Principal’s Report

Staffing
In 2013 we farewell a number of our wonderful staff:

Dianne Woodburn
Dianne Woodburn (Di) joined Moonee Ponds West in 2002 as an expert teacher after having taught at Fawkner East and Brunswick South West Primary Schools. The Woodburn family have a long history at the school. Di’s mother Marjorie Grant attended MPW as a student commencing her schooling in Room 2 of the Junior Building. Di talks about Marjorie having to stoke the wood fire to keep the classroom warm. The Woodburn’s children (Robbie, Daniel & Steve) completed their primary schooling at MPW with son Robbie the eldest starting his primary years in Room 2. When Di started at MPW she was placed in, you guessed it, Room 2 as a Prep/one/two class teacher.

During Di’s time at MPW she has held many positions of responsibility including: being on the English and Consultative Committees, a P/1/2 team leader, a leader of assessment and reporting and a leader of the very first computer committee at the school.

In 2013 Di has been the Year 5/6 Team Leader. She has capably lead her team to ensure all students are learning to their full potential and are well and engaged in their learning. Di believes passionately in equity for all students and in setting very high standards for students to aspire to. Di recognises the potential in her students and certainly brings out the best in each and every one of the students in her care.

If there is a Year 6 to year 7 transition question Di Woodburn is definitely the person to ask. Di’s knowledge of the process and the schools around us is of the highest standard. For many years Di has conducted transition information sessions for families of Year 6 students. In 2013 demonstrating Di’s quest to continually improve and based on feedback from the community Di also ran a session for families of Year 5 students. Di has also coordinated the Moonee Valley Network’s Secondary College Expo. This major event involves the secondary colleges coming to MPW to showcase their schools and provides the opportunity for all primary students and their families in our Network to attend.

Di is retiring at the end of 2013 after a long and highly regarded career across a number of state schools including Moonee Ponds West. We thank her for her contribution to state education and wish her the very best.

Sheenagh Callahan
Sheenagh joined the school in 2008 as a Prep/One teacher. She has worked closely with many families and students over these important early years. Sheenagh was instrumental in the reinvigoration of the Parent Forum with a strong focus on listening carefully and considering community thinking to inform our processes.

Principal’s report continues over the page..
Sheenagh was Assistant Principal during 2010 and 2011. It was an absolute pleasure to work closely with Sheenagh on the school self-evaluation and school review. Sheenagh is very supportive of the distributive leadership model and enjoys working with staff as they learn to lead and lead their respective curriculum areas/teams.

In 2009 Sheenagh introduced Tournament of the Minds (ToM) and supported this extension program. It is delightful to see ToM embedded in the school’s programs with one of the 2013 teams in the recent Victorian finals.

In 2012 and 2013 Sheenagh returned to the Prep/One team as Team Leader. During this time Sheenagh lead the eLearning team, supported pre-service teachers and worked with parent forum amongst other responsibilities. She is an inspirational leader with a passion for continual improvement

Sheenagh has been a member of the English Curriculum team since joining the school six years ago and it is her interest and passion for teaching literacy which has led her to take this next step in her career. Sheenagh is leaving us to join Moomba Park Primary School as a Leading Teacher. We extend our sincere thanks to Sheenagh for her commitment to and work at MPW and extend our congratulations on this appointment.

Nicole O’Brien

Nicole joined MPW in 2009 as a Prep/One classroom teacher. Nicole’s expertise in the early years of education is very impressive. She has held positions of responsibility such as the Prep/One team leader, leader of prep transition and in 2013 leader of the specialist area of Hall. Nicole has further strengthened the Hall program with strong links to the literacy and numeracy programs in the early years. Nicole has increased the communities involvement in the Hall program, with many parent helpers now involved in the program. She has also led the reinvigoration of the Vegie patch, with students and families enjoying this area of the school.

Nicole has completed additional study to further develop her expertise. In 2012 she completed Developing Self & Relationships at the prestigious Bastow Institute. In 2013, she completed a Graduate Certificate in Clinical Teaching from Melbourne University and Leading Communities at Bastow Institute.

Nicole is taking up a Grade 1/2 position with leadership responsibilities at Southern Cross Grammar in Caroline Springs. We wish Nicole the very best in her new role.

Amelia Thorne

Amelia is leaving to take up a 12 month appointment at Bulleen Heights School. We wish Amelia the very best in her new role.

Rika Klein

Congratulations to Rika and family on the news of her pregnancy. We look forward to meeting the new baby in 2014.

Rose Bruno

Rose has worked as a valued member of our Education Support team providing wonderful support to students as they access the primary school program. Rose has attended many camps and excursions with great enthusiasm and during these times provided wonderful assistance.

In 2014 we welcome to the school the following new staff:

Leading Teacher - Michelle Bove

Michelle comes to us from Williamstown Primary School where she is currently teaching in the junior area of the school. At Williamstown Primary School Michelle is the Literacy Coordinator and Literacy Coach. Michelle coordinates, develops and delivers professional development, literacy programs and works to build capacity to positively influence classroom literacy programs and provide extension opportunities for high achievers. Michelle has a Diploma of Education and a Diploma in Recreation Leadership. She has recently completed Teacher Professional Leave to research and implement the Inquiry model in the areas of quality questioning to develop substantive conversations around learning.

Principal’s report continues over page..
**Principal’s Report continued…**

**Classroom Teacher - Benjamin McKenna**

Benjamin comes to us from Bellbridge and Thomas Chirnside Primary Schools where he has taught in the Year 5/6 area for a number of years. At Bellbridge Primary Benjamin was a member of the Literacy Committee and the School Wide Positive Behaviour Support Team. He has a Bachelor of Education (P-12) from Victoria University with a major in English and Humanities. He has Level 2 first aid qualifications and a certificate 11 in Outdoor Education.

**Assessment and Reporting**

Last Friday the individual student reports were sent home together with the portfolios. These documents will form the discussion for the Parent/Teacher/Child conferences to be held at various times across this week. The late night for the PTC conferences is tonight - Wednesday 11th December 3.45-7.30pm. We hope families have taken the opportunity to make a time with your child’s teacher to celebrate their learning achievements and discuss important goals and next steps for their learning. Thank you to all staff for the work they have done in the semester 2, assessment and reporting process.

**School of Leadership, Afghanistan (SOLA)**

SOLA is a people to people non-profit organization dedicated to furthering educational and leadership opportunities for a new generation of Afghan women. SOLA, established in 2008, may be the only boarding school for girls in Afghanistan. Its college preparatory program is moving towards becoming the first internationally recognized and accredited high school in the country. SOLA prepares students for higher education and nurtures their visions for Afghanistan. You may recall that earlier in the year a number of our Year 4 & 5 students, after watching a TED talk titled *Dare to Educate Afghan Girls*, decided to help raise funds to support this cause. In the link below the MPW team of Harriet, Roma, Frankie, Lucy and Stephanie along with their teacher Helen Lockart and Parent Danielle Freeman have been recognised for their efforts. Congratulations to all.

[http://us5.campaignarchive2.com/?u=0043752faeaa613c6e8e86b62&id=c33a54c7e8&e=UNIQID](http://us5.campaignarchive2.com/?u=0043752faeaa613c6e8e86b62&id=c33a54c7e8&e=UNIQID)

**Moonee Valley (MV) City Council Disability Newsletter & Action Plan**

The MV disability newsletter, which is published every three months, has been released. It contains helpful information on council services and inclusive activities for people with a disability. The MV Council is currently preparing its next Disability Action Plan, a strategies document that supports the entire community to be more inclusive and accessible. There is a public forum on Wednesday 11th of December at 12 noon at the Council Civic Office in Kellaway Avenue for members of the community to share their thoughts. Please email your details to disability@mvcc.vic.gov.au or call 9243 8748. If you can’t make the community forum a short survey can be completed at [www mvcc vic gov au/DAP](http://www.mvcc.vic.gov.au/DAP) or you can call and request a hard copy on 9243 8748.

There are copies of the Disability Services newsletter in the school foyer. If you require more information or would like a copy of this document please contact Brook Quinn on bquinn@mvcc.vic.gov.au or by calling 9243 1144.

Enjoy the week,
Jenny, Helen and Randal

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### 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
School Council - 25 November 2013

School Council met on November 25 to review correspondence and hear reports from Junior School Council (JSC), the Principle, and the Education, Resource and Environment Committees.

One of the great strengths of our school is the involvement our kids have in the culture and decision-making process at Moonee Ponds West. They've been continuing discussion around the uniform policy review and completed a plus – minus - interesting review (PMI) on show day. The recent disco was a fantastic success, raising $473.75, which has been donated to Plan Australia for the Philippines typhoon appeal. And JSC has continued promoting healthy eating via their posters competition.

In her principal's report, Jenny Crowle highlighted Kylie Ticehurst’s achievement of being selected from a highly competitive field to complete a teacher-led research project. This opportunity comes with funding to support this research. Kylie will complete her research in the area of reading. This work will further strengthen what we are doing in our Strategic Plan around continual improvement in this important area of the curriculum. Well done Kylie!

The Anaphylaxis and Allergy, Medication and Sunsmart Policies were tabled with the Education Committee’s report and approved by Council.

School council also approved the planned curriculum days for next year: 28th January, 11th March, 23rd May and 3rd November. The dates will be advertised in the newsletter and placed on the school website to inform the school community. The decision to move the fourth curriculum day to the Monday before cup day was made after careful consideration of student attendance on that day, which sees around a quarter to a third of our students absent.

The next School Council meeting has been brought forward to the 16th of December and the Council will be considering for approval the budget for next calendar year.

Soundhouse

Students already doing Soundhouse lessons are automatically placed in the program for 2014 – you don’t have to do anything. If you want to withdraw your child, please complete an EXIT form by the end of Term 4. If we do not receive an Exit form, we will assume your child is continuing next year and a charge will apply.

New enrolments for Keyboard, Guitar and SAP (Singing & Performance) 2014 enrolment forms are available for download, and also from the school office. Please complete your enrolment form this year as the program is quite full and we cannot ensure places will be available for children who wait until the start of next year. Please check the Soundhouse Terms and Conditions (available on the school’s website) before you enroll your child. Preps can join Soundhouse from Term 3 next year.

Last Soundhouse lessons for 2014
Keyboard lessons finish this week ending Friday, Dec 13.

Lost Property

Has your child lost any property throughout the year? This Friday, December 13th, all lost property will be available outside Room 21 (Emma’s Room) after school for viewing and collection.

We encourage all families to have a look for any missing belongings. All unclaimed items will be donated to charity at the end of term.
MPW Christmas Raffle

Our Christmas Raffle will be drawn next week so please get your tickets and money into the office. We have some great prizes up for grabs:

- A $300 Myer voucher
- A Cadbury hamper
- An iPod shuffle
- A coffee hamper donated by Bertoncello Coffee
- A pack of kids’ DVDs

If you would like more tickets, please ask at the office

The raffle will be drawn at the final assembly, on Friday 20th December, and winners will be contacted by phone (if not present)

Thanks very much to the school community for your support with fundraising this year.

Merry Christmas from Michelle Currie, Karen Korff, Lawana Coulson, Kath White and Shirley Stephens.

MPW Senior & Junior Choirs

Present

“A Spectacular Year”

On

Thursday 12th December 2013

In the Gym

at

7.00pm

We hope to see you there.
COMMUNITY NEWS

TAKING THE NEXT STEP IN 2014

If your child is starting primary school or secondary school in 2014, you may have a few questions.

Find out how you can support your child to take the next step in their learning journey at education.vic.gov.au/backtoschool

HOOPSMART

BASKETBALL CAMP

January Holidays 2014

Damien Ryan
Former NBL, European and Australian Boomers player will be conducting an innovative and fun HOOPSMART basketball camp.

EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOP
* Team Building
* Life Skills
* Goal Setting

PLAYERS: All levels - Boys/Girls 6-14 years

COST: $105 "Early Bird Special" Registered & Paid before 1st Jan ONLY
*ビジネス NBA ball & Drink***
Registration closes Sun 26th Jan 2014

Special Guests & Coaches!!!

Register at: hoopsmart.com.au

THE COMEDY MAGIC SHOW

A delight from start to finish

School Holiday Magic Show Melb CBD

Looking for amazing school holiday entertainment?

The Comedy Magic Show is packed with amazing magic and illusions for the whole family to enjoy. Unleashing great comedy with magic this show has lots of audience interaction and fun.

Luke the Magician is a big kid performing amazing tricks to delight and amuse his audience. The performance is tailored to ages 5 -12 years, but older kids and parents will enjoy it too!

Perfect holiday entertainment for the kids. Luke’s show is a whole new way to experience magic with your family these summer school holidays!

For a limited time tickets are only $10 (only 35 tickets left)

Spread the news with friends and family before they all disappear!

Show dates and times are: Jan 9th & 10th - 11am, 1pm, 3pm,

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Offer Expires: 24/12/2013

Saturday Mornings

SUMMERSPORT

SPRING START 8th February 2014

For boys & girls aged 4-12. Participate in a fun, safe and non-competitive environment. All 3 sports are offered this summer at Strathmore! Join up for 2 terms of Fun and save $30!

AFL 8.30 - 9.30am
Cricket 9.30 - 10.30am
Soccer 10.30 - 11.30am

Venue: Netley 15 TCI
Strathmore Secondary College
Pascoe Vale Rd Strathmore

Enquiries: Mike Bishop
0418 303 432 mbishop@optusnet.com.au

Victory Community

BACK TO SCHOOL

TAKING THE NEXT STEP