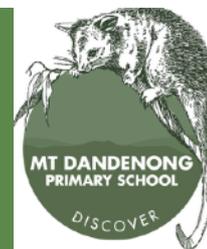


6TH FEBRUARY 2020

Mt Dandy News

Discover



Message from Sally...

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our students and families upon their return to school in 2020, as well as a big welcome to our new Prep families who are joining the Mount Dandenong Primary School community. I hope all families had an enjoyable holiday break and are ready to embark on an adventure filled year of learning and fun.

Sadly, for many fellow Victorians, the summer holidays were marred by the terrible tragedy of devastating bushfires. The ongoing impact of the fires, as well as flood and storm events, continues to impact communities across our state. Our thoughts and best wishes for the recovery effort go to those in fire and flood affected communities.

At times like these, it pays to stop and reflect on how we support one another, and the strength that can be found in community. Here, at Mount Dandy, we are privileged to be a part of a wonderfully supportive and caring community that values learning and working together. Once our students are settled back into school, I hope that we will be able to show some of our community spirit by making some kind of contribution to the recovery efforts.

To our 40 new Prep students and their families, some of whom are just beginning their journey at MDPS, we warmly welcome you and know that you will love being part of the Mount Dandy school community. I look forward to catching up with our new families and to continue building the partnership with all of our current families at MDPS. I invite you to come and say hello – my door is always open and you are very welcome to pop by.

DEVELOPING A PARTNERSHIP WITH MOUNT DANDY FAMILIES

Our teaching and support staff are looking forward to a productive partnership with you to ensure all children can reach their highest potential. We recognise that in order to be successful in school, our children need support from both home and school. We know a strong partnership with you will make a great difference in your child's education. As partners, we share the responsibility for the children's success and want you to know that we will do our very best to carry out our responsibilities. We ask that you guide and support your child's learning by ensuring that they:

- 1) **Attend school daily and arrive on time** ready for the day's learning program. Our music and first bell sound at 8:50 to allow time for students to make their way into class and get prepared for the day's program. Our second bell rings at 9.00 and any students arriving after this bell must sign in late at the office;
- 2) Act in accordance with the school's **RICH values** (respect, independence, community spirit and honesty). Please reinforce these values at home and through your own actions;
- 3) **Complete all tasks set by teachers and read daily** to develop a love for reading and to improve literacy skills; and



4) **Share experiences of their day with you** so that you are in the loop with what is going on at school.

While I am always available to meet with you to discuss any concerns, your child's class teacher is your first port-of-call. Throughout the year, should the need arise to speak directly to a staff member you can contact us and we will connect you. Alternatively you can use email to communicate with our staff. Please do not contact staff via Facebook or use text messaging unless this has been mutually agreed for an educational reason. Please allow us time to respond as during school hours we concentrate our efforts on teaching and learning.

COMPASS

This year we will continue to migrate all of our communications and processes to Compass. By now you should have had an opportunity to explore Compass, perhaps to inform us of an absence or to receive a news message from the school. You can also see calendar dates for school events.



Now that everyone is more familiar with Compass, we ask that you please use it to advise us of your child's absence or late arrival. In the parent portal, under the child's name you will see 'add attendance note'. All you have to do is click and enter the details including reason, date and hit save. It is that simple!

Compass will now be our main way of contacting you, so it is important that you are able to receive the emails and notifications. If you have misplaced your login information, please contact the office and we will be happy to assist. Or if you would like any assistance in using Compass, please also feel free to come and see us. Some of the functions are only available through the desktop site (can still be accessed on a mobile device) and if you are having difficulty with anything I would recommend you switch to that.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU INTERVIEWS

You are invited to attend a 'Getting to Know You' interview with your child's teacher. This is an opportunity to share any information regarding your child and their needs with the teacher, as well as to ask any questions you may have about the class program.



Interviews will take place after school on Monday 17th, Tuesday 18th and Wednesday 19th of February. You can book in for the 10-minute interview through Compass. In the parent portal, you will see an item under the child's name to 'book parent student teacher conference'. Please click on this, select 'my bookings' and follow the prompts. Booking times will be open from next week.

Please note these interviews are being held in lieu of the Information Evening. Regarding general class information, you will soon receive an information booklet via email outlining the administrative and organisational details related to the classroom program.

MOBILE PHONE BAN

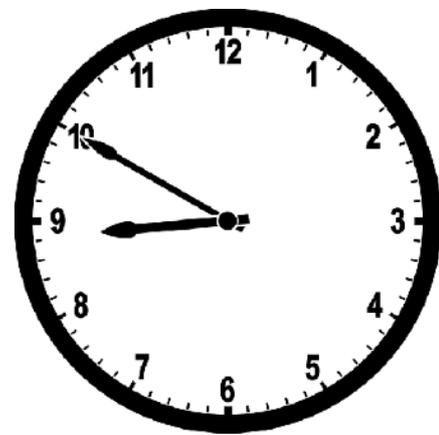
In accordance with DET policy, all mobile phone use at school is banned. If your child must bring a mobile phone to school, it must be checked into the front office before school begins and then collected at the end of the day. All phones will be switched off and stored in a secure cabinet throughout the day. More information on the government school mobile phone ban can be found here: <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/safety/Pages/mobilephones.aspx>



If you require any further information, please see me.

SCHOOL HOUSEKEEPING MATTERS

Here is a friendly reminder of a number of housekeeping matters to keep our school running well!



◦ **BELL TIMES**

A reminder that our bell times have changed for 2020 and are as follows:

- 8.50: First Bell – move to classrooms and prepare for learning sessions
- 9.00: School Commences
- 9.00 – 11.00: Learning Sessions 1&2
- 11.00 – 11.30: Morning Recess
- 11.30 – 1.30: Learning Sessions 3&4
- 1.30 – 1.40: Lunch Eating
- 1.40 – 2.30: Lunch Recess
- 2.30 – 3.30: Learning Session 5
- 3.30: Dismissal

◦ **ASSEMBLIES**

Our assembly time for 2020 has not changed; we look forward to sharing news, performances and recognition of student achievements with you at these weekly gatherings at 9.05 am every Friday. Please come along if you can, as your child will love to see you there.



◦ **VISITING THE SCHOOL & COLLECTING CHILDREN**

A reminder to everyone that we have a policy which requires all visitors to report to the office first when entering the school. Should you need to see your child during school or are a helper at school, please report to the office first to sign the visitor's register and pick up your visitor's tag. This ensures that in an emergency we are able to account for all people at school.

If you are having someone collecting your children that is not on your emergency contact list or does not normally pick up your child, can you please send a note/email to your child's teacher. This is especially important for the junior children as we release them from their class for the day.

Please remember to use the external classroom doors before and after school. Students should also travel outside the main building to meet siblings at their classrooms.

Thank you for your cooperation with this.

◦ **LATE ARRIVALS & EARLY LEAVERS**

If you arrive late in the morning, it is required that your child signs in at the office and takes a late pass to the classroom. Please farewell your child at the office and leave them to make their own way to the classroom. Late arrivals are very disruptive to the learning program, therefore we aim to minimise the impact of these on our students as much as possible. I would like to commend everyone on a terrific start to the year, with very few late arrivals so far!

If you need to collect your child early from school, we ask that you please report to the office and inform the administration staff, who will call to your child's classroom and ask them to come to the office ready to go home. This minimises disruption to the other students.

Warm regards,

Sally

TERM 1 CALENDAR

Friday 14th February - Welcome Picnic 5pm - 7pm

Monday 17th February - Wednesday 19th February - Getting to Know You Interviews

Tuesday 18th February - Fundraising Committee meeting 7.15pm Pig & Whistle

Tuesday 25th - Friday 28th February - Grade 5/6 Camp to Wilsons Promontory

Thursday 5th March - Landcare Healthy Waterways incursion

Friday 6th March - Brainstorm Productions 'Buddies' incursion

Monday 9th March - Labor Day Public Holiday

Thursday 12th March - Landcare Melbourne Water Frog Census incursion

Friday 13th March - Field Sports Day

Wednesday 25th March - School Photos

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2020

All schools are required to conduct annual elections for school council during the February/March period. There are three different categories of members on School Council – Parents, Department (DET) employees and Community Members. If you are interested in nominating for school council, you can collect a nomination form from the office.

You do not need any special experience to be on School Council. What you do need is an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future. School Council meets about twice per term (i.e. 8 times over the course of the year) on Wednesday evenings, and School Councillors are also on a subcommittee of School Council – Finance, Buildings and Grounds or Education, that meets at another agreed time.

Parents who would like to be part of School Council are encouraged nominate themselves. Nominations open 9am Monday 17 February and close 4pm on Friday 21 February. Nomination Forms will be available at the Office from Monday 17 February 2020.

CORONAVIRUS

Just a reminder that DET has issued advice to prevent the spread of coronavirus. In the following circumstances, students or staff should self-isolate:

- People who were in Hubei Province until 14 days after they were last in Hubei Province;
- People who were in mainland China on or after 1 February 2020 until 14 days after they were last in mainland China;
- Close contacts of confirmed cases until 14 days after last close contact with the confirmed case.
- For Victorian updates to the current incident, go to: <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/novelcoronavirus>
- For Department of Education and Training updates: <https://education.vic.gov.au/about/department/Pages/coronavirus.aspx>

SLU icy pole sales

Throughout the warmer weather of semester 1, the SLU will be selling icy poles at lunchtime on **Fridays** for \$1 each.

Toastie Tuesday will recommence in semester 2.

All fundraising will go towards funding programs for the 5/6 students in the SLU.



STUDENT SAFETY – BUSHFIRE EMERGENCY PROCEDURES AT MOUNT DANDENONG PRIMARY

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT DAYS OF EXTREME & CODE RED FIRE DANGER

In the interest of the safety of our students, families and staff, Mount Dandenong Primary School will:

- Be closed on days where the Fire Danger Rating is Extreme and will relocate to Gladesville Primary School, Kilsyth.
- Be closed on days when the Fire Danger Rating is Code Red, as per DET policy

****As our school is on DET's Bushfire At-Risk Register, Mount Dandenong Primary School WILL BE CLOSED on Code Red days****

Where possible, when a Code Red day is declared, you will be notified between 3-4 days beforehand BUT it may be as little as the day before. Once confirmed (no later than 1pm the day before the anticipated closure), regardless of any late change in the expected weather, the school will be closed and this will not change.

Due to the elevated bushfire risk, there will be no staff at school on these days. Updates on school closures and information on Code Red days can be found on the DET Emergency Management web page.

****On days of Extreme Fire Danger, Mount Dandenong Primary School WILL BE CLOSED and RELOCATE to Gladesville Primary School – NO OSHC PROGRAM WILL BE AVAILABLE AT GLADESVILLE PS****

On days of Extreme Fire Danger there will again be no staff at school. If this occurs, families will be notified using SMS and email (no later than 1pm the day before the anticipated closure) so please be aware you may receive the same information more than once. We will also require a reply from you to be absolutely sure everyone is aware of this situation. Information about the current and expected Fire Danger Ratings can be found in weather forecasts on daily news programs, published on websites and in newspapers, broadcast on radio and on the CFA website.

Please note that it is the responsibility of every family to:

1. Know where to find and understand Fire Danger Rating information
2. Understand Mount Dandenong Primary School's procedure for days of EXTREME fire danger and CODE RED fire danger

Please note the following procedure for children who are relocating:

- Your child will be expected to attend Gladesville PS – you are responsible for transporting them to the school
- Students are to arrive at Gladesville PS by 9am, no earlier than 8:45am. No staff will be on duty.
- All Parents are to park and sign their children in at the office/designated area for Mount Dandenong PS students. Please do not just drop your child off.
- All students must be collected at 3:30pm from the designated area and signed out by their parent/guardian/emergency contact. **Please note that there is no afterschool care.**

Thank you for your support and co-operation with this important safety matter.

W E L C O M E S C H O O L P I C N I C

**All families are invited to attend our
Welcome School Picnic on
Friday 14th February from 5pm to 7pm
on the school oval.**

**This will be a fun opportunity to catch
up with old friends and make some new
ones!**

**The Wominjeka Garden wood fired pizza
oven and BBQ will be fired up for
families to use, otherwise BYO picnic
fare and rug.**

**Please note no alcohol. We will supply
utensils for those wishing to use the
pizza oven and BBQ.**

See you all then!

MT DANDY FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Our school is lucky to be supported by a fabulous fundraising committee who do a wonderful job not only raising funds for school but also creating fun events and traditions for the school community to enjoy. Highlights of the fundraising calendar include the legendary Mt Dandy Trivia Night, Chestnut Festival, Bunnings sausage sizzles, the Art Show and more!

The Fundraising team are always looking for new members. If you are interested, please contact Fundraising Coordinator, Jaki Farrey, on jakifarrey@gmail.com or 0435 950 067. You can either sign up as a regular member of the committee or a 'silent helper' who we can call upon to help with events without having to attend meetings etc. The first meeting for the year will be held at the Pig & Whistle on Tuesday 18th February at 7.15pm - who knows what new ideas will be cooked up!



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Literacy on the hill



Giulia Cuzzilla

Practising MSL Educational Specialist (IMSLE, Aus)
Accredited Member of the Australian Dyslexia Association
AMADA Registration: 420162

MSL involves direct instruction of the phonological and morphological layers of language. Multisensory learning uses visual, auditory and kinaesthetic-tactile pathways simultaneously to enhance memory and learning of written language. Effective instruction for students with dyslexia and learning difficulties must be explicit, direct, cumulative and intensive.

I provide individualised one on one instruction for primary aged students. Sessions can be before, during or after school hours (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday) or Saturday mornings. Small group instruction also available upon request.

Literacy support services

I specialise in supporting children with dyslexia and children experiencing difficulties with reading and writing. I am an MSL specialist educator and primary school teacher.

literacyonthehill@gmail.com

0475 307 484

ada Australian Dyslexia Association

Solutions for those who learn differently.



Institute for
Multisensory Structured Language Education

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 is 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

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the CSEF visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

HOW TO APPLY

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

If you applied for the CSEF at your child's school in 2019, you do not need to complete an application form in 2020 unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- **new student enrolments;** your child has started or changed schools in 2020 or you did not apply in 2019.
- **changed family circumstances;** such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing at the school in 2020.

Check with the school office if you are unsure.





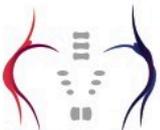
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