Welcome Back
I would like to welcome back all of our community members from the summer holidays and I hope that you have all had a wonderful time. Our new Preps start on Thursday morning which is a very exciting time for many families. Please be sure to make our new families welcome.

Emergency Management- Test SMS
We will be sending a test message via both SMS and Tiqbiz on Wednesday 5th February at 10 am. If you do not receive this message, please notify the office immediately so we can update your contact details. Please see the Emergency Management information in this edition for more information about Emergency Procedures at Mt Dandy.

School Council 2014
Our School Councillor nomination process starts today. If you are interested in becoming a councillor and can attend two meetings per month and would like to help around the school please read the attached form and fill in a nomination form.

Oval News
Unfortunately our oval is not ready for use and further work is required on the irrigation system. We are in the middle of resolving the issues and are hoping for it to be ready for use later this term.

Fresh Fruit Friday Finished
Government funding for Fresh Fruit Friday ceased in 2012 and luckily for us our program was sponsored by one of our families for 2013. This year their kind donation will be used to purchase more reading material for our students. We are sad to see the program conclude but are very excited at the prospect of receiving more books to support our reading program. I thank them for their very generous contribution.

Volunteers Needed
Our school is very lucky to have wonderful parent helpers who perform many roles throughout the school. The support of these parents allows us to offer programs and services that we would otherwise not be able to offer. You might like to volunteer individually or organise a small group to work together on a project. We are currently seeking some volunteers to help out in the following areas:

- **Book Club** – Volunteers disseminate brochures, collect orders, place orders and deliver orders to classrooms. Our participation in this program is vital as the school receives a percentage of sales in reading material for the library and classroom programs.
- **School Banking** – Volunteers collect and deliver bankbooks to and from the Commonwealth Bank and organise the student banking incentive program. The school receives commission from the program.
- **Lost Property** – Volunteers are required to sort through the lost property basket once a week and return any named lost property to the owner’s classroom. All other property is washed and donated to the second hand uniform shop.
- **Canteen Co-ordinator** – Prepare menu, order supplies, co-ordinate volunteer helpers. There is scope for the new co-ordinator to revamp the canteen program.

Educational Maintenance Allowance
Applications for EMA are due by the end of February for those on a pension or who hold a Health Care Card. The EMA is a government payment to help with the cost of schooling and as such the school depends on families to sign this allowance over to pay for classroom requisites. We appreciate your support. Application forms can be collected at the school office.

Curriculum Day March 13th - Staff-Student-Parent Interview Day
On March the 13th we will be holding our Term 1 Interviews. This year we have changed the focus and format of our interviews. The interviews will include the teachers, students and parents in a goal setting exercise that will ensure that all three parties have ownership of education and social achievements and will ensure a closer home/school partnership. These interviews will operate from 12.00pm to 8pm. Further information will be included in upcoming editions of the newsletter. Please mark this date in your diary.

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.
News and Views... Continued from page 1

Student Absence Procedures
If your child is going to be absent please 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 parent’s care. It is vital that for safety reasons we know the whereabouts of every student.

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.

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.

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.

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 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 online or your insurance broker.

Thumbs Up To:
Anne Boal for preparing this year’s Student Start up program
Callum for being well prepared for Assembly yesterday
Our new Preps who have been extremely enthusiastic during their Early Years testing.

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 sent home with the students, TiqBiz notification and an SMS message three days prior to the predicted closure to inform them. One day prior to the closure day/days another letter, TiqBiz notification 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 hazards, 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.

Uniform Shop
Change of Hours
From next week (13th Feb) the Uniform Shop will be open each Thursday morning before school.

GARAGE SALE
29 Everest Crescent
Olinda
Saturday 8th/Sunday 9th February from 9 am
Whitegoods, furniture, exercise equipment, books, CDs, quality clothing size 12-20 and bric-a-brac
Welcome to the first week of 2014!!

Welcome back to the staff, students and community, from everyone at OSHClub, we hope you enjoyed your Christmas and New year, along with a long and relaxing holiday. We are so pleased to see all the old and new faces in the school hallways and hope to see you come and visit the OSHClub program.

This week we enjoyed some fun in the sun, playing some of our favourite sports. Next week we are having a belated celebration of Australia day and our culture and history, it should be great fun.

This year we have introduced some new clubs and weekly activities providing a great addition to the program, stay posted for more details.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Before Care Activities</td>
<td>Before Care Activities</td>
<td>Before Care Activities</td>
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<td>Before Care Activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hama Beads</td>
<td>Design your own colouring.</td>
<td>Tennis ball races</td>
<td>Bop Bop statues.</td>
<td>Ship shark shore</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Brekkky

Cereal & Milk, Juice (No sugar), Toast (White/Wholemeal) & Spreads, yoghurt

Cereal & Milk, Juice (No sugar), Toast (White/Wholemeal), Spreads & Milk & raisin bread

Cereal & Milk, Juice (No sugar), Toast (White/Wholemeal), Spreads & cheese on toast

Cereal & Milk, Juice (No sugar), Toast (White/Wholemeal) & Spreads, Fresh fruit

Cereal & Milk, Juice (No sugar), Toast (White/Wholemeal) & Spreads, Milk & milo.

After Care Activities

‘Get Creative’ Art/Craft Club!
4:15pm – 5:15pm
Koala pencils.
Homework corner/ free time

OSH’s Construction
4:15pm – 5:15pm
Create our own OSH map.
40/40
Homework corner/ free time

‘Active outside sports games’
4:15pm to 5:15pm
Capture the flag
Australia day book.
Homework corner/ free time

‘Cooking Club!’
4:15 to 5:15pm
Damper!
Sharks our of water.
Homework corner/ free time

Friday FUN day
4:15to5:15
Dress ups/ dance
Free Games Homework corner/ free time

Afternoon tea

Nachos/fresh fruit

Soup/ fresh fruit

Toasted ham and cheese sandwiches and fresh fruit

Crackers, dips, and vegetables with fresh fruit

Fresh sandwiches & fresh fruit

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.

OSH program phone: 0419915649

OSHClub Head Office: 03 8564 9000

Coordinator: Samantha Clarke

Assistant: Jess Briant

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.

After School Basketball 2014 Season 1 will commence shortly, so I will be sending a letter home this week with permission slip attached. If you wish to play, please return this to myself or Julie in the office ASAP!

Thanks, Ali Wynne (0425 757 476)
The Mount Dandy News

Music Program 2014—Classroom Music: Teacher Debbie Leticq-Cromb

All students receive a 1 hour classroom music lesson each week. They will learn over the course of their 7 years at school to read music, play a variety of instruments, create, sing, dance and join in drama activities. The aim of the program, whilst having fun, is to give all children the opportunity to participate in music making and develop musical skills. Each year, every child has the opportunity to perform in various concerts/assemblies throughout the year and to sing as a whole school choir during the year.

School Performance Groups: Please note that there is a requirement that any student selected for the following groups, must make a considerable effort to attend rehearsals and be available for performances for the entire year.

Vocal Ensemble is a group of talented singers from Grades 4-6. Children are selected by audition, as we have a limited number that can join each year due to its popularity. Rehearsals are Tuesdays before school at 8.30am.

Orchestra performs the National Anthem in Monday morning assemblies, so they will need to be available to assist with setting up on stage at 8:45am. Any child who has been learning an instrument for at least a year is welcome to join. Rehearsals are Monday lunchtimes.

School Choir for Grade 1-3 children is a fun singing group which introduces students to singing in a choir. We meet in Terms 2 and 4 at lunchtime. This is open to any child who loves to sing!

Instrumental Music Program 2014. This year we have an exciting private instrumental music program at Mount Dandenong Primary School. If your child is interested in having a ½ hour private lesson during school time, please contact teachers directly to make an enquiry or a booking.

- Piano, violin—contact Sarah Wilson 0408 823 600
- Drum kit—contact Luke McIvor 0415 705 616
- Guitar—contact Jed Rowe 0437 741 851

Financial Assistance - Information for Parents

Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA):
The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided by the Victorian Government to lower-income families to help with education-related costs.

If you have a child under 16, and you hold a valid Health Care Card, Pension Card, or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible to receive the EMA. The allowance is paid in two instalments, one in March and one in August.

The payment is intended to assist with education-related costs such as; uniforms, excursions, textbooks, and stationery. You can elect to have your EMA paid in one of the following ways:
- Paid by direct deposit (Electronic Funds Transfer) into your own nominated bank account; or
- Paid to the school to be held as credit which you can use towards education expenses; or
- Paid by cheque which will be posted to the school for collection.

In 2014, the annual EMA amount per student is:
- $200 for prep students
- $150 for students in years 1 – 6.
- $300 for year 7 students
- $250 for students in year 8 – until age 16.
* A pro-rata amount is payable for students turning 16 in 2014.

How to Apply: Contact the school office to obtain an EMA application form.

Closing Date: You need to obtain an EMA application form from the school office and return it by 28 February 2014.

For more information about the EMA, visit: http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/financial/Pages/default.aspx
February 3, 2014

School Council Elections 2014

What is a school council and what does it do?
All Government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the school council?
There are three possible categories of membership:

A mandated elected Parent category. More than one third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) employees can be Parent members at their child’s school as long as they are not employed at the school.

A mandated elected DEECD employee category. Members of this category may make up no more than one third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.

An optional Community member category. Its members are appointed by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DEECD employees are not eligible to be Community members. The term of office for all members is two years. Half the members must retire each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is Parent membership so important?
Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school. Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

How can you become involved?
The most obvious way is to: stand for election as a member of the school council or encourage another person to stand for election.

Do I need special experience to be on school council?
No. What you do need is an interest in your child’s school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school’s future.

What do you need to do to stand for election?
If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category. Nomination forms are available from the school office and can be submitted until 4.00 p.m. on the 11th February.

DEECD employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not employed are eligible to nominate as parents for the school council where their child is enrolled.

Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal by 4.00 p.m. on the 11th February.
If there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

Remember
- Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do
- Consider standing for election to council this year
- Be sure to vote in the election if it is required.
School Council Elections 2014 continued...

Contact the principal for further information.

Notice of Election and Call for Nominations

An election is to be conducted for members of the School Council of Mount Dandenong Primary School. Nomination forms may be obtained from the school office and must be lodged by 4.00 pm by Tuesday, 11th February 2014. If required the ballot will close at 4.00 pm on Tuesday, 25th February.

Following the closing of nominations a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school. The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows –

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership category</th>
<th>Term of office</th>
<th>Number of positions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2014 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2016</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEECD employee member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2014 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2016</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Timeline

Vacancies – 2 DEECD representative (school staff)  
2 Parent representatives

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTION PROCESS AND TIMETABLE

Mount Dandenong Primary School

EVENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>DATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) Notice of election and call for nominations</td>
<td>Tuesday, 4 February 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Closing date for nominations</td>
<td>Tuesday, 11th February 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) Date by which the list of candidates and nominators will be posted</td>
<td>Monday 17th, February 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d) Date by which ballot papers will be prepared and distributed</td>
<td>On or before Tuesday 18, February 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e) Close of ballot</td>
<td>Tuesday, 25th February 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f) Vote count</td>
<td>Wednesday 26th February 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g) Declaration of poll</td>
<td>Thursday 27th February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h) Special council meeting to coopt Community members (the principal will preside)</td>
<td>Monday 3rd March 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i) First council meeting to elect office bearers (the principal will preside)</td>
<td>Monday 3rd March 2014</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nomination Forms can be collected from the office. Please note that the dates and times will be strictly followed.

Mike Leonard
Principal
Recipe for Success in 2/3PW

In our grade we wrote recipes for success. We listed the ingredients that we think we need to have a successful year. Some of the great recipes were...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ingredients</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1000 cups of fun</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1000 grams of learning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 cups of maths</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100 teaspoons of reading</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1000 cups of thinking</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Bon**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ingredients</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20 grams of happiness</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 teaspoons of fun</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200 grams of kindness</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Romy**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ingredients</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>132 grams of good listening</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 cups of German</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200 cups of responsibility</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>110 grams of reading</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200 spoonfuls of cooperation</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Saskia**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ingredients</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 cup of kindness</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>150 grams of good work</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 cups of helping one another</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>289 grams of thinking dust</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>344 grams of maths work</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 teaspoons of working hard</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 cups of friendship</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Charli**

Foster Carers Needed!

Do you have a spare room? Wesley Mission Victoria is seeking people to foster children aged 0-18 years.

Contact us
03 9871 5333
cyfseast@wesley.org.au

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL OUR STUDENTS BORN IN JANUARY.
Creative dance is child’s play.

Creative Dance at Kumbada Studio is a fun, easy and inspiring way for children (from toddlers to teenagers) to stretch their legs and their imaginations. Our unique blend of dance, yoga, theatre and music creates an experience that encourages children of all shapes and sizes to express themselves with grace and confidence.

Join our Children's Creative Dance classes and see just how much joy can come from a little creative fun.