The Mount Dandy News

Top of the mountain, top results.

Issue 254

16th June 2015

News and Views...

Enrolments for 2016
If you have friends or neighbours who are looking at enrolling their child in a school for 2016 please encourage them to visit us for a tour of the school. A convenient time can be organised by contacting the office. We are now accepting enrolments for 2016 and parents are encouraged to enrol their child at their earliest convenience to support us with forward planning for next year. We are hosting a Meet the Prep Teachers activity and morning tea for prospective 2016 Prep enrolments on Friday the 26th of July at 9.30am. Please see the attached information contained in this newsletter.

Schools Working Together
The strong Dandenong Ranges network of schools was again on show last week when staff from Mt Dandenong Primary School visited Ferntree Gully North Primary School to work with their Specialist Team to find out more about their assessment and reporting practices.

10 Minutes Extra Reading per Day
Do you know if your child reads an extra 10 minutes a day at home that equates to 70 minutes a week, 350 minutes in one month, 3600 minutes in one year and 21,900 minutes from Grade 1 to Grade 6? All this extra reading will lead to a significant and broader range of vocab and an increased level of spelling. (Article from Scholastic Books)

Student Illness and Accidents
As we approach the halfway mark of the 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 However, it is necessary on occasions to contact parents and we often find we have out of date information that delays this process. Please make sure you notify the office of any changes to 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 Training (DET) does not hold accident insurance for school students.

Strategic Review Update
Our review is progressing well with the report almost completed. The data collected from parents, students and staff will be collated and analysed later this week and the final report available to the community early next term. Our review day is on August the 3rd and we have invited Marg Uren from Monbulk College and Steve Richard-son from Highvale primary school to be part of the process. They will provide valuable insight as well as constructive feedback to help us develop a clear path forwards for Mount Dandenong Primary School.

Congratulations to the Healy family who are our lucky Bunnings voucher winners. Thank you to all those who took the time to provide feedback for our strategic review.

Farewell Assembly for Mrs Leticq-Cromb – June 19th @ 2.15pm
On Friday the 26th of July at 2.15pm we will be holding our farewell assembly for Mrs Leticq-Cromb. It is sure to be a musical and energetic affair just like Mrs Leticq-Cromb. Parents are encouraged to come along and wish Debbie a fond farewell. Afternoon tea for parents and friends will be served in the library following the farewell assembly.

Junior School Council Update
You may have noticed that this year we do not have a Junior School Council. Over the past few years the program quality has deteriorated due to other priorities and commitments and we have decided to revamp it during the course of 2015 and have it ready to go for 2016. We are looking forward to and much more engaging and real experience for those students in the JSC next year.

Continued on page 2...

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.
Work Experience Students
This week we host 3 ex students who are here for work experience. Please welcome back Mark, Hannah and Daisy. It is always fantastic to see how our students are progressing after their time at Mt D.

CSEF
Parents please remember, if you hold a Healthcare or Pension card you are eligible to claim for the school $125 for each eligible student to go towards camp, swimming and excursion costs. An application form must be filled in and can be obtained from the office.

Concert for Nepal
Congratulations to Shaula Salathe and Anni Angle for organising such a wonderful event on Saturday night. By all reports it was an excellent concert that was enjoyed by the many people who attended. Between the concert and the raffle they raised over $8000 for the earthquake victims in Nepal.

Merit Awards
Each Monday at assembly I have the great pleasure of handing out Merit Awards to students from P-6. I am constantly impressed by the number of students who receive an award for effort, demonstrating that they are trying their best. Well done to all of our Merit Award recipients. I am very proud of each and every one of you.

Embankment Out of Bounds
I often see students playing on the embankment between the staff car park and the prep rooms after school. Please do not let your children play there because it is steep and dangerous and we do not want anyone injured.

Last Day – 26th of June – 2.30 dismissal
Parents are reminded that term two finishes on June the 26th and all students will be dismissed at 2.30pm. Those students who catch the bus towards Olinda will be escorted to catch the 2.21pm bus. Students who catch the bus towards Montrose will need to find alternate travel arrangements please. OSHClub will begin their program from 2.30pm on this day to support those families who require this service.

Thumbs Up To:
- Shaula and Anni for their wonderful fundraising concert
- Tia for running the lights for the concert
- Josh and Tabatha our Enviro Captains who are starting up an exciting Environmental Education initiative (stay tuned)
- All of our teachers who have been working very hard and putting in lots of extra hours writing reports
- Our orchestra that seems to be growing each week
- Mary, Maeve, Cami, Jack and Lucy who have all completed the PRC.

Thank you, Mike Leonard and Anni Smart.

5/6 Rugby Clinics Postponed
Unfortunately the Grade 5/6 Rugby Clinic has been postponed until Term 3 due to funding issues. Students will be practising Minkey (a modified version of hockey) as a replacement for the clinic. I will ensure to keep students and parents informed of the new dates in Term 3.

Kind regards,
Kathleen Kean, Physical Education Teacher

An Invitation to the Community
Our magnificent music maestro, Debbie Letica-Cromb is packing up her baton and waving us a fond farewell. We hope you can join us in wishing her well and congratulating her on an outstanding career at a special assembly on Friday, 19th June 2015 at 2.30 pm in the multi, followed by afternoon tea for staff and parents in the library.

Please RSVP to Julie at Mount Dandenong P.S., Farndons Road, Mount Dandenong 3767
Email—francis.julia@edumail.vic.gov.au
Telephone—9751 1336
OSHClub News
Before School / After School Care Program

This week in OSH we focused on our beautiful environment during our nature week. Throughout the week we used natural resourced, recycled materials and nature to promote our activities.

We played outside, used the outdoor areas for group games, collected natural materials for art and brought some of the fun from outside and used it inside.

Next week we have our famous footy week! So gear up for some fun and footy fever as we create, decorate, play and of course kick the footy.

So come along and join the club today.

On a side note, we are still trying to run our ‘Dresses for Africa,’ as an ongoing activity at OSH. We are reaching out to the community to see if we can collect some pillow cases. If you happen to have any lying around we would love to take them off your hands and give new life to them.

This Week’s Activities - Term 2, Week 10

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<td>Cereal &amp; Milk, Juice (No sugar), Toast (White/ Wholemeal), Spreads &amp; Milk &amp; Milo</td>
<td>Cereal &amp; Milk, Juice (No sugar), Toast (White/ Wholemeal), Spreads &amp; Raisin Toast</td>
<td>Cereal &amp; Milk, Juice (No sugar), Toast (White/ Wholemeal) &amp; Spreads, Milk &amp; Milo</td>
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<td>After Care Activities</td>
<td>4:15pm – 5:15pm Markers up &amp; AFL FLAG</td>
<td>4:15pm – 5:15pm Footy Guernsey &amp; Balloon football</td>
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<td>Afternoon tea</td>
<td>Nachos and a plate of oranges, watermelon, apple and mandarin</td>
<td>English muffins and a plate of watermelon apple and orange</td>
<td>2 minute noodles with a plate of watermelon, oranges and apple</td>
<td>Wedges with sour cream and a plate of watermelon, apple and grapes</td>
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Afternoon tea: Fresh jam, vegemite and honey sandwiches with a plate of watermelon, apple and grapes.

Parent Information

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
Assistant: Kerrie Jones

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.
Principal gets creative to improve students’ online security

Elim Christian College junior school is a government school in Manukau City, Auckland, whose 829 students are required to bring and use mobile devices – specifically, iPads.

While these devices were designed to enhance the students’ learning engagement and collaborative culture, the school’s principal, Shaun Brooker, has had to deal with a complex downside of this technology – students’ online security.

Brooker has been confronted with complex questions from parents about how to manage their child’s online privacy and safety but also the content they’re accessing.

In the absence of such a guide for concerned parents, Brooker decided to write and publish his own – a book titled: ‘Keeping Your Child/Teen Safe in the Online Jungle’.

The book, which Brooker describes as a “buffet of information”, surged to second place on Apple’s online New Zealand iBookstore for the first six weeks following its release and has been downloaded by parents in New Zealand, Australia, the UK, the US and the Netherlands.

“There’s a void of information around that for parents in general,” Booker told Stuff.co.nz.

Among the topics covered in the book are managing online activity at home and how to change security and privacy settings on devices.

It’s up to parents to pick out the parts that were right for them and their children, Brooker said.

“These devices are more than just gaming tools,” Brooker said, adding the technology was important for creativity and that learning should not be taken away from children for fear of something going wrong.

“When a child writes on the wall you don’t ban them from using pens,” Brooker said.

Below are some key takeaways from Brooker’s guidebook:
1. Maintain ownership. Make it a family device. This gives parents the ability to change settings and maintain control of how it’s used and when.
2. Don’t sleep with devices. Charge devices overnight in the kitchen, lounge or parents’ bedroom rather than in the child’s bedroom.
3. It’s more than a gaming device. Set time limits for games. Create guidelines for how the device is used. For example, devices could be just used for homework and creative learning during the week and gaming during the weekend.

Source: the educator.

Music News

Busking night, Wednesday 29th July

Instrumental performers

Singing, dancing and theatre

Orchestra and Vocal Ensemble

Mark this date in your calendar now!
Meet the Teachers

Parents, students and friends are invited to a ‘MEET THE TEACHERS’ session at Mount Dandenong Primary School, Farndons Road, Mount Dandenong

Friday, 26th June, 9.30 — 10.30am

Morning tea provided
Mt Dandenong, Olinda and Sassafras Primary Schools present...

Developing Oral Language in Children – Parent Forum

Thursday 25th June, 9.30 am

Parents of children aged 0-8 are invited to attend this session focusing on developing oral language in children.

Strong oral language skills support children’s transition into reading and writing and set children up for academic and social success.

Anita Volombello, a speech pathologist from Department of Education and Training will run a talk for parents on the importance of reading at home with children as a means of both developing oral language and supporting the transition to literacy. Parents play a major role in the development of oral language skills and during this session they will be provided with tips, techniques and a reading pack including a book and information sheets to take home.

We hope you can join us on the day for what will be an informative session!

This session is free, however bookings are essential.

To book your seat please call Julie at Mt Dandenong Primary School on 9751 1136 or email francis.julie.j@edumail.vic.gov.au

Host school:
Mount Dandenong
Primary School,
Farndons Road,
Mount Dandenong

03 9751 1136
More information and application forms available at the office

School Banking.

On Monday 22\textsuperscript{nd} June, Kath Penny from the Commonwealth Bank is returning to our school to talk to the students at assembly about bank accounts and saving. Please come along and hear what she has to say. After assembly Kath and I will be available to assist anyone who would like to open a new account for their child.

The program that this bank offers is a fun, interactive and engaging way for students of this age to be introduced into money and developing good saving habits. It encourages independence and responsibility so kids develop healthy habits that they'll carry with them into adulthood. The children can fill out their own deposit slips then simply remember to bring their bank books to school each week. Banking day is Thursday, however, I collect the books at the end of Friday (for any late comers) but really they can be brought in on any day to the classroom teacher or Julie in the office.

It's also a form of fundraising too as the bank gives a commission back to the school. It's another life learning tool for your child who will happily finish their primary school years with an understanding of saving money and the rewards for their saving efforts. Just a small amount each week teaches the child patience, routine and rewards for their discipline and commitment to something that takes time to build.

Hoping to see some more regular bankers soon,
Sarah Selby,
School Banking Co-ordinator.

Thank you.

Annie Angle and Lady Shaula thank the entire community for the absolutely enormous support that they showed for the Nepal Earthquake Fund-Raising Concert on the weekend.

We particularly thank Principal Michael Leonard and the Mt Dandenong Primary School for donating the use of your beautiful hall.

Including the raffle, silent auction and tickets for the astounding concert, we raised $8000 which will be going directly to a specific village, where it will be shared amongst their community as they rebuild.

Our heart-felt thanks go to all who helped create this extraordinary event, from the Tech Crew, the astounding Caterers, all those who donated goods and services for the silent auction and most notably to the international and local musicians who graced the stage at Mt Dandy!

Thank you for being a stunning audience - it truly was a night to remember.

For a list of performers, businesses and individuals who supported Nepal, please find us on Facebook. Namaste.
Is your child a budding violin, viola, or 'cello player?

Does your child want to play a violin/viola/cello but you are not sure if they have any talent? Maybe they won’t “stick at it” (like my parents thought with me, given my previous track record!). Maybe they are not sure which one they would like to try?

I would like to offer 30 minute GROUP lessons for Term 3, to give students a “taste” of what it like to play a string instrument. The cost will be substantially less that private lessons. To do this, I would need to have 3 students per group.

If you would like your child to have private lessons in Term 3, please let me know.

I have many year’s experience teaching beginners through to advanced students, and currently perform on ‘cello with the Melbourne Opera Orchestra and the hills-based Nicholas Chamber Orchestra.

For further information please email: dandenong.ranges.strings@gmail.com

Would you be interested in an annual DVD of school memories?

The school’s fundraising committee are exploring the idea of putting together an annual DVD of memories that parents can purchase. It might include footage of assemblies, productions, concerts and other special events. A wonderful momento capturing the past year.

Our first step is to work out the feasibility and costs that might be involved. So we are reaching out to the school community to ask if anyone knows of a videographer or someone with a keen interest in filming, that might be interested in helping us with this idea.

If you know of anyone… please ask them to contact Megan on 0418 331 743. No obligation, we just want to start the conversation and see if this idea has value!
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<td>School Council Meeting</td>
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<td>Grade 2 Camp</td>
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<td>Student Reports go home</td>
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