News and Views...

Father’s Day Breakfast 8.15 – 8.45am Friday
Wow, September already and school holidays just around the corner and so much on before then. The craziness starts this week with our first ever Father’s Day breakfast. Students are invited to come along with their dads (or special male role models) to enjoy some cereal as well as bacon and egg sandwiches. We hope to have lots of dads to celebrate with. See you there.

Education Support Staff
We are really fortunate to have the services of five fantastic ES staff in our school. Michael, Cheryl, Anita, Louise and Julie all work extremely hard to support the needs of our students. Each day we are amazed at the magnificent work they do that makes our school an extra special place for our students. Other than working with specifically funded students they also help out in a number of ways, including technical support, library technician, intervention programs, office support and help at special events such as Wakakirri, productions, sports days and the like. Please be sure to take the time and thank them for the work that they do at our school. Thank you Michael, Cheryl, Anita, Louise and Julie

Grade 6 Production – Worry Warts
Our Grade 6 students have been busy preparing and rehearsing for their upcoming production of Worry Warts. Today they tried on their costumes and they look fantastic. During rehearsals the students have also completed character studies and a number of other literacy based tasks that have deepened the learning during the production. Coming to terms with stage terminology was particularly challenging yesterday morning.

Tickets are available at our office and we encourage all community members to come along for a great night out and support our Grade 6 students. Further information can be found in this newsletter.

Premiers Reading Challenge – Ends September 14th
We have had a number of successful challengers complete the Premiers Reading challenge already. It closes soon so be sure to add your books read to the list and notify me when you have completed the challenge. Congratulations to James T, Cami H, Stephanie R, Lucy D, Juanita B, Laura M, Natasha R, Maeve H, Mary S, Erin M, Eloise V, Joshua R and Jack G for successfully completing this year’s PRC.

Chook Holiday Roster
If you have no holiday plans for the upcoming school holidays and would like to visit the school and feed the chooks and collect some fresh eggs please let Julie know and we’ll organise a roster. Thank you

Legacy Badges, Pens and Wristbands for Sale
We have some items for sale to support Legacy. All funds are used to support returned servicemen and their families. There are approximately 100,000 families who currently utilise the services offered by Legacy around Australia. If you’d like to purchase a badge or wristband please come to the school office. Your support is appreciated.

Relocatable to be Relocated – Help wanted
Our portable buildings, which are no longer in use, have been recalled by the Department of Education and will be redeployed elsewhere. We have approximately 6 weeks to have them cleared out ready to be removed. We currently have a lot of items left over from our jumble sale last year stored in there, which need to be either donated to an op shop or taken to the refuse centre. If you are able to collect these items and help us to clear the portables please contact me ASAP. We’d love your help.

Thumbs Up To:
 Our Sustainability Captains who are spreading the message about carbon footprint reduction
 Our successful PRC challengers
 Our awesome ES staff

Thank you, Mike Leonard and Anni Smart.
Happy Birthday to all our August born students and staff.

FATHERS DAY STALL
Thurs 3rd Sept
Fri 4th Sept for kids who missed out
Priced at $1, $2, $3, $4, $5

I am looking for 4 helpers for Thurs 3rd Sept. I’ll be away so I need 3 people to help on the stall, and someone to arrive at 8.30 to set up and then run the stall. I will have everything ordered and boxed up ready to go.

COMMUNITY LOTTERY RAFFLE

Don’t forget your Community Lottery Raffle Tickets are due back by Friday 18th September.

Booklets of 10 tickets selling for $2 each were sent home with each family. 100% of all ticket sales come back to the school. This is a fantastic opportunity to raise much needed funds for the school and at the same time, go into the draw for some wonderful prizes.
This week we saw how much fun the book fair was and decided to have a Book week of our own!!
We made our own books, cartoon comics, colouring, story books and beautiful book marks and door hangers. We also turned our favourite books into plays, funny reading competitions and fun drama games.

We were lucky enough to have a trip to the library, where the children go to look at and purchase their favourite books from book fair! We also got to make some health pizzas in our cooking club.

We made all kinds of flavours and even created new toppings using our new herb garden in the kitchen!

Next week we are making pasta so if anyone has any family favourite pasta recipes we would love to make them!

The theme for next week is Father’s Day and sewing sensations! All week we will be creating inspires, imaginative and original gifts for all the children to give to their fathers on Father’s day! Along with this we will use our brand new supply of felt to sew all different creations. So come along and join the fun! Kerrie and I would love to see you at OSH!

This Week’s Activities - Term 3, Week 8

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<td>Wedges with sour cream and a plate of watermelon, apple and grapes</td>
<td>Salad wraps with a plate of watermelon, oranges and apple</td>
<td>Nachos and a plate of oranges, watermelon, apple and mandarin</td>
<td>English muffins pizzas and a plate of watermelon apple and orange</td>
<td>Fresh jam, Vegemite and honey sandwiches with a plate of watermelon, apple and grapes</td>
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Lunch

Tasty Chicken & Veggie Roll

Spread a halved broad roll with reduced fat mayonnaise. Top the base with an heirloom or Green Oak lettuce leaf, a slice of reduced fat tasty cheese, a few slices of tomato and a covered chicken korma! Top with another lettuce leaf and remaining roll. Wrap and pack. Serve with seasonal fruit.

Here is our healthy lunch box snack idea for the week. Try it out, and let us know what you think…

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
Coordinator: Samantha Clarke

OSHC program phone: 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.
BOOK WEEK INCURSION

We were very fortunate last Friday, to have Ebony-Jane Carroll, author of the children’s book, ‘EGGs’ and also a teacher herself, come and conduct several workshops on children’s book writing to the students of Mount Dandy. Ebony-Jane discussed the powerful themes of ‘resilience’, ‘bullying’ and ‘pursuing your dreams’ that run through the story of ‘EGGs’.

Ebony discussed how writing has been a creative hobby and therapeutic outlet of hers since childhood and initially consisted of penning short stories, poetry, lyrics and a film script. In 2007 she entered two scripts into the annual short film competition MAFMAD (Make a Film. Make a Difference) and both were shortlisted in the top eight. She then went on to win with her piece entitled ‘Pose’ and was fortunate enough to be given the artistic freedom to produce it herself and see it released in cinemas across Victoria.

Sometime after this she began working with young children as a kindergarten teacher and finally decided to publish her story. She created her own publishing company ‘Pose Publishing’ and sought out an editor, illustrator and printer to turn her dream into a reality.

Ebony-Jane currently works as a university academic and also runs incursions in primary schools, has both undergrad and postgrad qualifications in education and is passionate about inspiring young children to fall in love with literature.

All the students who attended the workshops received an order form to order her children’s book, ‘Eggs’. If you wish to receive a signed, personalised copy of her book for $10, please make sure that you return the form and money by Friday 4th September.

ORDER FORM

Cash and exact change only please

Children’s Picture Book  $10 per book

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Grade:       Quantity:

Do you want it signed by the author? If yes who is it for?

Copy 1: ___________________________ Copy 2: ___________________________
BOOK WEEK READERS
To celebrate Book Week 2015, selected readers from Grades 3-6 chose books from the 2015 Children’s Book Council 2015 Honour List to read to all the students over the P.A. system during lunch time reading.
Both the students listening in the classrooms and the students reading the books agreed that it was an enjoyable experience!
Many thanks to Erin, Mahni, Josh, Max, Ripleigh, Ruby, Joshua, Ashton, Percy and Lila who all read their stories well and with great expression. Once again a great example of how we value reading at Mount Dandy!
Grade 6 Major Production 2015

“Worry Warts”

Parents, friends and family of all Mount Dandenong PS students are warmly invited to come and see our wonderful Grade 6 Major Production - an adaptation of Morris Gleitzman’s book “Worry Warts”.

Worry Warts follows the story of 11 year old Keith Shipley and his attempts to cheer up his “misery guts” parents. Keith is sure that if only he can solve his parents’ money problems he will be able to give them everlasting happiness.

Keith runs away to make a fortune for his parents, meeting a cast of colourful characters along the way. Come with Keith as he learns that there is only so much he can do about his parents’ happiness and that sometimes change is inevitable.

A fun night guaranteed for everyone!

Tickets are selling fast at the school office! Seating in the multi-purpose room is limited, so get in quickly to purchase your tickets.

Venue:
Multi-Purpose Room,
Mt Dandenong Primary School

Dates:
7:30 pm - Thursday, 10th September
7:30 pm - Friday, 11th September

Cost: Only $10 for adults, high school students $5.00
Mt Dandenong students and children under 12 free
**Teach Your Kids How to Not Get Mugged In Minecraft**

Beth Blecherman is founder of TechMamas.com, a site that curates information on family technology. Her new book "My Parent Plan" applies her years of technology project management to helping parents make their own plans. Follow her at @TechMama.

Web monitoring and filtering tools have long been central to our family technology plan, keeping the house clean of content inappropriate for our three boys. When my older son reached the age of 13 and he and his friends started accessing the Internet through their mobile devices, I realized the controls we put in place were no longer sufficient.

Kids are going online via mobile in huge numbers. Pew Research Center's Internet and American Life Project says 78% of teens ages 12 through 17 have a cellphone, with nearly half of those being smartphones. That means the rules you set up at home, that controlled and filtered environment you created, no longer apply.

While I wish I could be a Net Nanny, protecting my kids from all the online safety dangers, I realize I now need to help my kids be their own best defense. For us, that's achieved by having daily online safety talks with them...it's the new birds and the bees talk. Here are some of my tips — please share yours!

**Have regular online safety talks**

I decided to use the concepts of gamification with my teen son by first explaining our family rules and expectations for online and smartphone safety. I then asked for his feedback, encouraging all questions, both simple and complicated. Our daily “game” is pretty straightforward.

I ask him what he saw online that day, and I reward his sharing with positive feedback. I ask him what he saw online that day, and I reward his sharing with positive feedback. I try to find times during the day when my teen is relaxed to have our safety talk, like when we're in the car or taking a walk.

One day, he explained that he wandered onto an inappropriate site via a link from a friend. He explained his strategy for trying to "vet" things that are inappropriate and I provided a few tips to help this effort. I always tell him that he'll make mistakes, but it's important to learn from them and have a strategy in place to make sure they don't happen again.

It is also important that he knows the logical consequences of inappropriate behavior. Having his phone or laptop taken away for a period of time — or even worse — shutting down his cell service to only allow emergency phone calls, is a pretty strong deterrent.

**Be the parental control expert**

Our talks center around a review of the online sites and apps used by my son and his friends. Since the list changes frequently, we examine the parental and privacy controls for each site or app and agree on what controls should be put in place. For example, his stream on Instagram is set to “private” instead of public and he only allows real life friends to follow him. He understands while it may seem fun to meet “new” friends on Instagram, that could be very dangerous.

With Facebook, privacy settings were set when he first established his account and updated regularly as Facebook implemented changes.

Negotiations are frequent. For example, my son wanted to keep his Facebook timeline open to not only friends but also to friends of friends. My preference — requirement — was limiting his timeline to only friends and always including me as a friend. I also insist all private Facebook messages need to be respectful and not include personal information.

In the end, he agreed to add me as his Facebook friend, and in return I agreed to discuss with him offline if I had issues with something on his timeline, instead of commenting online where his friends could see it.

**Use the sites your kids use**

When my son told me he was a big fan of the Reddit “funny pics” sub-directory, I went on Reddit myself to see what else was lurking there. I was shocked to see some of the “WTF”, fetish and sub-directories (called subreddits) with topics completely inappropriate for kids. When I talked to my son about it, he said he had seen the WTF directory but wasn’t going there because it was obviously something that would get him in trouble with the “family police”.

We discussed the disturbing images he saw and figured out how to adjust Reddit preferences to avoid them in the future. I insisted he not check the preference "I am over eighteen years old and willing to view adult content" and check "no" when it asks, "Are you over eighteen and willing to see adult content?" We also checked "label posts that are not safe for work (NSFW)" as another indicator of what to stay away from.

**Danger zones**

Every site has a potential danger zone, even Minecraft, a game known for being creative and fun. My son found its darker side, as I learned in one of our chats. He told me he was on the Minecraft server with PVP (player versus player) when someone not only killed his Minecraft avatar but also stole all of the items in his inventory.

"You got mugged in Minecraft?" I asked. Worse, someone had posted in the public chat area, "Teleport to me for free diamond or other items". He took the bait and found himself in a massive fight where all the players were trying to kill each other.

It's a cruel world out there, and just like explaining to your kids why they have to safeguard their items in real life, the lesson applies to Minecraft too. His chest is now locked and he's no longer playing on servers with no PVP. Lesson learned: there are no free diamonds either in Minecraft or in life.

We’re going for trust as the basis of our online safety system, while reinforcing communication and being open to negotiation. While this system isn't perfect, we think we can navigate the sometimes dangerous waters of the mobile Internet stronger as a family.
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 memento 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!

Yarra Ranges Families! Want to stay fit and have fun over Summer? Join Yarra Ranges Athletics where you can run, jump, throw…smile!

If you’re still unsure, why not take a two week free trial. Season commences Saturday 10th October 2015

Visit www.yarrarangesathletics.org.au
Enquiries Ph – 0432 911 129

Enjoy a break with a

**Massage or Natural Facial**

It’s a fast & effective way to relax and unwind
Call or text Melinda 0411 622 445

at *Elle Naturale* Olinda
Shop 1 / 1606 Mt Dandenong Tourist Rd Olinda
www.ellennaturalolinda.com.au

Open every day!

Join me for free meditation every Wednesday morning at 9.15am

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**Dandenong Ranges Secondary Showcase**

**Wednesday 16th September 7.00pm to 8.30pm**

**Burrinja Cultural Centre**

**351 Glenfern Road Upwey**

Hosted By Tom Daly Dandenong Ranges Network Chair

*Sshowcasing the range of educational opportunities available at Government Secondary Schools in the Dandenong Ranges Network*

Target Audience: Families with students in Grades 3 - 6

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**Kids in the Hills Speech Pathology**

offering speech/language assessments, individual and group therapy, weekdays and Saturday appointments available. Enquire about our School readiness groups and School holidays language/speech/social groups. Call Elena Benatar on 0414 679 648, The Patch.
## September 2015

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MDPS BOOK WEEK 2015