



Edition 11 – 23rd July 2024

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PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Welcome back everyone to the back half of the year. By no means are we out of the colder months, along with the cold and flu season that follows it around. Our attendance figures fared pretty well in Term 2, fingers crossed we have a similar result in Term 3.

3/4 Camp - Mr Harris and I had the pleasure of joining the 3/4 campers on the Wednesday and then the Thursday of their camp. It was brilliant to see how well these students supported each other through a range of activities and challenges. Many surprised themselves with just what they were capable of. A brilliant few days they'll remember for a long time to come.

Farewell Mrs Deering - Jacki Deering said farewell to the school last week after 3 years providing Education Support to a range of different classes. We were spoiled during this time to have Jacki share her expertise with yoga and her weekly sessions with each class will be sorely missed. We thank Jacki and wish her all the best in her next endeavours.

Outstanding NAPLAN and Attitude To School Survey data:

The school recently received the results of both these assessments from earlier in the year. The information includes comparison with 'Similar Schools' (schools of a similar size and demographic) as well as 'Network' (schools from across South Gippsland). Across Reading, Writing and Numeracy our Year 3 and 5 cohorts performed above the average of both Similar Schools and the Network. Perhaps most pleasing were our results for Numeracy which has been the schools focus area for improvement in recent years.

	MPS	Similar Schools	Network
<i>Percentage of Yr 5 students with High growth in Numeracy</i>	33	19	21
<i>Percentage of Yr 5 students working at or above level in Numeracy</i>	85	62	64

Our Reading results were a similar story:

	MPS	Similar Schools	Network
<i>Percentage of Yr 5 students with High growth in Reading</i>	33	20	25
<i>Percentage of Yr 5 students working at or above level in Reading</i>	80	68	72

Gene Vander Zalm, Principal

CALENDAR

Current 23rd July – 6th August

24th July - PST Interviews
 29th July - Olympics day
 30th July - School Council Meeting
 31st July - Prep 100 days party
 31st July - Grade 1/2 Coal Creek
 5th Aug - Student free day
 5th Aug – Book Club orders close

Upcoming

23rd Aug - Book Week Dress up Day
 27th Aug - School Council Meeting
 12th Sept - Division Athletics
 19th Sept - School Concert
 20th Sept - Footy Colours Day
 20th Sept - Last day Term 3

Private Music Lessons

Positions are now available for Piano or Guitar.

Please call Lisa - 0408855492

PARENT STUDENT TEACHER (PST) INTERVIEWS

This Wednesday 24th July we will be hosting Parent Student Teacher interviews (or conferences). All families should have received notification last week via compass asking to please make your bookings with your child's teacher via the compass app or by calling the office. Interviews are strictly 15 mins and spaces are limited. If you require more time, please contact your teacher directly to make alternative arrangements. Parents can change their scheduled time, any time prior to the closing time, by re-visiting the compass app or calling the school office - 56647382.

MPS Olympics Day

We are excited to announce that our whole school 'MPS Olympics Day' will be taking place this Monday, the 29th of July, during school hours. In the coming days, students will learn which country they will be representing. They are encouraged to wear their country's colours or their school sports attire along with comfortable running shoes. Students will be grouped in multi-age teams, and siblings will be placed in the same country team. Please note that this event will be weather-dependent, and we will provide updates as required. Keep an eye on Compass in the coming days for more information. The day is all about participation, teamwork, having fun, and celebrating the spirit of the Olympics!

BOOK CLUB

Issue 5 Book Club catalogues were distributed to students last week. With this issue Scholastic are offering up to 3 Free Books to families when they order. If you spend \$20+ you get 1 free book, spend \$50+ you get 2 free books, or spend \$70+ you get 3 free books!

Please place all orders via the LOOP app or via the scholastic website by COB Monday 5th August. Please do not send orders into the school office.

GRADE 1/2 COAL CREEK EXCURSION

The grade 1/2 excursion to Coal Creek is next Wednesday 31st July. We kindly ask those parents/carers who are yet to complete their child's permission form and payment to please do so as soon as possible on compass.

RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS

This year the theme for NAIDOC week is 'Keep the fire burning – blak, loud and proud'. Blak is not a typo but a word created by artist Destiny Deacon. The origin of this spelling has a story and the result of the story is a strong, powerful 4 letter word – which holds its power with the words loud and proud.

When I think of the words loud and proud, I think of the words from a beautiful strong Anangu woman I knew at Mutitjulu. It was a Friday, on Fridays I got to take my grade 3-6 class out bush with the old people and the rangers as part of the Junior Rangers program.

On this Friday, like always we had to drive past Uluru and then take on of the many bush tracks only for Anangu, the Traditional Custodians of that land. I knew I was lucky to be in that car, with those kids and with this woman. Back then people were still climbing Uluru and as we drove past the climb I looked at the people climbing all over this sacred site and I felt the shame creep up my from my toes. This was a sacred site; a place of ancient ceremony and story and people were climbing all over it. Claiming it. Taking a photo and then leaving.

I felt so ashamed that this disregard for country could happen and I looked to the woman in the passenger seat of the Toyota. I said 'I am so sorry this still happens' She said 'these people will come and go, we have always been here – Anangu. It will change.'

And it has. The climb is closed, there is a rumble of change all through the country. I felt this when we walked the Prom, Meeniyani and Fishy Primary. All coming into the river from different directions. Acknowledging the land, connecting to the land and doing this together, as a community.

I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands on which we are growing our children and celebrate the rumble of change. I am grateful for the patience of traditional custodians across the nation, which I am very aware is beyond generous.

Donna Giliam, Primary Welfare Officer

COMMUNITY NEWS

The following Community News articles promote community connections and communications. They are not considered school activities.



CHILD SAFETY STANDARDS

- ❖ Everyone connected to our school can help children be safe.
- ❖ We have zero tolerance of any abuse of children.
- ❖ We have policies and procedures in place to protect the care, safety and welfare of children.
- ❖ There are clear boundaries about how adults in our school community may interact with our students.
- ❖ The new Child Safe Standards go further than child protection arrangements did in the past.
- ❖ The Child Safe Standards apply to school staff, volunteers, contractors, visitors and students' family members. Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility.
- ❖ To ensure you know how we are keeping your children safe at school, and how we would like you to support us.
- ❖ Unsupervised contractors will be asked about their child safety arrangements as a condition of working with us if they work with children enrolled in the school (or children can reasonably be expected to be present while they are at the school).

Please see further information on Child Safe Standards on our school website.

Community members are encouraged to raise any concerns about child abuse with the Principal or report directly to Child Protection / Police.