Welcome Prep Class of 2013
We would like to welcome all of our new Prep students and their families to Mt Dandy. We are extremely
proud of the way our Preps settled in last week and we are sure that they will have a super time at Mt Dandy
Primary.

SLU camp
This week our Senior Learning Unit (SLU) students are visiting Ballarat and Bendigo. They are visiting the histor-
ic goldfields as part of their Australian History/Identity unit of work. I will be joining them from Wednesday to
Friday. I am sure that they will have a fantastic time.

Road Safety – Use the School Crossing Please
Please remember that where possible we would like all families to use the school crossing. It is vital that parents
set a good example for their children and use the crossing provided. Please do not cross at the corner of Farn-
dons and Old Coach road. This is dangerous because traffic comes from three different directions and drivers
are not expecting pedestrians to be on the road.

Afterschool Basketball
Attached to this newsletter is an expression of interest for joining the Afterschool Basketball competition.
Sports such as Basketball promote good health, teamwork and improve hand-eye coordination. They are also
great fun for participants and spectators. Please fill in the form if your child would like to join one of our teams.

Uniform
At Mt Dandy we believe that it is important that all students are in the correct school uniform. School uniform
improves social cohesion, engenders pride, develops a sense of community, promotes responsibility and saves
both time and money.
Please ensure that your child is in complete uniform each day, including the correct hat. If for some reason you
are unable to dress your child in uniform, please provide his/her class teacher with an explanatory note.
Students without an explanatory note will be receive a note requesting full uniform or a parent letter for the
following day.

Student Absence Procedures
If you child is going to be absent pleases contact the school office by 9am to notify staff. We will contact the
families of any student unaccounted for after the rolls are marked each morning to ensure they are in their par-
ents care.
If you are late to school or need to pick up your child early they must be signed in or out by a parent and
walked to or from their classroom. Do not drop them off and depart without doing so please.

Parent—Teacher Interviews Next Week.
Parent teacher interview notices were sent home last week along with a questionnaire. Please be sure to return
both. It is crucial that all families attend the interviews to help ensure the best possible outcomes for all stu-
dents.

Mount Dandenong Jumble Sale – March 16th
We are holding our first ever Jumble sale on March 16th and it is shaping up to be a wonderful community orien-
tated fundraising event. Clean out your cupboards, spare rooms and your sheds and donated any unwanted
items to our school. We are looking for books, ‘bric a brac’, furniture, clothing etc. all donated items can be
stored in the rear portable.
We thank you in advance.

School Council 2013
Our School Councillor nomination process starts on February the 19th. If you are interested in becoming a coun-
cillor and can attend two meetings per month and would like to help around the school please read the attached
information and fill in a nomination form which is available at the office.

Continued on page 2...
AEU Stop Work February 14th
As mentioned in a note sent home last week we are expecting a number of classes to be affected by this Thursday’s Stop Work action. A letter confirming the teachers taking action has been sent home today. Please return the reply slip straight away so we can plan accordingly for those students attending. **OSHC will not be available on this day due to the expected low numbers of students attending.**

No Nuts or Nut Products Please
We have a number of children who have severe allergies to nuts and nut products. If affected these children can require hospitalisation as the reaction they suffer is life threatening. We would appreciate if children Did not bring nuts or nut products such a peanut butter, Nutella or muesli bars with nuts in them to school.

Thumbs Up To:
- Julie Sanders and Michelle Lawrence for setting up the Prep morning tea last week
- All families who have already paid the school fees
- Lina Corrone from OSHClub for providing wonderful experiences at Out of Hours Care

Thank you, Michael Leonard and Sue Gibson.

---

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

**TO ALL OUR STUDENTS BORN IN JANUARY**

Elsa Leonard, Oliver Brammer, Emily Muldoon, Max Monkhorst, Hailey Williams, Ashley Waddingham, Jack Grundy, Ben Decorrado, Emma Waddingham, Maeve Leonard, Molly Dillon, Bon Sullivan, Leo Selby, Laura McPeake, Eloise Sharman, Chase Keeley, Liam Humphries, Hunter Greenall, Kealan Mullen
**This Week's Activities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Before Care Activities</td>
<td>Year of the snake Book marks</td>
<td>Cooking Pancakes! Hand that holds heart</td>
<td>Valentines day – Heart Pop up Cards</td>
<td>Playdough challenge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breakfast</td>
<td>Cereal &amp; Milk, Juice (No sugar) Toast (White/ Wholemeal) &amp; Spreads, Baked Beans on Toast, Fruit</td>
<td>Pancakes! Cereal &amp; Milk, Juice (No sugar) Toast (White/ Wholemeal) &amp; Spreads,</td>
<td>Cereal &amp; Milk, Juice (No sugar) Toast (White/ Wholemeal) &amp; Spreads, Raisin Toast</td>
<td>Cereal &amp; Milk, Juice (No sugar) Toast (White/ Wholemeal) &amp; Spreads, Eggs on Toast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After Care Activities</td>
<td>Spiralling Snakes Dodge Ball</td>
<td>Hearts Caterpillar &amp; animals Paper Craft Balloon Tennis</td>
<td>How to make a Paper Rose</td>
<td>Recycled Art Creations Sport Game of your choice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afternoon tea</td>
<td>Fresh Fruit &amp; Sandwiches</td>
<td>Rice Crackers, Carrots, Celery, Sultanas, Dips, Fresh Fruit</td>
<td>Healthy Salad Wraps &amp; Fresh Fruit</td>
<td>Sandwiches &amp; Fresh Fruit Salad</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Parent Information**

OSH Club program phone: 0419 915 649  Coordinator: Lina Corrone  OSHClub Head Office: 03 8564 9000

P.S. There was an error in last week’s newsletter. The program’s correct mobile number is 0419915649.

**Mother’s / Father’s Day Stalls**

For many years, we have been fortunate enough to have two very capable shoppers looking after the Mother’s and Father’s Day Stalls, ensuring a wonderful selection of gifts for students to buy here at school. Tricia Spratt and Rachelle Ide are keen to hand over their considerable knowledge to someone who can continue the tradition and possibly bring in some fresh ideas. If you feel you would like to know more, please let us know and Tricia will happily fill you in with any help she can give.

**Student Illness and Accidents**

At this time early in the school year it is a good idea to remind parents about the necessity to keep us up to date with phone numbers and emergency contact details. If your child is ill at school, or suffers an accident, then staff will give immediate care and appropriate first aid. However, it is necessary on occasions to contact parents and we are often frustrated by out of date information that delays this process. Please make sure you notify the Office of any changes to yours or your Emergency Contact details. Obviously in extreme cases we may also deem it necessary to call an Ambulance before consulting parents and you need to be aware of this. Please also keep the Office informed of any change in medical issues faced by your children as this helps us to make the best choices for their welfare.

Parents and guardians should also be aware that they are generally responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any Ambulance transport costs. Most medical costs will be refundable by Medicare. If you are a member of an ambulance or health insurance fund, you may also be able to claim transport or other expenses from the fund. The Department of Education and Training does not hold accident insurance for school students.

**Is other Insurance available?** Yes. There are commercial providers of insurance for students and they can be found through the Yellow Pages or your Insurance Broker.

**Students, Parents & Staff Personal Property**

On a similar topic, personal property is often brought to school by students, staff and visitors. This includes mobile phones, calculators, toys, sporting equipment and cars parked on school premises.

Please note the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and it will generally not pay for any loss or damage to such property.
**MT. DANDENONG P.S. Fruity Friday... Prep - Y2**

**Parent Roster Term 1 2013**

* Please meet in the staffroom after 9am. Friday.

Sarah Manson - to arrange pick-up from Pellegrinos - Olinda

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Contact Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 15th Feb</td>
<td>Maxine McPeake</td>
<td>-0438803455 -F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jackie Monteith</td>
<td>-0403861558 -M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shaula Salathe</td>
<td>-97512345 -W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kate Linde</td>
<td>-97510583 -W/F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 22nd Feb</td>
<td>Jilly Sime-Higgs</td>
<td>-0431970522 -T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Siobhan Grant</td>
<td>-0400992300 -M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shaula Salathe</td>
<td>-97512345 -W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 1st Mar</td>
<td>Maxine McPeake</td>
<td>-0438803455 -F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kate Linde</td>
<td>-97510583 -W/F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shaula Salathe</td>
<td>-97512345 -W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sarah Davy</td>
<td>-0418570032 -T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 8th Mar</td>
<td>Shaula Salathe</td>
<td>-97512345 -W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Skye Blenkiron</td>
<td>-97510626 -T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jackie Monteith</td>
<td>-0403861558 -M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 15th Mar</td>
<td>Maxine McPeake</td>
<td>-0438803455 -F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kate Linde</td>
<td>-97510583 -W/F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shaula Salathe</td>
<td>-97512345 -W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 22nd Mar</td>
<td>Siobhan Grant</td>
<td>-0400992300 -M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shaula Salathe</td>
<td>-97512345 -W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kate Linde</td>
<td>-97510583 -W/F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 29th Mar</td>
<td>End of Term 1 ... Good Friday - Easter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Please arrange swaps as required or let me know if you cannot attend on any day.**

Thank you for your support. Sue Gibson 😊

* M= Monthly       * F= Fortnightly    * T=Term       *? = Anytime

---

**OLD MOBILE PHONES WANTED...**

Miss Tomlinson is collecting old mobile phones!!! These mobile phones will be sent off and rebuilt if necessary and then made available to people in developing countries and people experiencing hardship so that they may have access to communication. This not only helps people in need but for each mobile phone donated a donation will be made to a worthy local charity, “Windermere Child and Family Services”. Recycling old mobile phones is also a much more environmentally friendly option and prevents these phones ending up in landfill. Any donations can be dropped in the box at the school office or given to Miss Tomlinson directly in Room 1. Thank you for your help.
Education Maintenance Allowance - information for parents currently receiving EMA

Changes to the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) for 2013:

The EMA continues to help families on lower incomes with financial assistance to cover the cost of educational expenses including textbooks, stationery, uniforms and excursions for their child up until the age of 16.

From 2013, the Victorian Government is restructuring the EMA to better target financial support to families on lower incomes. Payments made direct to parents will be increased for eligible recipients at all year levels up to age 16, with an additional increase for parents with students in Years Prep and 7 in recognition of the additional costs at these transition points.

In 2013 the annual EMA payment for families with children in primary school (years 1-6) will receive a payment of $150. Families with children in secondary school (Year 8 up until the age of 16) will receive an annual payment of $250.

The School Start Bonus which was previously received by EMA families has been discontinued as a separate payment from 2013. However, additional funding has been incorporated into the EMA meaning that parents of children in Prep and Year 7 will receive boosted EMA payments of $200 and $300 respectively in those years.

From 2013, the EMA will no longer be paid 50/50 between the parent and the school. The 50% school portion of the EMA will no longer be paid to schools on behalf of parents. However, $62 million over four years will be redirected to the State’s most needy schools to assist families on lower incomes. These funds will form part of the school Student Resource Packages to be allocated at the local level.

New EMA payment option

From 2013, on the EMA application form you can choose to have your EMA payment;

- Paid by direct deposit (Electronic Funds Transfer) into your nominated bank account or
- Paid by cheque which will be posted to the school for collection or
- Paid to the school to be held as credit which you can use towards education expenses

The introduction of the new payment option to have the EMA payment directed to the school provides parents with extra flexibility to assist with budgeting towards education expenses.

Eligibility:

To be eligible for the EMA in 2013, you must:

- be either a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen; and
- be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004 or be a Veterans Affairs (TPI) pensioner or be a temporary foster parent.

* i.e. the parent/guardian must be the holder of a valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card.

The eligibility criteria must be met as at 29 January 2013 (Instalment One) and 15 July 2013 (Instalment Two).

Payment Amounts - 2013:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Prep</th>
<th>Years 1 - 6</th>
<th>Year 7</th>
<th>Year 8 – Age 16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Instalment One</td>
<td>$140</td>
<td>$105</td>
<td>$210</td>
<td>$175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instalment Two</td>
<td>$60</td>
<td>$45</td>
<td>$90</td>
<td>$75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Total</td>
<td>$200</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>$250</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Student year level (or age for ungraded and special school students) will determine the amount payable. Parents of students turning 16 years in 2013 are paid on a pro rata basis.

Contact: School Office for an EMA application form and to lodge your application. The closing date for EMA application forms to be submitted to the school is 28 February 2013.
And we don't miss out on some of the joy and meaning we get from being parents!

...structured environment.

As they get older their lives become more organised. The proliferation of organised sport, performance-based and educational type activities available in the burgeoning ‘child development and education’ industry ensures that kids are heavily scheduled.

It’s not uncommon for kids to have four and five extra-curricular activities a week. Many modern kids don’t have a chance to get bored. They are always on the go.

It’s not just kids whose lives are busy. Parents are now feeling strain driving kids from one activity to another. While this involvement is to be applauded, it can leave you very little time for yourself. The idea of having a few spare hours to read a book or laze on the couch is foreign to many parents. They are vague memories of a different life stage when life revolved around them, their partner and friends.

A massive industry has now developed in Australia around the general child development area, and it’s getting bigger all the time. In many ways it’s turning parents into taxi-drivers, and stopping us from……well, parenting.

Two years ago, the former NSW Community Services Minister Pru Goward took the unusual step of releasing a fact sheet on family fatigue, with information on how to recognise if a child is doing too much. Goward stated that many parents under-estimated the value of children having a simple childhood and under-estimated the value of ‘just dagging around’.

The rise in childhood anxiety as reported by educators and health professionals is an indicator that the push for early success may well come at a cost to children's mental health and well-being.

Seek a balance

Most of the evidence suggests that parents should take a balanced approach to child-rearing and make sure that kids have sufficient time to just be kids. Not everything in their lives needs to be tied to learning or needs to have a purpose. One or two organised activities a day maybe okay, but any more, and you may find you are creating a ‘stimulus junkie’. It’s easy to forget that unstructured play has huge value in terms of stress relief, learning and stimulating kids’ imaginations. Kids don't always have to be engaged in productive activities to learn.

And kids need at least one day free from after school activities during the week.

When busy children want to add an organised or adult-lead activity to an already bulging schedule then suggest that they delete an activity from their schedule, which is a great life skill to develop.

Kids of all ages tell us they want more down time at home to do as they want. This free time gives kids a chance to form relationships with siblings and parents as well as provide chances for kids to initiate their own play and retreat to their very fertile imaginations.

Build regular down-time into family life.

Avoid being a family that’s always on the go. Make sure you have some down-time so family members can relax and have the chance to connect. And don’t be afraid that you kids may become bored. Boredom gives kids opportunities to keep themselves occupied. This may mean that you may need to say no to children’s afterschool activities once or twice a week.

It's easy to forget that unstructured play has huge value in terms of stress relief, learning and stimulating kids' imaginations. Kids don't always have to be engaged in productive activities to learn.

There’s no doubt that we raise kids in an incredibly competitive environment but that doesn’t mean we need to over-schedule kids’ lives to maximise their chances of success. Parents naturally want to bring out the best in their children. That is the nature of parenting. We just need to be sure, that in the meantime, kids don’t miss out on some of the joy, freedom and fun that come from a less-structured environment.

And we don’t miss out on some of the joy and meaning we get from being parents!

---

**After School Basketball**

We are still looking for players interested in joining an after school basketball team this semester. If you would like to join in the fun and get fit at the same time, complete the permission slip below and return to Julie as soon as possible.

I, ...................................................................................................................(Parent/Guardian) give permission for my child

........................................................................................................... of Grade ........ to play in the After School Basketball Competition.

My contact phone numbers are: Mobile: ................................................ Home: ................................................

Signed: ...........................................................................................................
JUMBLE SALE
16th March
9-1pm
Donations needed
(please take to rear portable)

Life Education Victoria
2013 Parent Information Session
2013 Co-ordinator Pack

Dear Parents

As part of our drug and health education this term we are offering you the opportunity to visit our
Life Education mobile classroom, while its here at our school.

Have you ever considered the following?
What is my child learning in Life Education?
Have you seen inside the Life Education mobile classroom, or know of Harold?
What drug education is appropriate for primary school students?
Why do we have health and drug education?
How is health and drug education integrated into your school's curriculum?

Want to know more?
NOW IS YOUR CHANCE.

The Life Education mobile classroom will be at our school

Thursday 21st February @ 9.00am-9.30am

Please return the slip to the office if attending.

---

Olinda – Ferny Creek Junior Football Club Inc

SEASON LAUNCH

Kick Off & Registration Day 2013

We welcome all players (existing & new) to
attend our club kick off/registration day.

After another successful year in 2012 our club continues to develop and grow our young players.

DATE: Sunday 10th FEBRUARY 2013

TIME: 9AM – 11AM

WHERE: OLINDA HALL (outside of footy ground)

Teams will be entered in
U9’s, U10’s, U11’s, U12’s, U14’s & U16’s

Club merchandise will be available for purchase.

Olinda – Ferny Creek Junior Football Club Inc
PO Box 55
Olinda VIC 3795
Email: ofcfj@front.com
All advertisements placed in this newsletter are placed in good faith. The school however is not responsible for the quality of goods and services offered. The placement of advertising is provided as a community service and the school does not endorse any products listed.