School Self-Evaluation

Last week we started our community consultation as a key component of the School Self Evaluation (SSE) process. There were two consultation sessions for parents (daytime/evening) with Julian Silverman our external consultant. The Junior School Council also had a session with Julian. The students will take this information back to their classrooms for all students to have a say in the consultation process. Two key questions were asked of all groups. Things that are going well and things we could improve.

For those families who were unable to attend a session at the school and would like to provide feedback in the consultation process, please complete the key questions on the back of the notice and return the form to the school office by Monday 1st September 2014. The responses do not need a family name. Julian will compile the responses and prepare a report which will be presented to the School Council as a component of the SSE. The additional notice was sent home through the classrooms on Monday and is available on our schools website. There are also hard copies available at the office.

On Monday 8th September 2014 the Education Subcommittee will meet to discuss and provide feedback to the Self Evaluation Report which is currently being finalised. We welcome all community members to this meeting, so please mark the date in your diary now. There will be more information in upcoming newsletters.

School Uniform Review

Last year the School Uniform Working Party established by School Council provided the community with an opportunity to share their thoughts about dress code at our school. A consultant facilitated focus groups with staff and parents and provided the School Council with a report from these sessions.

Through Junior School Council the teachers discussed the review with their students. The working party would like the community to complete a simple poll re. School uniform. This poll will be sent to families. Students and staff will also be polled separately. This data will provide council with further information regarding the community views to assist with the School Council decision making process.
Preparing Today’s Students For Tomorrow
Today we are teaching differently to the way you were taught in order to prepare students for tomorrow’s world. Education needs to be different and dynamic to meet the new and exciting challenges of a fast-changing world. Many of the jobs our children will be doing in the future haven’t even been invented yet. As parents, I suspect you are interested in knowing even more about how we are preparing children for tomorrow. That is why I would like to draw your attention to a new campaign – ’Preparing today’s students for tomorrow’.

The campaign features advertising and includes a link to updated content on the Department’s website. While jobs featured in the campaign, such as underwater infrastructure planner, hover train designer and bio dome gardener may sound futuristic, there is a serious message behind them. Jobs are changing and many of our children will work in professions that don’t exist today. Our school is doing a lot of work to help prepare our students for this future. I encourage you to take a look at the new information designed with parents and students in mind.

Children And Current Events In The Media
Given the reports that are unfortunately prevalent in the media at this current time relating to the violence emanating from various regional conflicts across the northern hemisphere, it is perhaps timely to refer your attention to a document released by Plan International that may assist in talking with your children about war. The link is below.

Staff Leave
Just to advise the school community that Randal will be on 3 weeks long service leave from Monday 1st September and will be returning Monday 6th October, the first day of Term 4.

Enjoy the rest of week.

Jeff, Helen and Randal

School Council News
School Council held an evening meeting on Monday 25th August. The council members received a briefing on the Principal selection process from a Department of Education representative. The position (to commence from the beginning of term 1 2015) will be advertised on 17 October, and a letter explaining the process in detail will be sent home to all families in the coming week.
The Cybersmart families forum was successfully held on Thursday 21st August. Over 80 parents and children attended with the session being well received.
The Executive team is investigating the launch of a school app later in the year. Whilst still in the early stages, the hope is that all parents will be connected via their mobile phone numbers so we can send updates and reminders of school events.

Rohan Hawker
School Council Treasurer
Cybersmart Families - Building Family Relationships with Technology
Thank you very much for the great turn out at last Thursday night’s Cybersmart Families. We had approximately 80 students and parents in attendance. If you were not able to be there here is a link to the presentation by Michelle Webster from the Alannah Madeline Foundation, http://goo.gl/ecgGlM

Also if you were not able to complete the evaluation, the presenters are keen for this to be completed using the following link, https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1q6w3t_nFT8rJ8qIxZx6VLsk9ZGt1540LT0Hx3557ApYM/viewform?usp=send_form

Soccer
One of our parents is planning on running a soccer game during F.A.T. time - Fridays 2.30—3.30 p.m. We are looking for volunteers to assist. The games will be in the first and third week of the month until the end of the school year. The game will be held in the gym or outdoors, weather depending. The sessions are for Grades 4, 5 & 6, girls and boys.

Please email the school moonee.ponds.west.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au if you are available. Please make the subject Soccer - Randal so it can be passed on.

Music: Count Us In 2014
"You paint the melody
I will paint the harmony
Singing colours all around
Every city, every town"

Have you heard the great music playing at school during bell time?

It’s this year’s Music Count Us In song called "Paint You A Song" and on Thursday 30th October at 12.30 p.m. MPW will join over 500,000 students, teachers and parents from schools all over Australia to sing the same song, on the same day, at the same time.

For more information about this great event and to listen to this year’s song, head to the MPW website or go to: www.musiccountusin.org.au

"Let me paint you a song, if you promise to sing along"
Leaving MPW?
Parents/Guardians please advise the school office in writing if your child/children is not returning to MPW in term 4, or in 2015 by Monday 15th September.

2015 Enrolments
On Monday 1st September, a letter of offer will be sent to all prospective families for 2015 enrolments at MPW. Families will have until Tuesday 16th September to advise the school of their decision.

Cadbury Chocolate Drive Reminder
On Friday 8th August the eldest child from each family received a box of Cadbury fundraising chocolates. This is a major fundraiser with all proceeds going to support our 2014 Fundraising Program.

Thank you to those families who have returned payment and also to those families who donated in lieu of selling a chocolate box.

All money from sold chocolates needs to be returned to the office by Friday 29th August.
We cannot accept any unsold chocolates due to health regulations.

If you have any questions please see Sandra Monaghan in the office.

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 29th August at Lunchtime
Where? The decking outside the Library

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

Free Mulch From The Environment Committee
Over the past few weeks, the students have been enjoying the hay that was placed in Jack’s Paddock during our Working Bee early in the term. The students have been making nests, forts, houses… engaging in play that required problem solving, negotiating and creative thinking. There were moments when it was thought that the play that the children engaged in was not going so well, but overall it was interesting and a joy to watch the interactions between the children during that time.

Unfortunately, the time has come to clean up the area around Jack’s Paddock, so we have raked up and bagged many bags of hay. We would like to invite the community to please take the hay for veggie gardens, mulch….perhaps even an opportunity for your whole family to engage in some creative/problem solving activities in your own back yard??

If you would like a bag (or 2) please leave your name and details at the office and we will organize for the bags to be placed in front of the gym area ready for pick up. We will advise which day this will be. We are getting ready for the next ‘pop-up’ area early next term…..How exciting!
MVIMP Camp 2014...
Congratulations to all the MVIMP children who attended music camp last week, and the families who supported them by coming along to their performance.
The children involved did an absolutely fantastic job, rehearsing their band and ensemble pieces extensively before presenting a very professional concert on the Thursday evening for their families. The children from all four schools mixed beautifully – all the staff attending the camp agree that the behaviour of all involved was outstanding.
It was a real pleasure to work with a group of kids who show such enthusiasm, energy and positivity. Thank you!

PS: Packing up time is always interesting at camp and things get thrown, rather than placed neatly into bags. Unfortunately someone has lost a pair of Converse canvas high-tops, so if you find they have made their way to your house in the jumble of sleeping bags, wet towels and assorted clothing, can you please return them to Fiona as she would love to have them back!

MPW MVIMP CONCERT...
Our next big item for MVIMP is the MPW Concert held on...
Thursday September 18th at 7.00 p.m.
Moonee Ponds West P.S Gym

All children who participate in the MVIMP Program will perform on the night, which will conclude with a set by the fabulous Moonee Ponds West Band!
All families are welcome to come along and enjoy the evening.

MVIMP COMBINED CONCERT...
Please also book in the date for our Combined Concert
Wednesday November 19th at 7.00 p.m.
Moonee Valley Racecourse
Phase 5: Independent Spelling

In this phase writers have become aware of the many patterns and rules that are characteristic of the English spelling program. When spelling a new word they use a multi-strategy approach. They have the ability to recognise when a word doesn’t look right and to think of alternative spellings. Spellers in this phase will have accumulated a large bank of known words that they can automatically recall.

Independent spellers continue to use personal constructions when spelling unfamiliar words in draft writing. Independent spellers realise the importance of proof reading.

Key indicators:
- uses known words and will proof read completed work
- uses visual strategies, such as knowledge of common letter patterns and critical features of words
- is aware of social obligations as a speller

Major Teaching Emphases:
Independent spellers should be encouraged to accept responsibility for extending their spelling vocabulary. They should proof read all their written work as they are now able to spell most commonly used words correctly.
- focus on meaning as a guide to spelling
- continue to explore derivations of words-meaning of foreign words as a guide to spelling
- continue to build up a systematic picture of the whole spelling system
- teach writers to use context as a guide to spelling
- reinforce strategies for remembering correct spelling of difficult words
- emphasise social importance of spelling—insist on correct spelling for public audiences, for example: parents, children in other classes or the principal.
FRIDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER IS THE FATHERS DAY STALL
COME ALONG AND BUY DAD A SPECIAL PRESENT

PRESENTS WILL RANGE IN PRICE FROM
$1.00 TO $5.00 EACH

WRAPPING PAPER AND CARDS WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE

IF ANY PARENTS ARE ABLE TO HELP OUT ON THE DAY PLEASE CONTACT JENNY BURGE ON MOBILE 0417 040 866
CLASS WEEKLY NEWS

Book Week was celebrated with…

CHILDREN’S BOOK WEEK: 16th - 22nd August  THEME: Connect To Reading

The Children’s Book Council of Australia announcing the winners

Book of the Year: Older Readers – ‘Wildlife’ by Fiona Wood
Book of the Year: Younger Readers – ‘City Of Orphans: A very Unusual Pursuit’ by Catherine Jinks
Book of the Year: Early Childhood – ‘The Swap’ by Jan Ormerod
Picture Book of the Year – ‘Rules Of Summer’ by Shaun Tan

Book Character Dress Up Day & Multi–Age Workshop

There were lots of interesting book characters.

Both activities involved… using our imagination, being creative, interacting with others, making things, listening to stories, reading stories and most importantly, having FUN!
COMMUNITY NEWS

Presents Cricket Camps
Ages: 7 - 16
Fun, Safe environment
Coaching since 1990!
Video Analysis
Ex-Australian Stars Coaching
September 25th & 26th - 2014

Kensington

For a Free brochure
FREECALL 1800 35 14 15
Or visit
www.cricketcoaching.com.au
for more information

FLEMINGTON CRICKET CLUB
UNDER 10s and UNDER 12s
SEASON 2014/15

NEW PLAYERS WELCOME !
Is your son or daughter under 12th and looking for a friendly local club to play cricket this season?

Flemington Cricket Club is based at Mother D Reserve, just across the corner is Ascot Vale. All junior teams are run by parents for the enrichment of their kids.
- Under 10s play Saturday mornings at Fairfield Park and
- Under 10s play Friday nights at Walter St Reserve
We are very focused on the development of teamwork, with all kids getting a go each week as they develop their skills.

Ascot Vale
Sunday, 14th September, 11am, Walter St Reserve, Ascot Vale

Can’t make the 10th? Register your interest, or for more information:
- Email us at umpire@gmail.com
- Contact Jim on 0413357712

* Availability: Under 10s—under 13s on September 1, 2014, Under 12s—under 15s on September 14, 2014

Consider Mount Alexander College for Year 7 in 2015
Mount Alexander College pride itself on providing students with the opportunity to shine. It is a nurturing learning environment for students of all abilities.

If your child has missed out on their preferred Year 7 class in 2015, Mount Alexander College may have a viable option.

SEAL Students
There are still spaces left for the accredited Select Entry Accelerated Learning (SEAL) Year 7 class in 2015. If your child has good Year 5 NAPLAN scores and is performing at or above the 40th this may be an opportunity for them.

The college is also interested in speaking to you if your child missed out on a SEAL place in another secondary school, but you believe that it is their best interest to begin as an accredited SEAL program.

Call the office on 9372 1622 to make an appointment with the Assistant Principal, Megan Rawlings.

Tours:
Tours are conducted every Wednesday at 9am and bookings can be made through the website - www.mountalexandercollege.vic.edu.au or by calling the college office on 9372 1622.