**The Mount Dandy News**

**Top of the mountain, top results.**

**Issue 198**

**What’s On**

**TERM FOUR**

*Tuesday 17th December*
Prep-Grade 2 Christmas Concert
Graduation Dinner at SkyHigh
Parent Helper Morning Tea – 11 am

*Wednesday 18th Dec.*
Grd 6 CFA BBQ & “Walk and Talk”.

*Thursday 19th December*
Sue Gibson Retirement Function

*Friday 20th December*
Sue Gibson Retirement Assembly
Sue Gibson Retirement Function
Last day of Term 4

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**What’s in this issue?**

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**News and Views...**

**Best Wishes Sue**

After a long and wonderful career Sue Gibson is retiring from Mount Dandenong Primary School. Sue has been teaching in the DEECD since 1971 and arrived at Mt Dandy in 1988. During her career Sue has made a difference in the lives of hundreds, if not, thousands of students. She has always been at the forefront of educational pedagogy taking on new ideas with enthusiasm and engaging her students with her wonderfully planned and prepared lessons. Since 1996 Sue has been a Leading Teacher, a role in which she has excelled. Her leadership skills and passion for teaching meant that she was able to support staff in their endeavours to become better teachers. She has lead the way in curriculum implementation and her support for whole school improvement has been uniriting. In recent years Sue has taken on the Student Welfare role and has been instrumental in ensuring that our students with extra needs are supported and cared for. She has also proven to be an exceptional leader, effectively performing the role of Assistant Principal with skill and professionalism. Her ‘can do’ nature, her love for children and her educational expertise have been of wonderful benefit to MDPS and education as a whole. I am fortunate to have worked closely with Sue for just over four years and owe her a debt of gratitude for her unwavering support and her in-depth knowledge of Mt Dandy.

Thank you for a wonderful career Sue. We are sad to see you go and are proud to have worked with you!

**Presentation Night**

Well done and thank you to all of the staff, students and community members who contributed to last Friday night’s presentation evening. The calibre of the performances was excellent and the audience were thoroughly engaged and enjoyed watching our wonderful students strut their stuff. Congratulations to Sera and Michael for receiving the Bendigo Bank and CWA awards. Both students have displayed outstanding effort in their educational achievement and have at all times been wonderful contributing citizens. We are very proud of them both and know that they will be successful in any field they choose to pursue.

Thank you to Jacqui Monteith and Sacha Sullivan for organising and kindly donating the beautiful raffle prizes. We raised $450 which will be used to help pay for the hire of the venue for the Presentation Evening.

**Graduation Night**

Tonight our grade 6 students will participate in their Graduation Ceremony. They have had a magnificent year and have been a wonderful cohort for the past seven years. We wish them well not only for tonight but in their secondary schooling as well. Thank you Grade 6, you have all made us really proud.

**1.30 Finish on Friday**

This Friday we are finishing at 1.30pm. We will hold a farewell assembly for our grade 6 students at 1.15pm. There will be no bus available and we encourage parents to organise alternate arrangements. OSHC will operate from 1.30pm on the last day. Thank you.

**Sue Gibson Retirement Assembly - 9am, Friday 20th of December**

We welcome all community members past and present to come along for our assembly on Friday morning at 9am to celebrate the career of Sue Gibson and to wish her well. A morning tea will be provided afterwards for all of our guests.

**Start Up dates 2014**

- **Tuesday, January 28th – Staff Return – Student free**
- **Wednesday, January 29th – Curriculum Day – Student free**
- **Thursday, January 30th – Grade 1 to 6 first day**
- **Thursday, February 6th – Preps first day**

**Student Reports 2013**

This year the student reports look a little different. A letter explaining this is contained in the reporting envelope. Because we will be holding parent/student/teacher conferences next year goals will be set then replacing the ‘What You Can Do at Home’ and ‘What the School Will Do’ components of the reports.

**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.

Continued on page 2...
**News and Views... Continued from page 1**

**Thank You School Captains**
I would like to congratulate and thank this year’s School and Vice School captains. They have been superb ambassadors for our school, wonderful and reliable leaders and have lead by example through their actions at all times. I am really proud to have had the opportunity to work closely with them this year. Congratulations William, Alannah, Gabriel and Natasha.

**Fresh Fruit Friday**
In 2012 our Free Fruit Friday Program ceased to be funded. Thanks to kind donations we were able to sustain it for 2013 but next year we will cease the program in its entirety. The donated funds will be used to enhance and support the classroom reading programs through the purchase of more reading material.

I would like to thank our generous sponsors and all of the parents who have helped prepare the fruit and deliver it to the classrooms each week.

**Happy Holidays**
On behalf of Mt Dandy we would like to wish the entire community and enjoyable and safe Christmas and New Year break and hope to see you all again fit and healthy for 2014.

**Thumbs Up To:**
- Sullivan family for donating the Presentation Night raffle prizes
- Judith Carlyon, Renae Harkness and Colleen Forward for coordinating and choreographing the 2/3B dance for Friday night
- Sera Long for achieving the Bendigo Bank Award
- Michael Wynne for achieving the CWA award
- The entire student group for excellent performances on Friday
- All of our community for making this the best school on Earth

Thank you, Michael Leonard and Sue Gibson.

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**Farndons Hall Holiday Activities**

**42 Falls Rd. Kalorama**

**TABLE TENNIS - Come and Try it!**

**Tuesday 7th January - 1.00 till 3.00pm**

For Kids: Primary School to Year 8

$2 per person - Bring a Friend!

Singles, Doubles and Round the Table games.

Beginners and first timers helped to learn

**Contact:** Jean and Ian 9728 4431
**OR jiblenx@westnet.com.au**

Organized by Lachy Harris and Farndons Hall Committee of Management and Friends Inc.

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**Art News**

Please don't throw away your 2013 calendar. The beautiful photographs of flowers, fauna and landscapes that are often attached to calendar pages are most useful in the art room. Please leave them at the office or the art room.

Thank you

**Liz Kennedy**

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**Sue’s Farewell Assembly**

Please consider parking your car away from school & walking if possible next Friday 20th December for Sue’s farewell assembly. Car parking is limited.
Welcome to the Last week of the Year!!

This week we all became a part of the OSHClub cricket team!! We learnt the skills and how to play a game. It was fantastic to see the children show off their newly formed skills in a game as well! Our little chef’s created the newest addition of cooking club. We made a scrumptious sticky date pudding!! It was enough to make your mouth water! If you would like the recipe, come up and have a look!

For the last Day of school OSH will start at 1:30, for any parents who can’t make it feel free to book your children in. We have games, outdoor activities a movie and delicious snacks for the afternoon.

We have had an absolute blast in OSH over the past Year, and can not wait for all the new adventures and new faces next year!

On Behalf of OSHClub we wish every student and family a safe and SUNNY holiday, a merry christmas and a happy new year!!

See you all next year.

This Week’s Activities - Term 4, Week 11

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<td><strong>Before Care Activities</strong></td>
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<td>Colouring competition drawn</td>
<td>Clumps/humba beads</td>
<td>Christmas spirals</td>
<td>How many candy canes in the jar.</td>
<td>Ship shark shore</td>
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<td>Cereal &amp; Milk, Juice (No sugar), Toast</td>
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<td>Toast (White/Wholemeal), Spreads &amp;</td>
<td>Toast (White/Wholemeal) &amp; Spreads, Fresh fruit</td>
<td>Wholemeal) &amp; Spreads, Fresh fruit</td>
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<td>'Get Creative’ Art/Craft Club!</td>
<td>OSH’s Construction</td>
<td>‘Active outside sports games’</td>
<td>‘Cooking Club!’ Strawberry Santa’s</td>
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<td>4:15pm – 5:15pm Make your own foam</td>
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<td>Decorations, Balloon tennis/</td>
<td>Christmas present</td>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>Ginger bread men! Table tennis</td>
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<td>Homework corner/ free time</td>
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<td>Homework corner/ free time</td>
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<td>Afternoon tea</td>
<td>Soup/ fresh fruit</td>
<td>Toasted ham and cheese</td>
<td>Crackers, dips, and vegetables with fresh fruit</td>
<td>Fresh sandwiches &amp; fresh fruit</td>
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<td>Nachos/fresh fruit</td>
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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.

OSHClub News
Before School / After School Care Program
Goodbye and Thank you from Sue Gibson.

I am retiring from teaching this week after spending 25 wonderful years at Mt. Dandenong Primary School. Thank you so very much for your support, co-operation, assistance and friendship, for the past 25 years. It has been such a pleasure and so rewarding for me to observe the progress and experience, the excitement, fun of learning and celebrate the achievements of your children at our school especially in the first years of their school life. I have often taken the time to browse through my photo album, books, cards, and map the journeys taken by your children since the beginning of their Prep experience at Mt. Dandenong. Some of my Preps are now teachers, have married, are parents or one has even co taught with me in Prep at Mt. Dandenong. I love to hear about their achievements.

Teaching has been a dream job, as I have loved being here every day. Long ago I established myself in Prep and became an ‘honorary mountain’ person. With fabulous staff members and on-going parent support, I have continued to be inspired and amazed by the capabilities of children at our school. I encouraged independence and ‘risk taking’ with all learning experiences. My years at Mt. Dandenong were full of highlights...a new school in ‘91, special celebrations, House Sports... Kookaburras winning for 8 years in a row!, Friday Assemblies, Presentation nights, Music Concerts, Art Shows, Literacy/Numeracy week challenges, Graduation Bears, Talent Expo, Runde and of course ...Brown Bear!

I will always remember the confident start to school... well for most of you, your first reading and writing efforts, Friday assemblies, merit awards, school swimming lessons and of course many Presentation Night performances ... What an outstanding and confident group of superstars we have pass through Mt Dandenong! It has been such a fantastic 25 years. I am extremely proud of the efforts of all students, but especially my past Prep children.

It has been such a delight to have the on-going assistance from a wonderful community of supportive parents, who have regularly helped with Maths workshops, Literacy activities, Art activities, Fruity Friday rosters not to mention the wonderful assistance given for many special requests, fundraising, working bees and parent workshops for the year. I would especially like to thank you all for your many kind words and good wishes over the past weeks.

I would like to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and an enjoyable and relaxing holiday. Best wishes for a happy and healthy year in 2014. I will miss you all.
Not much has changed in 25 years (except may be hair colour) …
but there will be big changes when we bid a sad farewell to our mentor and friend

Suzanne Margaret GIBSON (Sue)

We invite parents and past students to join us at a retirement function to celebrate the long and illustrious career of an extraordinary teacher on

Thursday, 19th December
from 4.30—6.30 pm at
Fortnums
395 Mt Dandenong Tourist Road,
Sassafras

Afternoon tea will be served; drinks available

Please RSVP to Julie on 9751 1136 or email at francis.julie.j@edumail.vic.gov.au

A donation towards costs of $20 is requested.

Method of Payment. Please make payment via cash, cheque (made out to Mount Dandenong PS), direct deposit into the Mount Dandenong PS bank account (BSB 063 255 account no 10048536) with an appropriate tag, or credit card payment as follows:

Credit Card Payment Details:  Name on Card: ________________________________
Card Number: ___________ ___________ ___________ ___________ ___________
Expiry Date ___________ Signature: ________________________________
(Credit card payments can also be accepted over the phone.)
Auditory Processing in Children – Information session for parents & teachers
By Katharine King
Tuesday 17th December  4-5pm

- What is the difference between Auditory Processing, listening and hearing?
- How the brain processes sound.
- Types of auditory processing
- Symptoms of Auditory Processing problems
- How poor Auditory Processing effect a child’s learning, emotional and behavioural state
- How teachers and parents can help children with AP issues
- How auditory processing issues can be dramatically enhanced

$5 per head to cover costs
Mt Dandenong Primary School
Farndons Road, Mt Dandenong

For booking or further information contact:-
Katharine King 0410 402 487
learning.to.listen@bigpond.com
Educational Kinesiologist
Brain Gym Consultant

Elle Naturale
Olinda
massage & body treatments
ph: 9751 0199
text: 0411 622 445

e: info@ellenaturaleolinda.com.au
w: www.ellenaturaleolinda.com.au

Introducing Bowen therapist
Heather Dunn
0414 508 075

Sassafras Ferny Creek Netball Club
Registration Day 2014
Mark the Date!
8 February, 2014, 10am – 12pm, Olinda Netball Courts

A great way to meet new friends and play a team sport
Teams for: Under 11s, Under 13s, Under 15s, Under 17s and an Open Team

Early bird registrations are welcome
Talk to Deb Andrich: 0407 514 103 or Ann-Maree Baker: 0418 395 070. Or email us at sassafrasfernycreeknetballclub@gmail.com

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