens,
Play until your legs hurt.

Enjoy things while you have them, Explore.
Be free from ‘ugly’ judgments, Think.
Don’t always follow in your friend’s footsteps,
Start following your own path, Believe.

Don’t let your memories go, You only live once,
Don’t think about tomorrow when today is still here, Live life to the fullest.

Respect your elders - you will regret it if you don’t,
Don’t break people’s hearts unless you want yours broken yourself,
Look up to your older siblings and learn from their mistakes,
Don’t bring others down but lift them up,
If you don’t have anything nice to say don’t say anything at all.

Don’t let others judge you by your swag,
They are probably just jelly, Stride.
Be true yourself, - you are not just another jar on the shelf, Pride.
Be proud of who you are and take risks every now and then,
Just remember to be yourself right until the very end.

Mistakes are meant to be made,
Otherwise you might never learn,
Don’t let the ‘haters’ get you down - you are stronger than that,
Fly.
You have to be a child to be a wise elder, Stretch your mind to the beautiful wonders of the world,
Smile.
Laugh when there is nothing to laugh at you will get a six-pack,
Believe.
Just remember, be yourself because everyone else is taken.

Remember to enjoy the ride ‘life’ is.
There will be ups and downs.
Parent and Family
Primary to Secondary School Transition
Information Forum

Date: Wednesday August 28th 2013
Time: 4:30pm - 6:30pm
FREE with food (hotel options available)

Your children are welcome to join in the conversation!

How can you support your child’s move from primary to secondary school – your questions answered!

For further information please call Pippa Sowman
on 0402 944406 or email pippasowman@ccilen.org.au

North Melbourne Community Centre
Main Hall, 49-53 Buncle Street,
North Melbourne
Children With Type 1 Diabetes - Are You Challenged by Your Child’s Diabetes? Research into parenting children with type 1 diabetes.

The University of Queensland is conducting research into parenting children with type 1 diabetes. Parenting a child with diabetes presents many challenges (everything from the regular blood glucose monitoring and insulin intake, to more general parenting tasks). The aim of this study is to understand the factors that make the management of childhood diabetes particularly difficult, and to use this information to develop strategies that might assist parents in managing their child’s diabetes.

If you are a parent of a 2 to 10-year-old child with type 1 diabetes, we would love to hear from you! By sharing your experiences (confidentially), you will be making a valuable contribution to the development of much-needed childhood diabetes management strategies for parents.

To complete the online survey, please log on to: [https://exp.psy.uq.edu.au/type1diabetes](https://exp.psy.uq.edu.au/type1diabetes)

For further information about the project or to request a survey to be posted to you, please email Aditi Lohan (aditi.lohan@uqconnect.edu.au) or phone Amy Mitchell (07 3365 7305) at the Parenting and Family Support Centre in the School of Psychology at the University of Queensland, St Lucia QLD 4072 (Fax: 07 3365 6724).