

## **Why I can't just leave my kid at the door at MDPS!!**

I have noticed on the front windows of the classroom doors new instructions for how to say goodbye to the Preppies. I have talked to other Mums about this and think I speak for all of us. You make it very difficult for us to leave our kids!

It isn't that we don't want to have our kids develop independence. In fact I don't think I saw a single parent crying when they had to leave their kids for their first day of Prep. No it isn't that. We're not psycho mums either who want to watch everything the teachers are doing to make sure they are doing the best for the kids. I've seen parents like that, but I really don't see them at the Prep doors.

No I have come to another conclusion! The school culture and ethos at Mount Dandenong Primary School is so incredibly embracing that each morning when we drop our kids off we want to walk the journey of school with our kids. The writing on the wall beckons for us to read more, to know what our kids are writing and learning about. The single little door is more like the huge big face at Luna Park inviting us in!!

Every part of the classroom and what the kids do, calls the parents to be a part of what our kids are doing every day! We just don't want to be left out because we know it is so good! So I thought I'd just say that it isn't that we have some string that cannot be detached from our kids. It is that you make it so difficult to separate because we know that our kids come to Mount Dandenong Primary School and love it so much they want to stay there all day - and we want to be a part of that too!

I had this realisation in reflecting on the school culture of MDPS as part of my School Culture Masters unit. MDPS is a perfect example of what schools can and should be. How they can embrace not only the kids, but the entire school community of kids, teachers, staff and parents. It is a unique culture that carries with us throughout our day wherever we go after we drop our kids off and that we carry home and talk to the kids about. It carries through to activities after school like discos and special nights. You make the school fun and a place that the kids want to go to, and that the parents want to be a part of too.

And that's why it is so difficult to say goodbye at the door to our kids. So next time I try to say goodbye at the door and slip inside, remember this note. Coz I don't think I can stay away from something that invites me in!!

From a parent who can't quite say goodbye yet...