Positive Start
Throughout the first few days of school we have had the pleasure of visiting many of your children in their classrooms and specialist programs. I could not be more pleased with the atmosphere of calm and productive endeavour evident throughout the school. The teachers’ focus has been on reintroducing our expectations & behaviours’ for each classroom, as well as getting to know each and every one of their students. They have also been aiming to build strong relationships and establish a positive environment including an in-depth focus on our school’s R.I.C.H. values, and we have certainly seen that in operation. It was also wonderful to see students who are new to Mt Dandy PS being welcomed into the school and to see all children playing safely and cooperatively in the playground. This great start certainly points to a positive and exciting year ahead for all in the Mt Dandy School community.

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. However, it is necessary on occasions to contact parents and we are often frustrated by out of date information that delays this process. 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.

Riding to School
Many of our students are very keen to ride to school and we encourage each of them to do so as it is a great way of getting some exercise and is good for the environment as well. We ask that parents of students in grades P-4 accompany their children when they are riding as they lack the peripheral vision and awareness to be completely safe.

Those parents of students in Grade 5 and 6 should ensure that they have coached their children appropriately to be safe whilst riding to school. All students are required to wear helmets and walk their bikes and scooters in the school grounds. We ask all students to supply bike locks to ensure that the bikes are protected from theft.

Duty of Care Before School
Please ensure that you do not drop your children off at school prior to 8.45 am unless they are attending OSH-Club. Teachers are not on duty prior to 8.45 am.

Three Way Interviews – February 23rd and 24th
This year we will be again conducting three way goal setting interviews early in the year. Parents are required to attend an interview with their child to discuss the year ahead and set some goals that can be supported both at home and at school. Having goals is critical to enhancing performance as they allow a link between past performance and future performance, they indicate what success is, and if they are appropriately challenging they can motivate students to exert extra effort in order to succeed. Interview times will be indicated on a form to go home soon.

Volunteers Required Bunnings BBQ – February 20th
Just a reminder that we have a Bunnings BBQ booked for February the 20th at Bayswater and we still have some time slots available for parent helpers. Please notify Julie in the office if you can help out. We are also taking donations of sauce, mustard and napkins to help our fundraising efforts. Thank you.
From Good to Great at Mt Dandy

This year we have a number of strategic priorities that we are working on to take our school on a journey from being a good school to a great school. These priorities include work that we have begun over the past few years as well as directions specified in our strategic review last year. Our strategic plan has been ratified by School Council and approved by the Department of Education and will be available on our website in the coming weeks. While maintaining our high quality programs we are also working to improve on a number of strategic areas in 2016. These include:

**Spelling** – A focus on spelling will continue this year. We have a newly implemented spelling program and scope and sequence chart that helps students to understand that words can be sounded out, may have visual patterns, could be based on a root word or are linked to another language. This knowledge and understanding helps student to more accurately spell unfamiliar words.

**Precision Teaching** – All staff are focusing on the tactics, skills and actions that keep students engaged and focussed, improves understanding and allows students to succeed in an orderly classroom. This includes a peer observation component for all teachers.

**Student Wellbeing** - The 'start up' program along with a more focussed approach to the learning of and demonstrating our school values is the beginning of our approach to improving in this area. A team of teachers will be researching and implementing a whole school approach to wellbeing as the year progresses.

**Community Engagement** – We are encouraging members of our community to become more involved in our school and its programs and activities. A focus on encouraging parent volunteers and connecting with community organisations as well as incorporating more family events is a priority. Student information handbooks and a newly updated website will be available over the next month to improve communication.

**Writing** – During the course of the year a team of teachers will be researching the various approaches to writing that are available and will be visiting best practice schools with the aim of identifying a whole school writing approach that will take our results up another level.

**Data Tracking and Reporting** - We will continue to upload student data to our online program to make tracking of student results far easier. This will allow for an even better ability to support students at their point of need. While doing this we will research the available software programs to ensure that we have a program that suits the needs of our school. A feature of this will be a better, faster and more frequent reporting system for parents over the coming years.

As you can see this is going to be a very exciting year for Mount Dandenong Primary School. Whilst it will be hard work, we are excited at the possibilities available to us and the excellent outcomes that we can support our students to achieve.
Mt Dandenong OSHClub: week 1 - newsletter
5th of February 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BSC</td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>Hamma Beads &amp; Poison ball</td>
<td>Design a Colouring In &amp; Giants Treasure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Holiday</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Postcard</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&amp; Chins wall</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BREEKLY</td>
<td>Cereal, Milk</td>
<td>Cereal, Milk</td>
<td>Cereal Milk, Toast, Muffins, Yoghurt and fresh fruit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Toast, Muffins, Yoghurt and fresh fruit.</td>
<td>Toast, Muffins, Yoghurt and fresh fruit.</td>
<td>Toast, Muffins, Yoghurt and fresh fruit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASC</td>
<td>Cooking Club</td>
<td>Sand Pit Play &amp; Thumb print summer pictures</td>
<td>Playground Fun &amp; Summer Butterfly Fan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&amp; Hama Beads</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASC TEA</td>
<td>Naches and a plate of watermelon, oranges and apple</td>
<td>Plate of veg, brown rice crackers and dip with a plate of watermelon, grapes and oranges.</td>
<td>Naches and a plate of grapes, pineapple, and watermelon.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

First week back at OSHClub and we had a lot of fun. It was good to see both new and familiar faces as we reflected on what we did over the summer break.
The students were given the opportunity to share some of their favourite moments of their individual holidays, which included camping, visits to the zoo, sleepovers with friends and family, and of course Christmas.
Children were also given the opportunity to get creative, as some students used balloons to reconstruct a hot air balloon and used recycled materials to create spaceships. It was also good to see the children having fun and creating both dance and acting performances to show in front of the group.

This week in OSHClub we are celebrating all things summer. We are going to design a colouring in, create holiday postcards and make a summer collage to display in our OSHClub room.

So come along and join the fun!

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 $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.
We would love you to add your name to the roster below for our BBQ at Bunnings Bayswater on **Saturday, 20th February**. This is a great opportunity to kick off our fundraising for 2016. Please see Julie in the office.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Set up 8 am – 10 am</th>
<th>10 am – 12 noon</th>
<th>12 noon – 2 pm</th>
<th>2 pm – pick up</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kate Rae</td>
<td>Tony Rowe</td>
<td>Geordie Ferguson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lilly Markovic</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leigh</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you are unable to be there on the day but would still like to help, we also need donations of the following: Food handling gloves, hand soap, tomato sauce, BBQ sauce, mustard, serviettes, foil trays, paper towel, rubbish bags, alfoil and washing up detergent.

---

**Date: Friday 12/02/2016**

**Time: 3.30–7 pm**

Mount Dandenong Primary School invites students, families and friends to a “Picnic at the Pool”

- Friday, 12th February
- Olinda Pool open from 2 pm to 7 pm
- Admission: Adult $4.00; Concession $3.00; Child $3.00; Family $14.00; Pensioner $2.70; Spectator $2.00.
- Bring a picnic or pick up take away for dinner (no alcohol)
- Parents are responsible for supervising their children

Mount Dandenong Primary School invites students, families and friends to a “Picnic at the Pool”

- Friday, 12th February
- Olinda Pool open from 2 pm to 7 pm
- Admission: Adult $4.00; Concession $3.00; Child $3.00; Family $14.00; Pensioner $2.70; Spectator $2.00.
- Bring a picnic or pick up take away for dinner (no alcohol)
- Parents are responsible for supervising their children
Art News
Welcome back! We are all looking forward to lots of fun creating wonderful artworks in the Art room this year. Please take some time with your child viewing the many artworks on display throughout the school.

Please ensure your child has a clearly named art smock.

If you are able to donate the following items please leave them on the table outside the Art room.
- Old towels (for drying wet hands)
- Ice cream containers and lids
- Old costume jewellery

Wanted please... your ideas and suggestions
Each child has a cardboard A2 sized folio for storing their artworks. There are approximately 200 of these folios that need to be stored in the Art room. If you have an idea of how best to store these folios please let me know.

The creative excellence of VCE students from across the Yarra Ranges is celebrated in 3 exhibitions. The exhibitions showcase the works by 2015 graduates of Art and Studio Art.

VISIT:
- Red Earth Gallery – Mooroolbark Community Centre 5th February - 26th March 2016

Thank you
Liz Kennedy, Art teacher

---

Chess Ideas

Ph: 9532 8370
Fax: 9532 8360
P.O. Box 3158
Ripponlea 3185
admin@chessideas.com.au

- Established in 1994
- Teaching in over 100 schools in Melbourne and Ballarat.
- Coaches to the top junior students in Victoria.

Mount Dandenong Primary School
Term 1, 2016
Starts 17th February

Classes will start on Wednesday 10th February

Dates: 17/2 – 23/3: 6 weeks
Time: Wednesday 1.30 – 2.30
Cost: $8.00 per lesson $48.00 for the term.

PLEASE NOTE: If chess lessons coincide with swimming or school camp, please deduct the cost of these lessons from the total amount. Otherwise students will not receive a refund for classes missed but students commencing after the first week do not pay for the earlier lessons.

Chess should be made payable to ‘Chess Ideas (Australia) Pty. Ltd’ or we take payment via Visa and Mastercard, this can be phoned into our offices or posted. PAYMENTS CAN BE MADE ONLINE AT: www.chessideas.com.au

PLEASE ADVISE MICHAEL LEONARD YOUR NAME AND DETAILS THAT YOU HAVE REGISTERED

If your child has a medical condition we should know about please ring our office with details.

Play Chess at home against the computer.
Click on “play chess”. It’s fun!

Chess Registration Term 1, 2016
(Mount Dandenong Primary School)

NAME OF CHILD: __________________________ GRADE: __________________________
CONTACT PARENT/GUARDIAN: __________________________ Ph. #: __________________________
SIGNATURE OF PARENT/GUARDIAN: __________________________
Credit Card Details:
NAME ON CARD: __________________________ CARD TYPE: __________________________
CARD NUMBER: __________________________ EXPIRY DATE: __________________________
CVV # __________________________

Please enclose $48.00 and send to: ‘Chess Ideas (Australia) Pty. Ltd.’ PO Box 3158, Ripponlea Vic 3185, or phone 9532 – 8370 or fax 9532 – 8360 with credit card details between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

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
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government’s commitment to breaking the link between a student’s background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:
- $125 for primary school students
- $225 for secondary school students.

HOW TO APPLY

Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

MORE INFORMATION

For the CSEF application closing dates and more information about the fund visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

Application Forms available from the Office
Mt Dandenong Primary School Music Program
Classroom Music: Teacher Claire Somerville

All students receive a one 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 as part of ‘Music Count Us In’.

School Performance Groups
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 Wednesdays 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 8.45 am. Any child who has been learning an instrument for at least a year is welcome to join. Rehearsals are Monday lunchtimes. Students also perform at the annual Soiree Concert and Busking Night.

Jammin’ with the Juniors for Grade 1—3 children. This is a fun, casual singing group which introduces children to a singing choir. They meet occasionally during lunchtime.

Instrumental Music Program
We have an exciting private instrumental music program at Mt Dandenong Primary School which is currently in place. If your child is interested in having a private/group lesson during school time, please contact teachers directly to make an enquiry or a booking.

- Drum kit-contact Luke McIvor 0415 705 616 email ljmcivor@gmail.com
- Guitar for Gr 2-6-contact Jed Rowe 0437 741 851 email jedrowe@gmail.com
- Piano and/or singing-contact Sarah-Rose McIvor 0402 413 169 email sarah.rosey@gmail.com
- Violin, cello-contact Keryn Lientschnig-0408 566 423 email keryn_ml@yahoo.com.au
- Brass—contact Craig Smith 0419 144 455 email thesmiths1253@bigpond.com

Thank you, Claire Somerville

Canteen starts this week!
Orders to be placed in the lunch order tubs in each classroom on Thursday mornings at 9am. Correct change is required, in an envelope or sealed bag clearly labelled with the child’s name, class and order specifics. If change is an issue please see the office for assistance.

Mt. D PS will continue this service for as long as we have the community support to do so. We require parent volunteers who can give an hour and a half once a month (or less with more volunteers) to facilitate the canteen from 12:30-2:00pm on Friday afternoons. If you are available please fill out the roster at the office.

CHANGE OF DATE: Canteen Co-operative Meeting now Thursday at 9 am in the staffroom

Saxophone, Flute Clarinet Lessons at Mount Dandenong PS
Classical, Jazz, Contemporary
Fully qualified teacher. V.I.T. Registered.
B.Ed(U.Melb)A.Mus.A.
Dip. Music(Melba)
rosiers12@bigpond.com
Mobile 0407 383575
Parent Volunteer Roles 2016

This year we require a number of volunteers to support our programs and facilities at Mt Dandy. Please tick the box/boxes of the roles that you are able to help with and indicate your availability and return the form to the office. We’ll then pass on your details to the relevant person to contact you.

☐ Classroom helper – This may mean supporting the literacy/numeracy programs, classroom displays etc.

☐ Gardening Club – Required to do some regular gardening to keep our grounds looking beautiful.

☐ Reading Support – We are trying to implement a reading support program to support some of our students with extra needs. Volunteers for this will be trained in the requirements of the program.

☐ Newsletter – We require a volunteer who has a sound knowledge of Microsoft Publisher to edit and collate the weekly newsletter.

☐ Merits – a volunteer is required to upload the weekly merit awards and produce the certificates.

☐ Working Bees – These are periodically held to beautify and maintain our grounds and buildings

☐ Sausage sizzles and Chestnut festival – Volunteers are required to prepare food and sell to the public

☐ Library – Volunteers would be much appreciated to regularly file, catalogue and tidy the library.

☐ After School Basketball Co-ordinator – After many years of service, our fantastic After School Basketball organiser has retired and for this extra curricular activity to commence we need a replacement

------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

I ………………………………………………………… am available to help!

Contact no ………………………………………………………..
# February 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
<th>Sun</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pancake Day</td>
<td></td>
<td>Canteen orders due</td>
<td>Canteen commences</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>GRIP Student Leadership</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bunnings BBQ</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Three way interviews</td>
<td>Three way interviews</td>
<td>Start Smart Program</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>Thu</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>Sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>-----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labour Day holiday</td>
<td>House Athletics</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
<td>Responsible Pet Program</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bush Dance at Ferny Creek Hall</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Ed</td>
<td>Life Ed</td>
<td>Life Ed</td>
<td>Easter Hat Parade Last day Term 1</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>