Mount Dandenong Primary School – From Good to Great
The staff at Mt Dandy utilised yesterday’s curriculum day to begin drafting our next 4 year strategic plan. After a presentation from Senior Education Improvement Leader, Phil White, we identified our strategic priorities for the next four years.
Staff are working in teams on each improvement area to focus on and take us on our journey from good to great and the planning has begun.
So far our areas for improvement are on researching and implementing a whole school ‘Wellbeing Program’ that focuses on student wellbeing and engagement and will encompass our RICH values. A focus on our whole school approach to Literacy with a particular attention to our writing program the teaching of writing and it’s assessment across the school is the second of our improvement areas. The last area for improvement is the implementation of a more effective assessment schedule that will ensure student achievement is tracked throughout each child’s school journey allowing more focussed teaching and support along with a reporting system for parents and students that takes place as assessment tasks are completed.
It is our intention to complete the strategic plan for presentation to school council by November and to have it ratified and completed in readiness for the end of the year.
We will use the remainder of this year to complete work we have been doing on improving and articulating our reading and spelling programs.
I would like to thank all of the community including students, parents and staff who have contributed thus far towards our strategic review.

That Sugar Film – Rave Reviews
Last week we held a community screening of That Sugar Film. Many families attended and were not only treated to a high quality documentary that exposed the truth about the amount of sugar contained in everyday foods but also to an excellent question and answer session with the lead actor and film writer Damon Gameau. I was impressed with the high quality questions asked by the audience, in particular by our students and am grateful to Damon for taking time out from his hectic schedule to support our community.
Our students are all learning about health this term with our grade 5/6 students drawing inspiration for their studies from Damon’s film. If you weren’t able to come along to our screening I recommend you take the time to watch this documentary at home. It certainly has made me more carefully consider what I eat.
Thank you to Melissa Viers for putting us in touch with Damon and making this happen.

MDPS Community Footy Tipping
Congratulations to Mick Heron who won our 2015 AFL Footy Tipping competition. Mick finished three ahead of his closest rival with 141 correct tips and is our lucky winner of one dozen eggs. Good on you Mick!

Reminders From Last Week
Planning for 2016
During the next few weeks we will be focussed on the 2016 indicative Student Resource Package (School Budget) for our school and the staffing structure this will accommodate at Mt Dandenong PS next year. In terms of class sizes, the Prep to Year 2 grades will continue at around 20 - 24 students whilst those at Years 3 - 6 comprise numbers between 25 - 28 students. We would also expect to continue our current commitment in the provision of our specialist and support programs.

Student Planning and Placement for 2016
Teaching staff are now beginning discussions regarding the placement of children in grades for 2016. This is a complex task as there are many factors to take into account to try and get the best mix for all students to learn to their utmost ability. When developing class lists, teachers ensure that each class has an equitable spread of boys and girls with a range of academic abilities. Student compatibility and behaviour is also taken into account and students are placed with some friends with whom they work well. This process takes many hours of consideration and planning with the main objective being to place students so that their learning potential is maximised.

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

I would ask that if you have matters that are of interest to the educational wellbeing of your child, please send written requests to me by Friday October 16th. This of course is not a case of parents selecting teachers for their children, but rather an opportunity for me to gain an insight into the matters you see as important to the educational wellbeing of your child, and to consider this carefully in the allocation of students to classes. This information may be shared with teaching staff, if it is required, when considering student placement for 2016. Please contact me if you have any further queries in this area.

Families leaving the school
Please assist us with planning for 2016 by providing written notification if, due to moving out of the area or changed family circumstances, your child will not be attending our school next year.

Thank you, Michael Leonard and Anni Smart.

Thursday 22nd October 6pm-8pm and Friday 23rd October 9am-11am.

Our annual Art Show is in its fourth year. The students have worked with members of our local community and parents to create some wonderful pieces for the exhibition. We hope all families can make it along to what should be a fabulous show.

Raffle - Art hampers

As part of this year’s Art Show we are running a raffle to win some fabulous hampers filled with art supplies. Please support our Art program by selling your raffle tickets to family, friends and neighbours to go into the prize draw. Further information and the raffle tickets will be sent home with your child this week.

Raffle – Derwent Fine Art pencils (pictured)

Raffle tickets to win a beautiful boxed set of Derwent Fine Art Pencils valued at $285 are available at the Art Show on Thursday 22nd October and at the office. This raffle will be drawn separately to the raffle for the hampers of art supplies. The tickets are $1 each.

We would like to thank the local business, “Little Chips Handcrafts”, for the generous donation of this prize.

Desperately seeking donations...

Can you donate an item for our art hampers?

This year we are asking parents if they can help out by donating items to add to the hampers. The hamper prizes are typically items like: pencils, paints, brushes, felt pens, canvases, craft goods or any other art related item you can come up with. In supporting the raffle you help to ensure the ongoing success of the wonderful Art program at our school. Donations can be left at the office.

Many thanks for your support
Liz Kennedy and Michelle Lawrence
Mt Dandenong OSHClub: week 2 - newsletter
12th October 2015

This week was a fantastic week back to Term 4. We spent the week reminiscing about our holidays and all the adventures we went on.

All the children represented how they spent their holiday with arts and craft, show and tell along with puppet shows.

This past week OSHClub had some visitors. We went through out first assessment and rating. This means the department comes to visit and assesses the program and how we cater for the children. We will have the results within two weeks and will share with the community.

Wish us luck 🥰

This Monday the 12th of October is a school run curriculum day. OSHClub will be running their program from 7:00am – 6:15pm. Please book online prior to Monday for a place.

During the day we will be doing lots of fun activities from cooking chocolate mousse, playing Wii competitions, OSHClub has talent, outdoor games, construction and using the puppet theatre. So come along and join the fun!

Next week is friendship week. We will be making friendship bracelets, cards, mobiles, cookies and making sure everyone has a friend!

FRIENDLY REMINDERS: To cancel an ASC sessions please do so on the Internet by 3pm on the day before, send us a text on 0419 915 649 or let an educator know you are collecting your child. There is a $2 a minute fee for each child that is picked up after 6:15pm. Please book children in online. This is important as we need to staff appropriately for children attending.
Parent Helpers Course

One of the many features of Mount Dandenong Primary School is the excellent co-operation between our teachers and parents. We believe in the best learning environment is created when there is a strong partnership between parents, teachers and students. You have an important role in their success. Your presence in the classroom will provide the teacher with valuable help in giving individual and small group assistance. In whatever way you choose to help, you can be sure your contribution is needed and valued.

The research is unequivocal...students do better at school when parents are involved in their child’s schooling. To provide you with the skills to support you in this role we are introducing a ‘Parent Helper’s Course’.

Parent Helper role:
- To support the teacher in creating the optimal learning environment
- To support the students with their learning
- Assist in the classroom under the direction of the teacher
- Provide a role model for learning

The Parent Helpers course will be conducted over 4 weeks with each workshop session lasting an hour, 9 – 10 a.m. The course commences on Tuesday 13th October.

Course Components:
- Knowing about our learners
- Mount Dandenong Literacy Framework
- CAFE reading program – comprehension strategies
- Reading strategies – supporting students with their reading
- Spelling program
- Literature circles – small group work / Oral Language Development
- Writing program – supporting students with their writing
- Mount Dandenong Numeracy Framework

All parent helpers completing the course, are required to have the ‘Working With Children Check’ and this must be presented to the Office staff where a photocopy will be recorded on file. This check is free for volunteers. Application forms can be obtained from any Post Office.

On completion of all the workshop components of the course you will be issued with a Certificate of Achievement at our graduation.

If you would like to participate in the 2015 Parent Helper’s Course commencing on Tuesday 13th October at 9.00a.m., please either contact the school on 9751 1136 or complete and return the expression of interest form below.

If you would like further information, please don’t hesitate to contact me. I look forward to meeting with you soon.

Anni Smart and Michael Leonard

PARENT HELPERS EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR THE MDPS 2015 PARENT HELPER’S COURSE

NAME: ____________________________ Mobile: ____________________

NAME & GRADE OF STUDENT/S AT MDPS:

______________________________________________________________

I am interested in participating in the 2015 Parent Helper’s Course Yes / No
I am unable to participate in the 2015 Parent Helper’s Course but would like to be informed of future courses Yes / No

______________________________________________________________
PLEASE SELECT FROM OUR DELICIOUS WEEK 2 MENU AND BRING YOUR ORDER WITH THE CORRECT CHANGE TO SCHOOL ON THURSDAY.

MOUNT DANDENONG PRIMARY SCHOOL
New lunch order menu!
TERM FOUR 2015

W1 Friday 9 October
- Pumpkin soup and roll $4
- Homemade chicken and leek pie $4/ beef pie $4
- Freshly baked quiche (spinach, pumpkin & cheddar cheese) $5
- Penne Pasta salad (chicken, sweetcorn, cucumber & capsicum) $5
- Filled pitta bread pockets with marinated chicken and salad (half or whole) $3/$5
Small side salad can be added to any items for an extra $1.50

W2 Friday 16 October
- Minestrone soup and roll $4
- Jacket potato with mild chili con carne/or baked beans & grated cheese (GF) $5
- Freshly baked quiche with free range ham & cheese $5
- Pasta bake with roast veggies, tomato & cheese $5
- Two mini sausage rolls $3
Small side salad can be added to any items for an extra $1.50

W3 Friday 23 October
- Pumpkin soup and roll $4
- Fried basmati rice with veggies, prawns & chicken (GF) $5
- Homemade lasagne with extra veggies $5
- Filled pitta bread pockets with falafels, hummus & salad (half or whole) $3/$5
- Homemade chicken and leek pie or beef pie $4
Small side salad can be added to any items for an extra $1.50

W4 Friday 30 October
- Minestrone soup and roll $4
- Mini homemade beef burgers (lean free range beef) $5
- Carbonara pasta $5
- Bacon and egg roll $5
- Couscous salad with mint, dates and roast veggies $4
Small side salad can be added to any items for an extra $1.50

Weekly surprise snacks!
AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE FROM THE CANTEEN ON FRIDAYS. BRING YOUR COINS, ALL ITEMS $1 AND $2

Examples of snacks include:
- Fresh fruit frozen ice cream $2
- Popcorn cups $1
- Sweetcorn cobs $1
- Banana bread $1
- Pure fruit wraps $1
- Mini cupcakes $1
MDPS TENNIS COACHING
Some exciting news for term 4 at Mount Dandenong PS—There will be tennis coaching on a Wednesday at lunch times. This will be available to Preps, grade 1 and grade 2 to begin with. The first Wednesday of term 4, 7th of October, will be a free trial lesson for all Preps to grade 2 who are interested.

Classes will be full of fun, excitement, energy and will use the ANZ hotshots modified tennis equipment, that makes learning the game of tennis easy.

Cost will be $80 for the term, which will get your child 8 lunch time lessons that will run for 50 min. All students who wish to play will need to get a sign up sheet from Lee, the tennis coach, and return it to Lee filled out by your parents. Looking forward to some great tennis in term 4.

Lee Patrick, Tennis Australia Club Professional Coach

Do You Want Better Telecommunication Services?

- Can you use your mobile on the mountain?
- Do you have problems with your landline?
- Does your internet drop out?

If you answered YES to any of these questions—jump online and do our survey to register your issues:

www.kamdags.wordpress.com

KAMDAGs
KALARUM & MT DANDENONG ACTION GROUPS

Cancer Council Victoria - Relay for Life 2015. “Driven by Dave” Team’s Annual Fundraising Event

Heroes & Villains Trivia Night
Saturday 17th October
7pm
MDPS Multi-Purpose Room
Tickets $20.00 (Adults Only)
To Reserve Your Table -
Phone Ali:  0425 757 476

Jazz & Beginner Piano Lessons
Craig Smith  0419 144 455
Trumpet and trombone lessons also available www.craigsmithjazz.com

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
Shop 1 / 1606 Mt Dandenong Tourist Rd Olinda
www.ellenaturaleolinda.com.au
Open every day!

Join me for free meditation every Wednesday morning at 9.15am

St. Michael’s Annual Cup Day Fair
Cnr. Mt. Dandenong Tourist & Falls Roads, Kalorama, (Melway: 52H11)
Join us for a fun day for the whole family at St. Michael’s Cup Day Fair. There’s Trash & Treasure, Cakes & Jams, Food Court, Devonshire Teas, Arts & Crafts, Plants, Books, Silent Auction, Toys, Bouncy Castle & much more. See our website for details or call 0413 009 413.

www.lightinthehills.org.au
Free event

Drum Lessons in Term 4
Hi, My names Luke, I teach drums at Mt Dandenong Primary School. There are a few spots open for lessons in term 4. It drums is something you’ve been wanting to give a try I would love to hear from you.

A few details....
- Lessons are during school hours
- Are 30 minutes long
- Are all individual lessons
- Students can expect to gain knowledge in music theory as well as learning popular songs.

Please feel free to contact me on,
LUKE MCVOR
M. 0415 705 616
E. LMcvor@gmail.com

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
# October 2015

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<td>Music Count Us In—12:30pm</td>
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