**ART NEWS**
The paintings exhibited at the Art Show by the students in Grades 5/6C, 5/6L, 1/2PS and 2T will be sent home this week. If you choose not to use the black frames please return them to the Art room so they can be reused. Thank you Liz Kennedy

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**News and Views...**

**Soirée Success**
We’d like to congratulate our wonderful student musicians and performers for their extraordinary presentations last Wednesday night. We were thoroughly entertained by each and every student and we are proud of them all for getting up on stage and having a go regardless of their skill or experience level. The Soirée evening clearly displayed the strength of our school music program and I’d like to congratulate and thank our magnificent music teacher Claire Somerville and our instrumental teachers, Luke, Sarah-Rose, Jed and Kerryn for providing our students with this excellent opportunity.

**Bunnings Sausage Sizzle Bonanza**
Thanks to the hard work of Sacha Sullivan and the fundraising committee along with the efforts of our volunteers we had our most successful Bunnings Sausage sizzle ever. We made a clear profit of $2,491. This money has been allocated to our grounds beautification budget to be used for our recent landscaping works. Congratulations and thank you to everybody involved.

**Emergency Management ‘Extreme’ days**
As part of our Emergency Management planning we are preparing for the possibility of closing on some extreme fire danger days as well as all code red days. In order to do this we have to be certain that we can contact every family and be sure that they have received our sms notification message.
We will trial this system on Monday the 23rd of November. Our message will read: “This is a trial emergency message, please respond immediately with your full name. From Mount Dandenong Primary School.”
We will then check the names of each family off our school list and contact those families who did not respond.
If we are unable to guarantee a 100% response rate then closing on some extreme rated fire danger days is not an option.
Please note that we are not proposing to close on all ‘extreme’ days and local context will be taken into consideration through discussion with the CFA and the Department of Education.
Please be sure to return the slip on the notice sent home yesterday by Thursday so we can ensure that all our family contact details are up to date.

**Tragedy in France**
We’d like to offer our thoughts and condolences to all those in France after the recent activity that has taken place there. It also serves as a sad reminder of the many lives lost in other conflicts and events all over the world. With the high media attention it can be hard to shield children from this distressing news. Attached to this newsletter is an article from Common Sense Education that will hopefully help you to support your children. Please take the time to read the article.

**Classroom Helpers Course**
This week sees the conclusion of the inaugural Classroom Helpers Course. A big congratulation to the participants, Revis A., David M., and Pam C. who have successfully completed the four modules covering areas such as the Literacy and Numeracy Programs, overview of the AusVELS Curriculum, Oral Language development and classroom support strategies. Your time and commitment to both the course and to supporting the classroom is greatly valued by ourselves, the classroom teachers and most of all by your children. We look forward to seeing you around the classrooms! We will be running the course again early next year. If you would like to participate, please leave your contact details with Julie.

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**SLU Market Fundraiser**
On Thursday our SLU students are holding their annual fundraising market. This year the proceeds go towards our World Vision sponsor child and a charity selected as a result of the SLU charity speech writing competition. We encourage all students to bring a dollar or two to purchase something and support the SLU students in their fundraising efforts. Good luck SLU

**Thumbs up to:**
- Our magnificent musicians and music teachers for the superb Soirée concert
- Sacha and the many volunteers who made the Bunnings Sausage sizzle a raging success
- Jackie Monteith who sourced some plant donations from Box Hill TAFE, Lilydale campus

Thank you, Mike Leonard and Anni Smart.

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**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.
Wishing Tree

There is only 5 weeks until Christmas! Each year we set up our own Wishing Tree in the foyer. The tree will be in our foyer on Friday 20th November. The Wishing Tree provides an ideal way to teach our children to think of others, especially those less fortunate.

Simply choose a tag from the tree:

**YELLOW** – for children in Grades Prep – 2

**GREEN** – for children in Grades 3 and 4

**RED** – for children in Grades 5 and 6

Purchase and wrap an appropriate gift, attach the tag and place it under the tree. Including your child in the choice and wrapping of the gift is a great idea!

The gifts will be collected on **Monday 14th December** and will be passed on to “Steps Outreach Service” (Concern Australia) which provides support for young homeless people.

Thank you for your support.

This is a list of suggestions if you are unsure what to buy for the Wishing Tree. Any **NEW** items that you think are suitable would be appreciated.

**0-5 years:** a strong plastic toy, Duplo, cars, dolls, books, dinosaurs, Peppa Pig, Octanauts, In The Night Garden, Giggle and Hoot etc toys. Look in the pre-school section in any of the major stores.

**5-12 years:**

- **Girls** – Barbies, Lego, tea sets, books, Smiggle products, stationery
- **Boys** – Lego, cars, football/soccer ball/basketball, books, torch

**Teenagers:**

- **Girls** – make-up or body lotion set (Body Shop gift set or Dove travelling set), nail polish, diary/journal, soap/bubble bath set, candles, perfume, backpack.
- **Boys** – cap, sports equipment, wallet, drink bottle, backpack, Lynx travelling set, sports socks and art equipment.

Steps Outreach Service Christmas Wishing Tree

Since 1985, a team of Steps’ workers and volunteers have been meeting at the steps of Flinders St Station at night time, meeting with homeless young people and helping them to ‘get off the street’. As Steps provides long-term support, we also work with many disadvantaged young families with children. Steps supports over 150 children and young people each year.

Your gift at Christmas time helps to bring joy into the lives of these children and may be the only gift they receive. The gifts will be collected on Monday 14th Dec.

Thank you for your support!
Anne Mitchell Manager Steps Outreach Service (0425770048)
This past week in OSHClub we had our term 4 multicultural week. We explored a different country each day based on the children's choice. We virtually travelled the country through their food, entertainment, language and culture. Thank you to all the families that contributed and brought in special recipes we love to share new and cultural recipes to the community.

Next week in OSHClub we are having a whole week dedicated to the infamous littlest pet shop. Due to overwhelming demand the children have requested this theme for the week. Therefore we have created a variety of activities that reflect the children’s love of these cute little characters. So come along and join in on all the fun and creative activities we have planned.

As it is coming to the end of the year here at OSH we are trying to update our materials and equipment in the program. If anyone has any unused books, board games, furniture or pillows/blankets, we would love to take them off your hands.

**Friendly Reminders:** To cancel an ASC session 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 $1 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's reading.

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**Lunch**

Here is our healthy lunch box idea for the week.

[Image of a lunch box]

**Rory and Alex are making Lego creations.**

[Image of children making Lego]

**Chelsea was in OSHClub to celebrate her birthday.**
Explaining the News to Our Kids

Shootings, terrorist attacks, natural disasters, end-of-the-world predictions -- even local news reports of missing kids and area shootings -- all of this can be upsetting news even for adults, much less kids. In our 24/7 news world, it's become nearly impossible to shield kids from distressing current events.

Today, kids get news from everywhere. This constant stream of information shows up in sharable videos, posts, blogs, feeds, and alerts. And since much of this content comes from sites that are designed for adult audiences, what your kids see, hear, or read might not always be age appropriate. Making things even more challenging is the fact that many kids are getting this information directly on their phones and laptops. Often parents aren't around to immediately help their children make sense of horrendous situations.

The bottom line is that young kids simply don't have the ability to understand news events in context, much less know whether or not a source of information is credible. And while older teens are better able to understand current events, even they face challenges when it comes to sifting fact from opinion -- or misinformation.

No matter how old your kid is, threatening or upsetting news can affect them emotionally. Many can feel worried, frightened, angry -- even guilty. And these anxious feelings can last long after the news event is over. So what can you do as a parent to help your kids deal with all of this information?

Tips for all kids

Reassure your children that they're safe. Tell your kids that even though a story is getting a lot of attention, it was just one event and was most likely a very rare occurrence. And remember that your kids will look to the way you handle your reactions to determine their own approach. If you stay calm and considered, they will, too.

Tips for kids under 7

Keep the news away. Turn off the TV and radio news at the top of the hour and half hour. Read the newspaper out of range of young eyes that can be frightened by the pictures. Preschool children don't need to see or hear about something that will only scare them silly, especially because they can easily confuse facts with fantasies or fears.

At this age, kids are most concerned with your safety and separation from you. They'll also respond strongly to pictures of other young children in jeopardy. Try not to minimize or discount their concerns and fears, but reassure them by explaining all the protective measures that exist to keep them safe. If you're flying somewhere with them, explain that extra security is a good thing.

Tips for kids 8-12

Carefully consider your child’s maturity and temperament. Many kids can handle a discussion of threatening events, but if your children tend toward the sensitive side, be sure to keep them away from the TV news; repetitive images and stories can make dangers appear greater, more prevalent, and closer to home.

At this age, many kids will see the morality of events in stark black-and-white terms and are in the process of developing their moral beliefs. You may have to explain the basics of prejudice, bias, and civil and religious strife. But be careful about making generalizations, since kids will take what you say to the bank. This is a good time to ask them what they know, since they'll probably have gotten their information from friends, and you may have to correct facts.

You might explain that even news programs compete for viewers, which sometimes affects content decisions. If you let your kids use the Internet, go online with them. Some of the pictures posted are simply grisly. Monitor where your kids are going, and set your URLs to open to non-news-based portals.
SLU MARKET THIS THURSDAY!
Baked goods, second hand toys, books and fun games. Bring your coins and enjoy you’re a fun day while helping those in need.

Junior school: 10:00-11:00
Middle school: 11:30-12:30

Proceeds from our market go to:
Tilahun, our World Vision sponsor child and a charity nominated by the SLU students after our speech writing competition.

Thank you to all the Bunnings BBQ Volunteers.
$2,491—what a wonderful effort!
Dear Parents,

I am Maj-Britt, Eileen’s French mum and I am raising money to help the street kids of Buenos Aires.

My stall which has been displaying lovely items for sale in the school foyer for 2 weeks has been a wonderful success. I intend to continue with the sale until the end of the week, so if you wish to look for a gift or something for yourself, please drop by.

You support a good cause and get something in exchange... a good idea.

Mount Dandenong Preschool

A limited amount of places are still available for 2016

Surrounded by cool temperate rainforest and lyrebird song is our happy kinder community.

We offer both a three year old ‘Waratah’ program (2 x 3 hour sessions per week) and four year old ‘Lyrebird’ program (3 x 5 hour sessions per week).

Both programs offer a positive and play based approach to learning, guided by the children’s interests.

A limited amount of places are still available for the 2016 4 year old program. Please contact Enrolment Officer Nikki Kouris for more information on 9751 0555 or at enrolments@mtdandenongpreschool.com.au
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- Mag 27
- Staff return
- Curriculum Day—No students at school
- Grade 1–6 students return to school
- Staff return