Principals Report

Enrolment Plans and Class Placement for 2014
The demand for places at Moonee Ponds West continues to be high. If you are leaving the school during term 4 or at the end of 2013 please let the office know at your earliest convenience. This will greatly assist our forward planning and also the transition of those students leaving at the end of the year into their new schools.
If you have some information that your child’s teacher is unaware of that may assist with your child’s class placement please put your request in writing and forward to Jenny Crowle by Monday 1st of November. This request will then be registered for consideration.

Policy Review Working Party
The Policy Review working party is currently reviewing a number of MPW polices in consultation with staff and the community. We seek your feedback on the Sunsmart policy, the Anaphylaxis and Allergy Policy and Medication Policy. They are not new polices however we would appreciate comment from our community. Hard copies can be collected from outside the office. They have also been placed on our website. Please send all feedback to thomas.helen.h@edumail.vic.gov.au.

Count Us In – Music
Just a reminder that the big day is tomorrow. We welcome the Moonee Ponds West community to join us in the school’s gym at 12.10 p.m. as we cross live to the webcast.

It’s Not Ok to be Away …nor to be late to school...
When children miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded forcing them to catch up on missed work, they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem. One of the most important things you can do to ensure your child has the best opportunities at school is to make sure he/she goes to school every day and gets here on time. The correlation between school attendance and children’s achievement levels is well established. The more time children spend at school, the more likely they are to experience success. Of course there will be times such as illness when students will be away. But these should be a rarity rather than a norm. Regular school attendance also helps students prepare for the work force where it will be expected that they are there and ready to work each day. If you need any support in the area of school attendance please see your child’s classroom teacher or arrange a time with Helen, Randal or myself.

Community Partnerships
It was my great pleasure to listen to Randal Symons and Nicole O’Brien present their Community Partnerships project at the prestigious Bastow Institute. This was a culmination of the work they have been undertaking this year in building on the strong community at MPW. The focus was on involvement of parents in classroom programs, improving communication mechanisms and providing support to families on the ‘language of learning’ and the conversations you have at home to build on the home school relationships.

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

Our newsletter on line, our Twitter and Facebook accounts, improved communication of events through our website calendar, notices to parents and email alerts are some of the innovations they have put in place.

If you haven’t been to our ‘Partnerships’ section of our website please click here. We will continue to add to this section of the website. In this section there is a great resource on the Six Writing Traits, an area in our School’s Strategic Plan with a focus on continual improvement.

The conversations you have at home around this area of writing using the language from the Six Writing traits will support the work we are doing at school to improve every student’s skills in the area of writing.

We welcome suggestions for our website. Please email these to Randal at symons.randal.j@edumail.vic.gov.au

Community Partnerships Meeting

Following on from the previous item, we remind people of our next Community Partnerships meeting on Friday at 2.30 in the Community Room. If you haven’t been before you are more than welcome to attend.

Have a great week everyone,
Jenny, Helen and Randal

School Council Report - 28th October

At this week’s school council meeting we heard about the professional development our dedicated teaching staff received on the recent curriculum day. The day covered both eLearning and also Restorative Justice (and how this model is used to ensure our students are heard, respected and valued). Both sessions were reported to be valuable and informative.

We also heard about the terrific fun and learning experiences the Year 5/6 students had whilst on camp at Echuca and that we received great feedback on the behaviour of the students. The Year 2 sleepover nights at school also went well and a great time was had by all. A big thanks to all the staff who organised and attended these camps.

We were updated on the “Walk to School” initiative, being coordinated by Bree White during November, and the many benefits that walking to school affords our children, including both physical fitness and also a sense of community. We look forward to seeing this project completed in the next 6 months or so.

It was fantastic news to hear that the application for a grant to construct a new bike shelter was approved from the Department of Justice. Many thanks to Paul Langley for his work on this and we look forward to seeing this project completed in the next 6 months or so.

A number of school policies are currently being updated and it was pleasing to hear about the Healthy Eating policy (which Sheenagh Callahan has been working hard on) and how it has tied in with various events such as the Harvest festival which was held on 13th September, and the upcoming Jump Rope event in November.

Finally, Randal gave a fantastic presentation highlighting the amazing experiences had by students and staff on the recent Japan tour. Our students are so fortunate to have opportunities such as this, and it is anticipated that the connections with the school our students visited in Japan will continue and benefit all students at MPW. Look out for Randal and the students presenting next Monday at assembly!

Jo Martin
School Councillor

Count Down to Music: Count Us In... . . .

1 DAY TO GO!!!

Thursday 31st October

. . . .can we count you in???
**Education Weekly**

**Sports News**

**T20 Blast (Kanga 8’s)**
Trials have begun for our cricket teams that will compete on the 15th November. Two boys and two girls teams will be selected to play in the tournament at Fairbairn Park. Thank you to Russell, Simon and Tania for helping with training.

**Up & Coming Events**
- Fri 1st November—Interschool Sport
- Thursday 7th November—Coffee Cart at Maribyrnong Park for Walk to School November
- Fri 15th November—T20 Blast at Fairbairn Park

**Summer Sport**
The table on the right shows the results of **MPW Blue v MPW Gold.** This week MPW Blue play Kensington at home. The Gold team travel to Ascot Vale (Soccer at Ormond Park).

**Creative Arts Incursion**
This Thursday the Bell Shakespeare company will be visiting MPW to put on 2 performances for students in grades 2/3,3/4 & 5/6.
At 10 o’clock students from rooms 7,8,11/12,20 and 22 will see the performance "Double Trouble" in the gym and then at 2.30pm rooms 13,14,15,16,17,18 and 19 will see the comedy "Midsummer Madness"
Over the last 3 weeks in Creative Arts students have been involved in a series of art and drama activities familiarising them with the synopsis and characters of the 2 plays.
They have loved the drama activities and we expect that this will be a great and new experience for these students.

**MPW Working Bee**
Spring is here and it has been a windy and rainy, and the school grounds are in need of some TLC as well as some sprucing up.
It is time for a **WORKING BEE!!**
The Environment committee is proposing that we have one on:
**Sunday 10th of November from 10am - 12pm.**
We need to turn and break up soil, plant and spread mulch. If you are able to help out on the day, we would love to see you. **All are welcome.**
Those attending are asked if they could please bring along buckets, trowels, brooms, spades, gloves, anything that you think will be useful on the day.
If you are able to attend the Working Bee, please leave your name, your child’s name and grade and a contact number at the office.
We will be collecting names from the office and if we do not have enough volunteers to help out on the day, we will reschedule the Working Bee.
Thank you in anticipation of an overwhelming response. Looking forward to seeing and meeting you on the day.
Helen Lockart (on behalf of the school community)

**Walk to School**
Moonee Ponds West has signed up for VicHealth’s Walk to School 2013, a month-long activity that encourages children to walk to and from school every day in November.
Walk to School encourages children to make walking part of their daily routine to improve fitness, friendships, the environment and their confidence. Children can keep track of their walks, with the help of a parent or teacher, using the Walk to School website and app. Children can play an interactive game on the app and earn items for an imaginary Walk to School journey with each walk they complete. The app is available for free from the App Store and Google Play.
Walk to School is free, it’s fun and there are fantastic prizes for families and schools up for grabs.
Students have received an information/consent form to register online. **On the 7th November there will be a special coffee cart set up at Maribyrnong Park from 8:00am – 8:45am** for MPW families to meet at the park before walking to school. If you live too far to walk this could be a great way to get involved. For other information please visit [www.walktoschool.vic.gov.au](http://www.walktoschool.vic.gov.au).

**The Gorilla Project**
Dear school community,
Humane Society International (H.S.I) is the largest animal protection charity in the world. They want our help to save the gorillas. Did you know that to make a phone, people have to mine in the Congo, destroying their habitat?
If you have any broken/old/unwanted mobile phones that you’d like to donate, there will be a box in the office to collect them.
For every phone that is collected, H.S.I will receive up to $5.00. **ASK YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY FOR OLD PHONES TODAY...**
Thank you,
Harriet Freeman from room 13

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<td>Rounders</td>
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THE FINAL COUNTDOWN

MPW families and friends are warmly invited to join in the fun of the final countdown to Music: Count Us In 2013.

WHEN: Thursday 31st October
WHERE: MPW Gym
TIME: Join us in the gym at 12.10 p.m. when we will cross to live webcasts of the event from the Melbourne Arts Centre with Harrison Craig (winner of The Voice) and from Surfers Paradise where Darren Percival will sing from the top of the Q1 building.

At 12.30 p.m. we will join with the rest of Australia in the final countdown and performance of the song, ‘Keep On’.

We hope to see you there.

......can we count you in???
GRADE 2 SLEEPOVER! 9/10
Take home a big brother or a big sister
Give your children the wonderful opportunity to have an international big brother or big sister by hosting one of our exceptional international students arriving in Australia in February 2014 for their 3, 5 or 10 month programs. Our international students from Germany, Italy, Finland, Colombia and Mexico will live as a local, attend a local secondary school, arrive with their own spending money and comprehensive insurance cover – all arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange. Visit us at www.scce.com.au, email scceaust@scce.com.au or call us toll free on 1800 500 501, request our international student profiles, and capture the spirit of family and friendship!