### News and Views...

#### SLU Camp a Resounding Success

Last week, the SLU students and staff attended the Ballarat and Bendigo ‘Gold’ camp. They toured many different sites and venues learning about the 1850’s Gold Rush and the impacts it had on Victoria, Australia and the world. Their experiences included spending a day at Sovereign Hill, visiting the Gold Museum in Ballarat and going into an underground mine and visiting the Chinese Museum in Bendigo amongst many other activities. During this time the students displayed exemplary behaviour, of which the staff and parent volunteers were extremely proud.

I would like to congratulate and thank Trish Becker and Rosie Brehaut for coordinating such a wonderful school camping program experience for our students and all staff for attending and ensuring that our students didn’t miss out. Staff members Trish Becker, Rosie Brehaut, Cheryl Sinclair, John Burgan and Katharine King felt so strongly about the camping experience that they chose not to implement current union bans and attend the camp.

Thank you also to Adam Gates and Jason Long for their support, efforts and magnificent company. Well done SLU team on a wonderful week of fun!

#### Please Use the Crossings!

Each week I get reports of parents and students not using the crossings provided. Although it may be quicker to cross at the intersection of Farndons Road and Old Coach Road, it is unsafe. That is why the crossing is not located there. Walk the extra 20 to 30 metres and set a good example for our students please. The last thing we want is a community member involved in a car accident!

#### ‘Getting To Know You’ Parent-Teacher Interviews Are This Week

As children spend a majority of their time at either home or school, it is important for the school and families to work together to provide the best education possible for our students. Our ‘Getting To Know You’ Interviews is another aspect of the school’s commitment to developing home-school relationships.

This will be a great opportunity for families to briefly meet their children’s teachers (for a 10 minute interview) to let us know of any pertinent issues relating to your child and their learning. If you haven’t already organised an interview time please do so immediately.

#### Life Education Van

Our Life Education Van arrives this week and much of the staff car park will be utilised to park the van. This means that teachers will have to park elsewhere so please expect the car parks to be busier than usual. If possible park and walk or walk to school instead.

Please do not use the near side of Farndons Road to drop or pick up students. The last thing we want is a community member involved in a car accident!

Please use the crossings and let us know if they need to be made safer.

### Jumble Sale Donations

We are now accepting donations to be sold at our upcoming Jumble Sale on March the 16th. Please contact the school office if you have clothing, books, toys, furniture and the like in good condition that you would like to donate. Donations are being stored in the second portable.

Thank you

#### Student Safety, 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.

### Purpose Statement

Mount Dandenong Primary School values our unique environment and close community. It is a place for creative opportunities and academic excellence, nurturing respect, happiness and independence.
Parents and guardians should also be aware that they are 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 and Staff Personal Property
On a similar topic, personal property is often brought to school by students, staff and visitors. This can include mobile devices, 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.

Bush Fire Emergency Procedures at MDPS.
After a long hot summer it is crucial that we are thoroughly prepared for the potential of a bushfire in our local area. Please carefully read the information contained in this newsletter pertaining to the procedures in the case of a Code Red day or a potential bushfire.

Duty of Care Before School
Please ensure that you do not drop your children off at school prior to 8.45am unless they are attending OSHC. Students dropped off before this time will be instructed to attend the Before School Care program at the expense of the parents. Teachers are not on duty prior to 8.45am.

After School Bus
Once again our teachers are on duty after school and supervising those students who catch the bus after school. The only suitable bus is the 3.56pm bus heading up to Mount Dandenong and beyond. Unfortunately the bus heading down the hill arrives too late. Students requiring that bus will have to organise other transport or make use of the OSHC program. We apologise for any inconvenience.

Bayswater Bucks - Good Guys
Please remember to ask for ‘Bayswater Bucks’ if you purchase items at the Good Guys in Bayswater. We have collected these for a few years now and in the past have purchased fans, stereos, fridges and much more at no cost to the school.

Thumbs Up To:
- The staff, students and volunteers on the SLU Gold Camp.
- The community members who have already donated items for the Jumble Sale
- Aaron H for winning the Back Stroke at the District Swimming Sports.

Thank you, Michael Leonard and Sue Gibson.

Emergency Management Procedures

School Closures on Code Red Days
Should there be a predicted Code Red day all school community members will be notified via a letter and an SMS message three days prior to the predicted closure to inform them. One day prior to the closure day/days another letter and SMS will confirm the closure. When final confirmation is given it will not be altered regardless of changes in weather conditions that may occur.

If the school is closed, nobody will be on site. This includes all staff and students. The Out of School Hours Care Program will also be closed.

Families will be required to make alternate arrangements for the day.

It is recommended that you enact your fire plans on these days.

Active Fire Procedures

In the event of an active fire occurring in the area all students will be evacuated to the safer place which currently encompasses the Grade the 2/3 and 3/4 rooms and the multi-purpose room. Parents will be notified that this has taken place via an SMS message.

We ask that you do not come to the school to collect your children, at this time, as the potential for traffic closures and hazard, which in such conditions could result in tragic consequences as was the case in the Black Saturday fires. Parents will again be notified via SMS when the CFA, DEECD and Emergency Services deem it safe to collect the students. Please note that the school’s Safer Place is not a community refuge and we discourage you from using it as a plan of action in your family’s emergency management plan.
OSHClub News

Before School / After School Care Program

What a fun week we have had at OSHClub celebrating the Chinese New Year by making Snake bookmarks and spiralling snakes. We also enjoyed making pop up Valentine’s Day cards, paper flowers and heart animals. Friday was a fun filled day creating and painting our recycled art creations!

Next week, we will be making “Me” Boxes, painting self portraits, cooking rainbow cupcakes and making faces from salt dough!

Come and join in all the fun! We look forward to seeing you at OSHClub!

**This Week’s Activities - Week 4**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Before Care Activities</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“All about Me” Magazine Collage Placemats</td>
<td>Newspaper Sentences “About me”</td>
<td>Paper doll chain family</td>
<td>“My name”- Acrostic Poem</td>
<td>Play dough/Colouring</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Brekky</td>
<td>Cereal &amp; Milk, Juice (No sugar) Toast (White/ Wholemeal) &amp; Spreads, Yoghurt &amp; Fresh Fruit</td>
<td>Cereal &amp; Milk, Juice (No sugar) Toast (White/ Wholemeal) &amp; Spreads</td>
<td>Baked Beans/Spaghetti on Toast</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, Egg on English Muffin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After Care Activities</td>
<td>“All about me” Box Baseball</td>
<td>Self portrait painting Poison Ball</td>
<td>Cooking! Rainbow Cupcakes Skipping Game</td>
<td>Salt Dough Faces Soccer</td>
<td>Salt Dough Faces- Painting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afternoon tea</td>
<td>Sandwiches, Fresh Fruit &amp; Yoghurt</td>
<td>Sandwiches &amp; Fresh Fruit</td>
<td>Rice Crackers, Carrots, Celery, Sultanas, Dips &amp; Fresh Fruit</td>
<td>Sandwiches &amp; Fresh Fruit Salad</td>
<td>Sandwiches, Fresh Fruit &amp; Popcorn</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Parent Information

Make sure your child/ren bring their hat as: No Hat = No outside play. Ensure all enrolments are to be signed in and out when your child arrives and is collected at the end of the day.

**OSHC program phone**: 0419915649

**Coordinator**: Lina Corrone

**OSHClub Head Office**: 03 85649000

**Assistant**: TBA

All families must be enrolled to attend the program, remember this is Free!! Please create an account online at www.oshclub.com.au all bookings and cancellations can also be managed via your online account. For on the day bookings please contact the Coordinator direct at the program.

**Wanted** - Parent volunteer to coordinate the Student Merit Award program.

Time: Each Friday morning, 9 til 10am

Please see Mike Leonard if you are interested or have any questions.
CANTINE 2013

We would like to start offering lunch orders to children every Thursday, but it can’t happen without lots of volunteers to help. Please consider giving up a couple of hours once or twice a term on a Thursday; the children will be very grateful and you will discover just how friendly the parents of Mt Dandenong Primary School are. To show your interest and availability, please complete the tear off slip below and leave it with Julie in the office.

Thank you
Victoria Clarke

I am able to help in the canteen:
- Each week
- Monthly
- Fortnightly
- Once a term

Name .............................................................
Contact no .........................................................

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.

Mount Dandenong Primary School

JUMBLE SALE

16th March

9-1pm

Donations needed

(please take to rear portable)
**MOUNT DANDENONG PRIMARY SCHOOL BANKING**

Welcome to 2013 - **school banking has commenced**. Please ensure you hand your deposit books to either your teacher or Mrs Francis at the office each **Tuesday** with all money securely enclosed in the velcro pockets. I will endeavour to have your deposit books returned by Thursday each week.

This year we are going to put the name of each child that makes a deposit into a tub and on the 1st Monday of each month at assembly a name will be drawn and they will be able to choose a prize from the Commonwealth Bank goodie bag. So the more deposits you make the more chances you have of your name being called out.

I have been told about new and exciting rewards from the Commonwealth Bank this year so stay tuned. If anyone would like to know how to get an account open or has any queries, please contact Sarah Manson on 9751 0701 and Happy Banking!!

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**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 and Rachele are keen to hand over their considerable knowledge to someone who can continue the tradition and possibly bring in some fresh ideas.

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**Our new GREEN newsletter**

To reinforce Sustainability studies and in trying to reduce our environmental footprint, we offer parents the choice of receiving their weekly newsletter via email. If you choose this option your child will not be bringing a copy home. Please complete the slip below and return to the office.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I………………………………………………. would like to help the environment and would appreciate my MDPS Newsletter being sent to the following email address/es:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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**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.

| ................................................................. (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: ........................................................................................................
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, stationary, 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.
Fun and Rewarding After School Instructional Drawing Sessions

When: Classes begin on Friday, March 1st 4.30 – 5.30 pm (each week)

Where: Burrinja Cultural Centre crn Glenferrn Road and Matson Drive, Upwey, VIC

Cost: $40 for 3 sessions (price includes materials)

Bookings: To confirm enrolment please call Pereena on 0405 235 406

Jindi Woraback Youth Mentoring Program

Youth Services at Yarra Ranges Council currently coordinates a youth mentoring program targeting young people aged 15-25 who are in need of additional support, friendship and positive role modelling. The Jindi Woraback youth mentoring program is based on a young person being matched with a suitable mentor. Common interests, hobbies and personalities are taken into account during the matching process.

We are in need of Learner Driver mentors (L2P) to work one on one with learner drivers aged 16-21 years who face significant barriers with obtaining their probationary drivers licence. The primary function of the role is to supervise learner driving practise sessions to assist the young person to become a safe and lawful driver. The L2P program includes training, a safe vehicle and ongoing support for the mentor. All volunteers must satisfactorily complete a screening, induction and training process. Mentors are required to commit to a minimum of 1 hour a week, for a 12 month period.

Please find attached a flyer advertising our upcoming Mentor Information Night to be held at Montrose Town Centre (Hall) on Wednesday 13th March at 6.30pm.

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 it’s 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.

Life Education Victoria – 2013 Parent Information Session Attendance Slip

I/ We will be attending the Life Education Parent Session. Thursday 21st February 9-9.30am

Names:

Wandin North Harvest Market

220 Warburton Highway
Wandin North 3139

Sunday 17th March

9.00am – 2.00pm

Quality Craft, Fresh Produce, Food and Activities.
Free Entertainment and Free Parking
Stallholders Welcome
Phone Megan Gibbons 03 5964 4259
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.

Mount Dandenong Primary School  Farndons Road, Mount Dandenong 3767  www.mtdandps.vic.edu.au
Telephone—03 9751 1136  Fax—03 9751 2332  mount.dandenong.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

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**Physio**

Pilates  □  Orthotics  □  Remedial Massage

- Back/neck pain
- Sports injuries
- Headaches
- Overuse injuries
- Sprains/strains
- Falls & balance
- Post-surgical rehab
- Women’s health

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**OLINDA - 9751 0400 - Opposite Mt Dandenong Hotel**  www.drphysio.com.au

**The Cuckoo Restaurant**

**FRIDAY NIGHTS SPECIAL**
Children 5-12 EAT FREE !!!
Children 13-18 HALF PRICE !!!

Join us for our “Summerwurst Dinner”
Friday nights
with a huge variety of German sausages & a delicious buffet
Always fun & always welcoming

568 Mt Dandenong Tourist Road, Olinda
Tel: 9751 1003 for bookings
www.cuckoorestaurant.com.au

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**Elle Naturale**

Massage & Body Treatments

**Mount Dandenong Primary School**

**FIRST CLASS FREE!**

Call Josie 0403 316 433
or just come along with a friend.