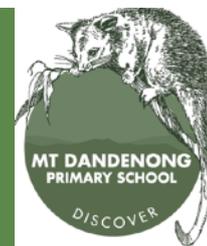


19TH FEBRUARY, 2019

Mt Dandy News



Discover

Message from Sally...

Over the first few weeks of school our teachers and students have been working hard to get the conditions right for learning in their classrooms. A large part of this has involved what at Mount Dandy we call the “Start-Up Program.” This is a whole-school approach to settling into the new school year by focusing attention on our understanding of the school’s RICH values – respect, independence, community and honesty – and how we can demonstrate these in our interactions with one another and when striving to achieve our best as learners. When visiting classrooms, I have been excited to observe the work students have already done to show their understanding of our values and to put these into action inside and outside the classroom.

A component of the Start-Up Program is the “Play is the Way” team games students have participated in on a rotational basis. These games are designed to promote cooperation, social skills and team work and are a great way for the new groups to bond and learn to work together to achieve a goal. I have been very impressed by the students’ ability to do just this when I have observed them hard at play (work!) over the past few weeks.

Year 5/6 Ballarat Tour

Last week the Year 5 and 6 students along with their teachers, Christen and Michelle and our wonderful parent helpers, Kate Rae, Karina Gowan and Scott Allison, set off on a 4-day adventure to Ballarat and its surrounds. The day at Sovereign Hill was certainly a highlight and not least because I was able to join the troops for some gold rush era shenanigans! Panning for gold, touring an underground mine, candle dipping, experiencing school as it would have been in the 1850s and indulging at the lolly shop were just a few of the day’s highlights. The students had a fantastic time, learnt lots of new things and gained an invaluable life experience through their participation in this adventure. Furthermore, the students demonstrated exemplary behaviour and a really positive attitude while they were away. They really are a sensational group of young people!

I would like to thank Christen (who carried out all the organisation for the camp) and Michelle for their stellar efforts in taking our students on this camping tour. It really does require a huge effort on the teachers’ and volunteers’ part, including the reorganisation of family commitments, to be able to facilitate this special experience for the students. So on behalf of the school community I would like to thank and acknowledge this



tremendous effort the part of the teachers and parent volunteers.

Road Safety at the School

As we embark on a new school year, it is important to remember the importance of some basic road safety rules around school. Please drive carefully remembering the 40km/h speed zones. Be mindful of children and their parents walking and cycling to school, as well as those students waiting to be picked up by parents in vehicles. Schools can be very busy places at drop off and pick up time, and your courtesy and patience are appreciated.

It is essential that you respect our protocols regarding using the school crossing to get to your cars if they are parked on the street, even if that means walking a longer way around. I kindly request that if you park away from the school that you cross at our supervised crossing and walk together to your car. Please do not just cross over the street at the junction of Farndons, Old Coach and Blythe's Roads. While it may seem quiet, cars can come quickly around the corner and at the very busy times of drop off and pick up you are placing your children's safety at risk by taking this shortcut.



Family Bushfire Plans & School Relocation Processes

Thank you to all those families who have already returned their Family Bushfire Plan notice. As explained, this will allow us to plan effectively in the event that we need to relocate the school to Gladesville Primary School on an extreme fire danger day. If you have not yet done so, please give some consideration to your plans and notify us at school by completing and returning the notice as soon as possible.

It is also essential that we have up-to-date contact information for you and your emergency contacts. Please ensure that you have notified the office of any changes in your contact details as it is imperative that we can contact you quickly in the event of an emergency.

School Council Elections

As per our last newsletter, just a reminder that nominations for School Council vacancies are open this week and will close next Monday the 25th of February. If you are interested in nominating for School Council you can collect a form from the school office.

School council election process and timetable

Event	Date
a.Notice of election and call for nominations	Monday 18 February 2019
a.Closing date for nominations	Monday 25 February 2019
a.Date by which the list of candidates and nominators will be posted	Thursday 28 February 2019
a.Date by which ballot papers will be prepared and distributed	On or before Tuesday 5 March 2019
a.Close of ballot	Tuesday 12 March 2019
a.Vote count	Wednesday 13 March 2019
a.Declaration of poll	Thursday 14 March 2019
a.Special council meeting to co-opt Community members	N/A
a.First council meeting to elect office bearers (the principal will preside)	Monday 18 March 2019

School Leaders' Badge Presentation Assembly

Our new Year 5/6 school leaders will be presented with their badges at assembly next Monday the 25th of February. I look forward to acknowledging their positions of responsibility and willingness to be role models for the rest of the student community here at Mount Dandy. Our new school leaders have all made a commitment to act in accordance with our RICH values and strive to achieve their personal best as custodians of the role and responsibilities they have been awarded. If you are able to join us for the badge presentation that would be a wonderful way for the students to be welcomed into their new leadership roles.

Parent Information Night

By now each family of students in Years 1 to 6 should have received a notice regarding Information Night which is on **Thursday 28th February**. The purpose of the evening is to share information with you regarding your child's year ahead and for you to have an opportunity to ask any questions you may have of the teachers. This is not a parent-teacher interview but if you do have specific concerns regarding your child, or information that you would like to share with the teachers, please call the office or email the teacher directly to make an appointment for another time. Formal parent-teacher interviews will take place mid-year.

There will be no Prep information session as this was conducted at the end of 2018. The sessions have staggered starts so that you can attend for all children in your family and will run for approximately 20 minutes. We kindly ask that if possible you do not bring children to the sessions so that the teachers can have your full attention. Session times are as follows: Year 1 & 2 – 5.30pm; Year 3 & 4 – 6.00pm; and Year 5 & 6 – 6.30pm.

FlexiBuzz

Are you using our school communication app called FlexiBuzz? This app is our school's main way of communicating with you. I urge you to download the app to your phone, tablet or on your computer so that you can keep informed of important updates and any notices we send home. See download instructions below.

Please ensure you are connected to the correct communication groups for 2019 (your child's class). Please check your box subscription in the app. You can do this by selecting the parallel lines at the top of the newsfeed then add/removing the boxes relevant to the information you wish to receive.

A graphic titled "Stay in touch with FlexiBuzz" providing four steps for using the app. Step 01: Sign up for FlexiBuzz and then login. Step 02: Connect to us. Step 03: Select your communication groups. Step 04: Get started. The graphic includes icons for app stores, a search icon, a home icon, and the FlexiBuzz logo at the bottom.

Stay in touch with FlexiBuzz

STEP 01 Sign up for FlexiBuzz and then login
Search "FlexiBuzz" in your app store. Go to web.flexibuzz.com and click "Sign Up".

STEP 02 Connect to us
Select the "Search" icon and type in our name. Select us from the results.

STEP 03 Select your communication groups
Click the "Add" icon beside the communication groups that apply to you.

STEP 04 Get started
Click the "Home" icon to view our recent posts.

For further information or assistance please visit our website www.flexibuzz.com or email us via support@flexibuzz.com.

FlexiBuzz

TERM 1 CALENDAR

Monday 18th February - School council nominations open

Wednesday 20th February - District swimming

Monday 25th February - School council nominations close

Wednesday 27th February - Curriculum Day (no students at school)

Thursday 28th February - Parent Information Night

Friday 1st March - Picnic at the Pool

Wednesday 6th March - Division swimming

Monday 11th March - Labor Day holiday

Wednesday 13th March - School photos

Friday 15th March - House sports

Friday 22nd March - Little Ferns Filmmaker Festival

Saturday 23rd March - Mountain Bushdance

Wednesday 27th - Friday 29th March - Years 3/4 school camp to Forest Lodge Farm

Friday 5th April - End of term 1

Mt D is delighted to support School Book Rescue.

School Book Rescue recycles school books, calculators, art materials, iPads etc and redistributes these to families in need all the while reducing landfill and educating about recycling.

We have collection tubs in the office where you can leave your donations of good quality books and materials. Please spread the word and for more information on this great cause visit www.schoolbookrescue.com.au Thanks for your support, Mt D!



Recycle • Donate • Educate

GARDENS

The EnviroKnights raised money to purchase fruit trees last year. They planted Blueberry bushes, Kiwifruit and Passionfruit vines, an Avocado, Fig, Bloodplum, Quince, Pomegranate, Lemon, Lime and two Nashi Pear trees. They are looking very happy and healthy and there is still plenty of room for an even more bountiful orchard...

The Wominjeka Gardens are looking lush and abundant. The herbs we planted with Richard Bellemo have settled in and are thriving, and crops plants by the EnviroKnights are nearly ready for harvest. You will see Plum trees, Artichokes (going to seed for saving), Pumpkin, Cucumber, Zucchini, Tomato, Eggplant, Pea and Bean plants struggling to produce and ripen fruit as the summer wanes. There are many Purple Sprouting Broccoli and Parsnip plants that self seeded from our chook yard garden soil, Carrot, Beetroot, Silverbeet and Rainbow Chard ready for harvest, not to mention a large crop of Potatoes aching to be made into Potato Gnocchi.

The fruit has mostly finished, but if a student spies ripe Raspberries, Blueberries or Strawberries they can pick them under the supervision of a teacher. There are exciting plans afoot to use some of this delicious produce in some cooking classes for students - watch this space!

GARDENS MARKET

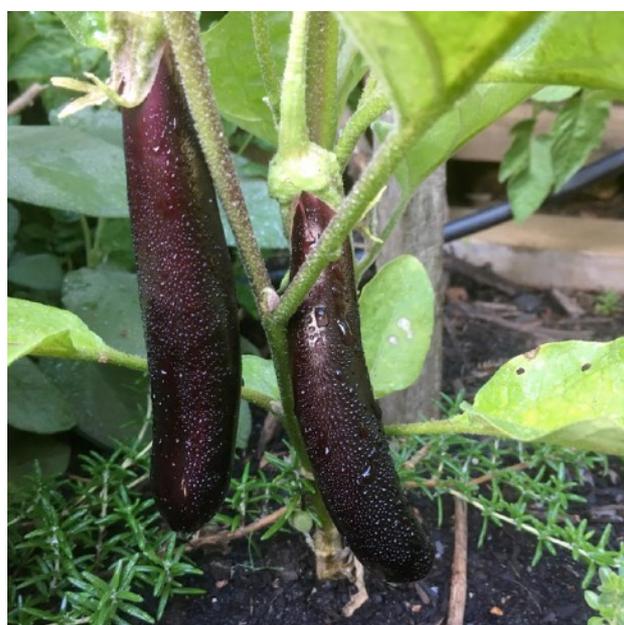
In order to cover the costs of fertilisers and seeds we are planning to sell small quantities of delicious school grown produce. We have used no chemicals or sprays at all, but our fertilisers are not certified organic so we cannot make that claim. Prices (and amounts) will be modest, all proceeds used to produce more, or purchase more fruit trees.

The market will operate from 3.25 - 3.40 every Friday afternoon.

REGULAR GARDENING

There will now be regular gardening of a Thursday afternoon directly after school, 3.30 - 4.00. Just a brief regular bit each week adds up and will help maintain and develop the gardens. Please feel free to join us!

For the next two weeks we will weed and mulch the newer Possum and Music Room gardens. Further projects will involve planted out winter vegetables and readying new areas for whole of school vegetable gardening later in the year.





WE NEED YOUR COMPOST AND TOMATO SEED

Do you have homemade compost, or well rotted chook manure that needs a home? We would be very glad to make use of it! Please bag it up and leave it to the left of either the main carpark gate (back toward the building) or the Wominjeka gate. This is not urgent, just keep us in mind as it becomes available.

Do you or a relative grow the best tomatoes? We're after seed from varieties that ripen reliably up on our cloudy mountain, preferably those good for making paste or passata - we're thinking pizzas... Seed saving can be a simple slice and dry on paper towel process, or better yet a fabulous mouldy mess which inoculates the seed against disease. Please research and get your budding scientist/gardeners on the case. Please don't forget to name or describe your treasures so that we know what we're planting.

FUNDRAISING 2019

The Mt D fundraising committee is on a mission to raise \$25K this year and we know you will help us do it! We will again be running with some of our much loved Mt D traditions but are also introducing a few new initiatives. Some of the activities we have planned include:

Term 1 - Mountain Bushdance (Sat 23rd March), Easter Raffle and a Hot Cross Bun drive

Term 2 - Chestnut Festival (inc. chai stall, cake stand, lucky jars and a chocolate toss); Mother's Day Stall, Federal Election Democratic Sausage Sizzle and whispers of something else foggy and wintery - TBC!

Term 3 - Father's Day Stall, The World Famous Mt Dandy Trivia Night (date TBC), Bunnings Sausage Sizzle (Sept 21st)

Term 4 - Art Show, Mt D Recipe Book and more rumblings, this time of something involving running and fun.

We have assembled a fantastic group of parents to help us achieve this significant haul of events and activities. We meet once a month however we understand that can be hard to commit to for many, so this year we are putting a call out to SILENT HELPERS. A silent helper is somebody who doesn't need to come to meetings but whom we can call on to help with various fundraising activities when required - whether it be flipping a sausage or wrapping raffle prizes.

If you are happy to become a silent helper, or indeed a bonafide fundraising committee member, please leave your name at the office or contact Jaki Farrey on jakifarrey@gmail.com (if you haven't met Jaki yet, she is Aston in Year 3's mum, otherwise famed as the impressive woman in the active wear juggling the pram and the Labradoodle!!)

PICNIC AT THE OLINDA POOL

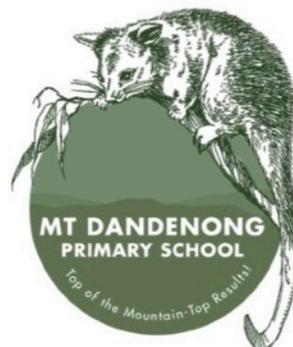
Date: Friday 1/03/2019

Time: 3.30–7 pm

Mount Dandenong Primary School invites students, families and friends to a “Picnic at the Pool”

- Friday, 1st March 2019
- Olinda Pool open from 2 pm to 7 pm
- Admission: Adult \$4.00; Concession \$3.00; Child \$3.00; Family \$12.00; Spectator \$2.00.
- Bring a picnic. BBQ available to use. (no alcohol please)
- Parents are responsible for supervising their children

If the fire danger rating is Severe, Extreme or Code Red the pool will be closed; otherwise, Friday 8th March.





featuring

original short films by MDPS students

Friday March 22 2019

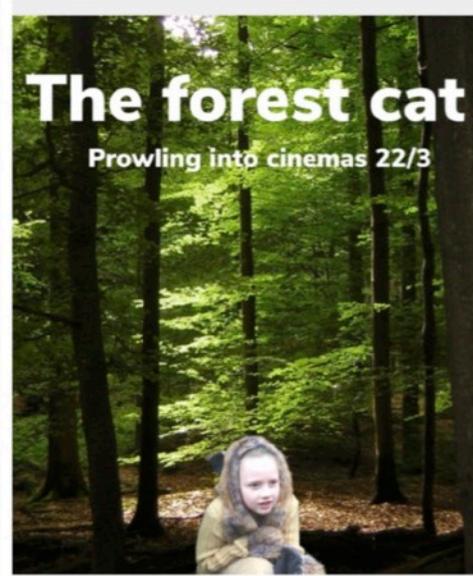
6:30-9pm

Mt Dandenong Primary School

Tickets \$5

<https://www.trybooking.com/BAYIW>

or at the school office





POSSUM *Café* **Volunteers Needed!**

We are seeking Volunteers to keep the cafe going!

20 volunteers makes light work, only 1 or 2 shifts a term. The possum café service will not run without this team so if there are not enough willing helpers, unfortunately it will not open. Can you spare a couple of hours this term?

Shifts:

Fridays starting 15 February
1 Volunteer on a morning shift.
2 for the lunch shift.

Someone to collate orders from 9-930am.

Unfortunately, youngchildren are no longer permitted as per safety regulations in the kitchen.



Can you spare a couple of hours this term?

**Contact Shauna - 0408 034 431
shauna@seedsoflifeproject.com.au**

POSSUM *Café*

TERM 1 FRIDAYS starting 15 Feb
\$6 lunch orders



Crispy Chicken Wraps: Panko crumbed chicken strips with lettuce, tomato and homemade herbed lemon mayo in a soft wholegrain wrap (Falafel option for V) (G.F wraps available) Dairy Free

Turkish Toastie: Ham, tomato and cheese toasted on soft Turkish bread (Avocado option for V and D.F) G.F wraps available as substitute for Turkish bread.

Napoli Pasta: Homemade Napoli sauce served on wholemeal pasta with a fresh side salad (V, D.F) G.F Pasta available

Meatball Subs: Possum cafes famous meatball subs are back! A warm crunchy roll with 3 delicious meatballs topped with Napoli sauce and melted mozzarella.

Seasonal Bento Box: Packed with fresh seasonal produce with a small wrap triangle (GF/V avail)

Canteen: Fruit 50c
Homemade Cookies & slices \$1
Popcorn \$1 / Bliss balls \$1
Homemade fruit sorbet in a cone \$2
& Fruit juice icy poles \$1

V: Vegetarian, GF: Gluten Free, #: Gluten Free available upon request.
All meals can be adjusted to specific dietary requirements, please chat with Liz in the café prior to the day of service. If you can't make it to the café and wish to order for your child leave your request with a name & contact number at the office and Liz will call you to discuss your requirements.



MERIT AWARDS



Te-Hana P – for working hard to further her understanding of place value. Well done Te-Hana.

Charlie M – for a great start to 4th Grade.

Gwendolyn H – for a great start to 3rd Grade.

Liam B – for his outstanding efforts throughout all set classroom activities. Keep up all of your magnificent efforts.

Maddie A – for demonstrating outstanding use of our R.I.C.H values. Your kind and positive attitude towards others is delightful.

Jonty F – for an excellent start to Grade 2 by working hard to complete wonderful writing and being a great role model to others.

Tait P – for a wonderful start to Grade 2 and for already being a superb role model for his classmates.

EUREKA - OUR YEAR 5/6 STRUCK GOLD ON THEIR CAMP TO BALLARAT!





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Competition • 8 yrs-Open

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- ◊ Sprains/strains
- ◊ Falls & balance
- ◊ Post-surgical rehab
- ◊ Women's health

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FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- \$125 for primary school students
- \$225 for secondary school students

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the CSEF visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

HOW TO APPLY

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

If you applied for the CSEF at your child's school in 2018, you do not need to complete an application form in 2019 unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- **new student enrolments;** your child has started or changed schools in 2019 or you did not apply in 2018.
- **changed family circumstances;** such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing at the school in 2019.

Check with the school office if you are unsure.



