WELCOME JEFF LYON ACTING PRINCIPAL

Today we welcomed Mr Jeff Lyon to our school. He has taken up the position as Acting Principal until the end the school year. Jeff comes to us from St Albans Meadows Primary School where he has been the Assistant Principal since 2008.

On behalf of the school community we would like to extend a warm welcome to Jeff, and together with the students, staff and families, we look forward to working with you.

AUGUST IS EDUCATION SUPPORT STAFF RECOGNITION MONTH

At Moonee Ponds West Primary we have 17 Education Support staff that take up a number of roles in our school both inside and outside our classrooms. This week we celebrated the wonderful work they do to support our students with a lovely morning tea. They are a great team of staff that work very hard together to assist the students with their learning.

Thank you for all the work you do and the contribution you make to MPWPS. Happy ES Month!

SAFETY AROUND OUR SCHOOL

Safety around our school is paramount. The safety of our students coming and going from school is something we ask all community members to be aware of and vigilant with. Last week we had a community member witness a particularly unsafe practise. A driver pulled into the no-standing area just before the crossing on Athol Street. The car was projecting slightly out from the no standing space. Their child emerged from the car on the right side and spent at least a minute gathering their belongings. The driver then moved slowly forward, whilst watching the child walk through the school gate.

We ask that all community members to be aware of the line markings around the school and observe the local bi-laws in relation to these. Most importantly we ask that the community collectively observe the safety of our students.

TERM UPDATES ON WEBSITE

A reminder that all school planners are located on our website at the end of Week 2 each term. These include: English, Mathematics and Inquiry planners for each team as well as one for each specialist area. Added to this the 5/6 team have additional information on their team blog - http://56mpwps.edublogs.org/
Principals report continued

SCHOOL SELF EVALUATION/ PEER REVIEW

Last Monday evening a group of community members participated in the first consultation session for our school self-evaluation. Our independent facilitator Julian Silverman, led the group through a discussion about our school. The discussion looked over the last 4 years of our Strategic Plan with the group noting the things we have done well, things we could still improve and memorable moments. Thank you to those who attended the session and for your input into the discussion.

It is not too late to register for the session on Friday 22nd August during the day from 2.00 - 3.30 p.m in the Community Room.

The community consultation is an important aspect of our school self-evaluation. All community members are welcome. If you were unable to attend a session at the school we will be sending home a notice with an opportunity to forward feedback in writing.

TOURNAMENT OF THE MINDS

Congratulations to our Tournament of Minds students and staff who took part in the event last Saturday at LaTrobe University. The day was enjoyed by all.

We thank Ryan, Ben and Kylie for preparing and assisting the students and the many parents who attended.

We look forward to seeing how the teams performed when the results become available in a couple of weeks time.

Enjoy the rest of week,

Jeff, Helen and Randal

---

CYBERSMART FAMILIES - Building Family Relationships with Technology

Tomorrow night Moonee Ponds West will be hosting our parent forum for students and parent/carers in our grade 5/6 area of the school on being smart when using the internet and social media.

We are pleased to have it open to all parents, not just those of students in grade 5 and 6.

The session will run from 7.00 p.m. and begin in the Performance Space (please note the change of venue).

We are very fortunate to have secured Michelle Webster from the Alannah and Madeline Foundation, creators of the eSmart program. Also present will be Jill Fitzpatrick from the Moonee Valley Police and Shona Ballinger - Student Youth Focussed Services, MacKillop Family Services.

Please return the tear off slip further in the newsletter or complete an online RSVP at http://mooneewestps.vic.edu.au/page/203

We will be attending the CYBER SMART Families Building family relationships with technology Forum on Thursday 21 August at 7.00 p.m. in the school’s Performance Space

Family Name: ________________________________
Room Number: ________________________________
Number of adults: ________________________________
Number of children: ________________________________

Particular areas you would like covered on the evening:
**FREE THE BEARS DAY**

The following is a summary of the feedback from our recent Junior School Council's Free the Bears Day.

Communication of Event (1 - low, 5 - very high)  

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Enjoyment of the event  

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Suggestion/s for improvement  

A parade of all the animal outfits, provide better notice - posters went up too late - a note in the newsletter early. Let parents know about how to prepare food for the bake sale. My daughter loved the day, she loved the bake sale and the dress ups and was thrilled to learn the school had ‘adopted a bear’! My children are involved in JSC and they were really excited about actively participating with providing food for the bake sale and dressing up. It was an excellent event for raising awareness for an important cause. Some adults assisting with the bake sale would have helped with some children in line for 45 minutes. More events on the day - for example bear mask workshop.

**Music: Count Us In 2014 - Thursday 30th October @ 12.30pm**

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

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 500,000 students, teachers and 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.

This year's song is "PAINT YOU A SONG". It was written by five talented students selected from this year’s song writing competition and mentor Harry Angus (The Cat Empire).

To check out this year's song and for more information about this great event, go to: [www.musiccountusin.org.au](http://www.musiccountusin.org.au)
MPW Green Team Presents: EnviroWeek: Trader Challenge

SWAP MEET!

**What?** A swap meet is an event where pre-loved books, toys and clothes can be swapped for other pre-loved books, toys and clothes

**Why?** To reduce the amount of waste on Earth by reusing and recycling

**When?** Friday 29\(^{nd}\) August at Lunchtime

**Where?** The decking outside the Library

You can start bringing in your old books, toys, and clothes to Room 7 now

---

**Victorian Premiers Reading Challenge 2014**

**CONGRATULATIONS** to all the students who have completed the challenge!

Just a reminder that the Victorian Premier’s Reading Challenge 2014 will close on the 12\(^{th}\) September 2014. No data can be entered online after this date.

In order for your child to receive the certificate they need to complete reading the required number of books and have them listed and verified online. It would be much appreciated if you could encourage and assist your child to complete this process A.S.A.P.

Please check that all details online are correct, especially names for the certificate. If any details are incorrect, you can either make the amendments online yourself or come into the library and let me know.

Thank you.

Claudia Stolfo
Library Coordinator
Phase 4: Transitional Spelling (from sounds to structure)
In this phase writers are moving away from heavy reliance on the phonic strategy towards the use of visual and meaning-based strategies. They may still have difficulty recognising if a word ‘looks right’ but should be able to proof their known bank of learned words. Writing will show evidence of an increasing bank of learned words. To help writers at this point it is better not to emphasise phonics but to extend their repertoire of alternative strategies. This is a critical phase in the development of spelling. It often takes writers a long time to move through it. It is important that progress is carefully monitored so as much support and explicit teaching can be given as possible. If writers do not receive sufficient support they may not progress beyond this phase.

Key indicators:
- uses letters to represent all vowel and consonant sounds in a word, placing vowels in every syllable
- is beginning to use visual strategies, such as knowledge of common letter patterns and critical features of words
- is willing to take risks and accepts responsibility

Major Teaching Emphases:
Transitional spellers need to develop familiarity with many common patterns of spelling through reading, writing and specific spelling activities. They also need opportunities to focus on groups of words rather than words in isolation. This enables them to make generalisations about word patterns and to formulate rules.
- continue to emphasise visual patterns encouraging writers to focus on patterns and to classify words
- focus on word meanings and word derivations as a guide to spelling, e.g. sign – signature
- teach strategies for remembering the correct spelling of difficult words
- teach strategies for spelling new words
- encourage writers to generate alternative spelling in order to select the right one
- encourage writers to hypothesise and generalize, e.g. rules for plurals and and syllabification
- encourage the use of words not previously used to enlarge spelling vocabulary
- continue the development of Word banks and class alphabet lists
- continue to model and teach proof-reading skills
- teach writers to think about meaning as a strategy
- continue the development of word banks by incorporating theme, topic, high frequency and interesting words as they arise
- introduce proof-reading strategies.
Students from Room 7 (and the other 2/3 grades) went on an excursion to Werribee Zoo to learn more about ‘Habitats Under Threat’ as part of our Inquiry Unit: ‘We are the Earth Keepers’.

We played in nature...

The Endangered Addax

Room 7’s Smiling Students

Raging Rhino

We went on a safari...

A hungry, hungry hippo!

We observed lots of animals...

We got up close and personal during ‘Habitats Under Threat’...
YMCA School Holiday Program – Book now!
The YMCA are running Spring School Holiday Programs in Strathmore, Niddrie and Moonee Ponds.

They’re offering heaps of awesome activities including Hoyts Movies – Boxtrolls, Bowling and Laser Skirmish, Melbourne Aquarium, Flipout, Wonderland Fun Park and more! Bookings open on 19 August, for full details and to book, visit: [www.childrensservices.ymca.org.au](http://www.childrensservices.ymca.org.au).