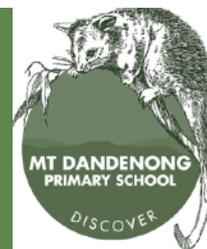


28TH JULY 2020

Mt Dandy News

Discover



Message from Sally...

Welcome back to school for Term 3, albeit in a different way than we expected! As disappointing as it is to not be face-to-face with our students again, I have been so impressed by the resilience, commitment and 'can do' attitude that everyone in our community has shown yet again during this second period of remote and flexible learning.

I'd like to thank you all for your ongoing understanding, support and care of our students and staff during this challenging time. We are all doing our best in very difficult circumstances, something I am reminded of daily in my interactions and communications with everyone from our community. Thank you all for the messages of support and the care you've shown towards our staff over the past few weeks. It is very much appreciated.

As we move into the second week of Term 3, your children will experience the adjustments we have made to our practice in the delivery of remote learning. This term there is a greater focus on ensuring our teachers spend more time working with small groups of students to teach, revise and monitor learning. This is also a way they can connect more closely with students and gauge how they are going with remote learning. Thank you for supporting this work by reminding your child of when their online meetings are. You should also have been able to elect to receive summaries of your child's google classroom work via email, something that is hopefully helpful for keeping you in the loop with their learning.

As always, I welcome any feedback you have that may assist us in working with you to make this remote learning experience as positive as it can be. You can email any comments or suggestions to mount.dandenong.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Parent Teacher Interviews

Parent teacher interviews are now open for booking in Compass. They will be held via Google Meet on Monday 3 August which is a student-free day. Please log into Compass and book your interview appointment by no later than Friday 31 August. These interviews will be an opportunity to share information from both sides on how your child is managing with remote learning, current achievements and opportunities for future learning goals. Please bear in mind that teachers are working with limited assessment data at this stage due to the extended period of remote learning that they are now working in.



Staff Professional Learning

Yesterday, the teachers used our curriculum day to meet virtually, exploring ways we can ensure we use effective feedback and assessment practices that move learners forward. A significant piece of this work is centred on developing students' abilities to develop a growth mindset to take on critical feedback and use this to set goals for their learning.

This work is a priority of our new strategic plan, which is intended to support the development of student agency. When students are active contributors in the learning process, they learn to problem solve and manage their own learning, subsequently making greater gains.

Building Better Brains Australia – Trauma Informed Schools

Last week the staff attended another full day capacity building session delivered by Sian Chambers from Building Better Brains Australia. The session focussed on how trauma affects the building of a healthy brain and nervous system. We learnt what trauma symptoms can look like and practical strategies to provide safety, connection and regulation at school.

We are looking forward to one more session with Sian next week which will be followed up with a free online parent seminar to help you become better informed on the impacts of trauma and how you can use strategies to support your children through traumatic experiences, especially Covid-19. Sian has also written an article on the “Power of Play” that was shared via Compass. It is particularly pertinent in these challenging times!

I encourage you all to attend this free online session, the details for which are in the flyer at the end of the newsletter.



Retaining Wall Works

It has been incredible to watch RB Landscapes transform the front of our school into a magnificent rock feature terraced landscape. The folks from RB have worked really hard and made significant progress over the last three weeks. We are looking forward to being able to share the finished landscape with you all once you return on-site sometime in the future.

These photos were taken about a week ago now, so it is looking even more amazing now that they are adding the finishing touches.



Covid-19 Health and Hygiene Procedures

As you would know, the use of face masks or coverings by adults is now mandatory, including in schools. While teachers are not obliged to wear them while teaching, we are wearing them in our other interactions throughout the day, and some staff are choosing to keep them on while supervising the on-site children. It is a good idea to talk to your children about the importance of wearing a face mask and help them to adjust to this change in our lifestyle that may be strange or even confronting at first for them.

Once again, I thank you all for respecting the request to not use the school grounds after hours. The school remains strictly closed to anyone without permission.

And, finally, a reminder that if you, your child, or a family member develops symptoms of a fever, chills or sweats, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, runny nose, loss of smell or taste, you should get tested at a coronavirus (COVID-19) testing facility and stay home. Please promptly inform the school if you or a member of your family tests positive for coronavirus so we can implement our emergency management response.

This is vitally important to keeping our school community safe.

If you would like health information from the Department of Health and Human Services, you can visit dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus



Tips for staying mentally healthy during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic

Coronavirus (COVID-19) has the potential to impact on our mental health. It's crucial that we look after our mental health and take care of each other as best we can.

[VicHealth](#) has developed some practical tips to help stay mentally healthy.

- *Keep yourself and your children socially connected via phone, social media, emails or skype.
- *Create a routine and maintain a sense of normalcy.
- *Go to bed and get up at the same time as you usually would.
- *Have breakfast and lunch at your usual times.
- *Maintain your physical activity levels as much as you can.
- *Get your information from reliable sources such as the [federal](#) and [Victorian](#) health departments.



This information has been sourced from VicHealth.

Talking with children about coronavirus (COVID-19)

It is expected that children will have questions about coronavirus (COVID-19). Children may be worrying about their own health and that of their family and friends.

[The Centre for Disease Control and Prevention](#) has created a helpful list of general principles for talking to children about coronavirus (COVID-19).

- Remain calm and reassuring.
- Make yourself available to listen and to talk.
- Avoid language that might blame others and lead to stigma.
- Pay attention to what children see or hear on television, radio or online.
- Provide information that is honest and accurate.
- Teach children everyday actions to reduce the spread of germs.

Other resources available to assist you to have conversations with children include a four-step process to having the 'COVID-19 conversation' from [Beyond Blue](#).

This information has been sourced from the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention and Beyond Blue.



TERM 1 CALENDAR

Wednesday 29th July - School Council meeting

Friday 31st July - 9am Inaugural remote learning school assembly

Monday 3rd August - Parent teacher interviews

Friday 7th August - 2021 Prep enrolments due

Friday 7th August - National Primary Principal Day

Wednesday 26th August - Supporting children through COVID-19 parent webinar



WALK TO ULURU

So far for the walk to Uluru we have done 1691 kilometres and we are more than three quarters there!

We only need 526 more kilometres!

For house kilometres we have...

Kingfishers in 4th place with 214 kilometres...

In third place we have **Lyrebirds** with 430 kilometres...

In second place is **Eagles** with 455 kilometres...

so that means **Kookaburras** in first with 592 kilometres!

The winning house will get an icy-pole once we're back on-site.

Remember, we need 2217 kilometres in total. So, get those walking shoes on and get some km's!

From the SRC.

Discover...



ENROLMENT INFORMATION AND APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE

**Mount Dandenong Primary School
Enrol Now for Prep 2021**

www.mtdandps.vic.edu.au

mount.dandenong.ps@education.vic.gov.au

13-15 Farndons Road, Mount Dandenong 3767

Ph: 9751 1136

A reminder that 2021 Prep enrolments are due in by Friday 7th August. If you have a Preppie for next year or know of somebody, please be sure to have enrolments in by this date.

Many thanks!

COOKING WITH CLAIRE

Thanks to our wonderful PE and Health teacher, Claire Macbeth, Friday's just got a **WHOLE LOT TASTIER!**

Every Friday, Claire will be sharing a new recipe for students and their families to cook at home. Last Friday's delicious debut was pizzas. If you missed it, here is the link otherwise you will find it and the recipe card in Google Classrooms under PE and Health.

Thanks to Claire and her clever cooking children, Theo and Charlie and we can't wait to sample more tasty recipes over the coming weeks.



NEWS FROM THE ART ROOM

During Term 2, the Senior School learned about refugees. We looked at how they got here, refugees from different countries, different ways of becoming a refugee, detention camps and what it is like to be a refugee. We got to interview four really incredible people who work with refugees and even somebody who is a refugee. The first person we interviewed was Claire Pritchard. Claire started her own women run organisation called Kindred, and if that wasn't enough, she also does therapeutic yoga which she uses to help people with serious trauma. The next person we interviewed was David Wardell, David is a teacher and Anna's best friend, but he is also a documentary filmmaker. He films footage of refugees for organisations like Save the Children which can really save the children and if you want to check out one of his films, some links are provided. The third person we interviewed was Kate Sutton and Kate was awarded as one of the top 100 women in Australia for her work in the humanitarian sector. Kate has worked for many years in and out of Australia and has saved many lives, maybe not directly but because of the work she has done many people should and would thank her. Apart from this, she has helped shaped the humanitarian sectors and has a Master's Degree in Human Rights Law and a Master's in International Development and has played a significant role in shaping the humanitarian sector and many lives.

And last, but definitely not least, we have Naser Moradi whom we have based our artworks on for the whole term. Naser is an artist and a refugee. He is a Hazara asylum seeker from Afghanistan and has been in a detention camp for many years now. He has been to a few different detention camps so far, but apart from being an asylum seeker, he is also a fantastic artist. He will often paint brilliant pieces of art that are quite dark but will always show a splotch of hope in his artwork, and his first painting was actually from coffee grounds because they refused to give him proper art supplies. Currently some of his artworks are being exhibited at Scots Uniting Church in Melbourne's Heidelberg. His paintings are being exhibited at the church for the "Uniting Humanity" exhibition.

We made the artworks with Liz and the key part was to add a symbol of hope and with Anna she helped us write the poem and helped us research the information as well as setting up and organising the interviews. It was Alison's idea to do the poems based on the pictures from a class she had taught back in her old school in America.

We would like to thank everyone who has helped us with this extremely engaging project.

Sincerely from Chelsea, Arts captain.



Art Prose Poem
 Almost,
 My hope is as thin as ice,
 I'm trapped in a never ending journey,
 Doubting every step.
 By Cami



Regrowth,
 Listening to the birds cooing on the fence line
 I can feel my hope sinking like a coin in a
 wishing well,
 Don't let your soul be broken let it regrow
 By Eva Blackhall





Trauma Smart Schools

Parent and Carers Education and Support Workshop



presented by

Sian Chambers-Vallance (BPA, BA (Psych), Grad Dip PT, Dip Couns, Cert Parent Educator)

and Tony Vallance (BSC, Grad Dip ED, Australian Teacher of the Year 2019)

Yarra Ranges School Focused Youth Services has funded a FREE ONLINE WORKSHOP for Parents and Carers of Mount Dandenong Primary School:

Reconnecting After Trauma and Supporting our Children through Covid-19

- ◆ Learn how stress and trauma impact brain and behaviour and social functioning.
- ◆ Discuss how Covid is having an impact on our parenting and our children
- ◆ Take home practical ideas, scripts and strategies that can help restore calm, safety and connection to your family.

ONLINE WORKSHOP

Wednesday 26th August 2020, 7:00– 9.00 pm

Attend online via [Google Meet](#)

Meeting ID: meet.google.com/jcp-eqhw-zjn

[Please ensure you are logged into your child's mtdandps.vic.edu.au Google account to be able to access the seminar](#)

Enrolments NOW OPEN for 2021

Belgrave - Chirnside Park
Colchester Park - Coldstream - Fernhill
Hansen Park - Joy Ave - Lancaster
Launching Place - Montrose - Millgrove
Mt Dandenong - Sarah Court - Sassafras
Upwey - Upwey Sth - Warburton
Woori Yallock

Enrolments closing 30th June 2020

enrol@yrkinders.com

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DETAILS AND ENROLMENT.

