

FEBRUARY 18TH 2021

# MT DANDY NEWS

Discover



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## Message from Sally...

Thank you to everyone in the Mt Dandy community for your support of our children and our school as we had to quickly move to remote learning this week. The announcement was unexpected and as such I understand that it may have caused your child and yourself some stress and anxiety. As we did last year, we will do all we can to support the wellbeing of all our students and to ensure that we refer you to support services wherever needed.

Information that might be of assistance to you in  **talking to your child about COVID-19**  is available. If you are concerned about your wellbeing or that of your child, please contact the school so we can talk with you about how we can best assist. Other sources of support include: Parent Line 13 22 89 and Kids Helpline 1800 55 1800.

And, finally, a reminder that if you, your child, or a family member develops symptoms of COVID-19 you should get tested at a COVID-19 testing facility and stay home.

Each family should regularly check the  **list of public exposure sites**  in Victoria (where a person with COVID-19 has attended), and if anyone in the family has attended a site at the times listed, follow the instructions given.

Please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher or contact the school if you have any concerns.



## PREPS 2021

It has been wonderful spending time over the last few weeks watching our new Preps settle into the routine of school. Their buddies from Grade 6 have been doing a sensational job of supporting their young friends in the playground, as well as through shared activities in the classroom. The Preps really look forward to this time with their buddies and it helps to build a strong connection to the student community and the school in general.



I have received confirmation that we are able to proceed with our Welcome Picnic scheduled for the 25th of February. The Welcome Picnic is another way to strengthen our community spirit, enjoy time with friends and of course meet some new families. We look forward to sharing this event with our Prep families, as well as any other families new to the school.

## PARENT HELPERS TRAINING AND INDUCTION SESSION



I would like to invite any parents interested in helping in their child's classroom to attend a training and induction session on Thursday the 4th of March from 9.30 to 10.30. This is an opportunity to learn how you can support our students and teachers in their classroom programs, what the expectations are and how to get involved. If you are considering helping out, or even if you already do but have not attended our induction session previously, I would love to see you there. This session will be held in the staffroom.

## CHAPLAINCY

Mount Dandenong Primary School is pleased to announce that it was successful in obtaining federal government funding as part of the National School Chaplaincy Program.

Chaplains support the emotional wellbeing of students by providing pastoral care services and strategies that support the emotional wellbeing of the broader school community. They work closely with wellbeing and allied health staff in schools to support students and their educational outcomes, staff, families and the wider school community.



## CHAPLAINCY (CONT.)

Mt Dandenong Primary School has formed a partnership with onPsych Chaplaincy to find a chaplain. At onPsych Chaplaincy, the goal is to support communities of children across Australia and empower them to lead their best lives with their chaplain service. Onpsych chaplaincy provides secular chaplains who have backgrounds in counselling, social work, teaching and psychology.

The school is currently recruiting through onPsych, however, if you know of someone with the relevant skills and qualifications to fulfil this position, please ask them to contact me at school and I can advise them on how to register as a chaplain with onPsych and therefore be considered for this role.

## SCHOOL UNIFORM

School uniform is an important part of Mount Dandenong Primary School, as it aims;

- To promote students' sense of identity and pride in the school;
- To strengthen the spirit of community within the school;
- To enhance the profile, image and identity of the school in the wider community; and
- To enhance student safety.



Please ensure that your child is in full school uniform each day. Our dress code requires your child wear approved items only. Approved uniform items are available from the uniform shop. If you would like to purchase items elsewhere for wear at school, please ensure they are considered school uniform attire.

A parent note is required if your child is out of uniform. Parents will be contacted if their child is not in full school uniform.

## SAFE SCHOOLS

In accordance with Department of Education policy our school is committed to ensuring the safety and inclusion of all students in our care, including LGBTI students. As part of this commitment to inclusivity we are a part of the Safe Schools Coalition of Schools. Safe Schools was established to ensure schools are safe places for all students, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) students and their families, and are free of discrimination.



It was born out of the need identified by school communities, parents and teachers for greater support for LGBTI students, who are at higher risks of bullying and suicide, and to ensure that schools create safe and inclusive environments. All students should be safe from bullying and feel included at school. Students who don't feel safe or included at school cannot learn effectively and reach their full potential.

## SAFE SCHOOLS (CONT.)

Safe Schools is not a subject taught in the classroom and it is not a part of the curriculum. Rather it is a support service that assists us to access evidence-based and age-appropriate information, resources and professional learning to help us prevent, and respond to, bullying and discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity or intersex status. At Mount Dandenong Primary, we create a safe environment for LGBTI students and their families through our school policies and practices, providing professional development for school staff and the creation of an inclusive environment.

The Safe Schools program is managed and delivered directly by the Department of Education and Training. You can find out more by visiting:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/safeschools.aspx>



We are very excited to introduce our therapy dogs in training, Yuki and Rupert. Yuki belongs to Sally and is a retrievador (Golden Retriever cross Labrador) and Rupert is a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel belonging to Laura. Both breeds are typically used as therapy dogs in a variety of contexts. They have been carefully chosen for their temperament, intelligence and reputation as easy to train. Both pups are headed for therapy dog training to work at Mt. Dandenong PS.



RUPERT



YUKI



Children can benefit educationally and emotionally, increase their understanding of responsibility and develop empathy and nurturing skills through contact with a dog. In addition to these benefits, children take great enjoyment from interaction with a dog. At Mount Dandenong Primary School, we value the development of children’s wellbeing along with their social education as highly as we value academia. The staff and School Council believe that therapy dogs at school will be a unique way to enrich all areas of the children’s wider education, skills and wellbeing.

**Research** has shown therapy dogs can reduce stress and provide a sense of connection in difficult situations. The **role of therapy dogs** is to react and respond to people and their environment, under the guidance and direction of their owner. For example, an individual might be encouraged to **gently pat or talk to a dog** to teach sensitive touch and help them be calm.

To begin with, Rupert will be based in Laura’s classroom and Yuki will be based in the Principal’s office. Once trained, the dogs will be here for the benefit of all students across the school, eventually being rostered on to spend time in each classroom throughout the week.

Students will be reminded of what is appropriate behaviour around the dog. We will use information from the RSPCA and Responsible Pet Ownership Program to guide our conversations and lessons with children. Students will have opportunities to care for the dogs as ‘dog monitors’, but will never have sole responsibility for a dog. Health and safety protocols will be taught and practised by students, including always washing hands after handling the dog. Our golden rule is ‘we don’t hurt the dog’, which must be respected by students at all times.

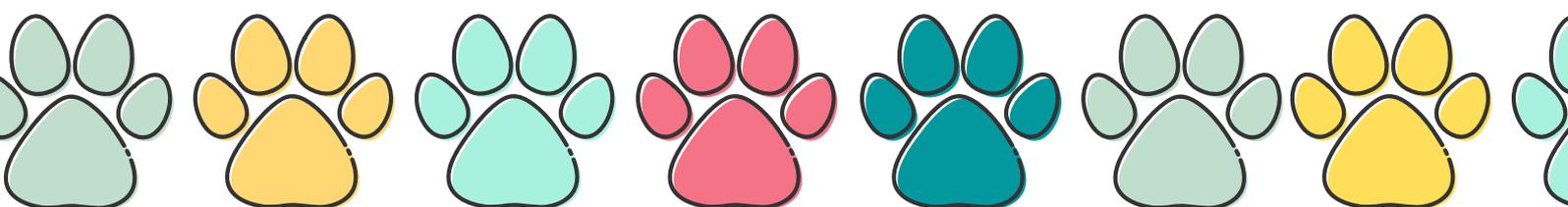


**Responsible  
Pet Ownership  
Education Program**



This project has been approved by School Council. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to get in contact with the office.

We understand that there may be some families who do not want Rupert and Yuki to work directly with their child. Please email the Office at [mount.dandenong.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:mount.dandenong.ps@education.vic.gov.au) if you **do not** want the dogs to be in contact with your child.





## PRIVACY REMINDER

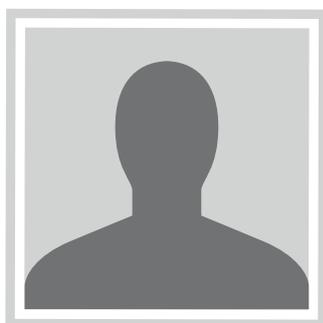
Our school collects, uses, discloses and stores student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the **Schools' Privacy Policy**.

Please take time to remind yourself of the **school's collection statement**, found on our website.

For more information about privacy, refer to: **Schools' Privacy Policy – information for parents**.

This information is also available in nine community languages:

- Amharic
- Arabic
- Dari
- Mandarin
- Somali
- Sudanese
- Turkish
- Urdu
- Vietnamese



Warm regards,

*Sally*



## SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2021

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 to nominate themselves. Nominations open 9am Monday 22 February and close 4pm on Monday 1 March. Nomination Forms will be available at the Office from Monday 22 February 2021.



# MERIT AWARDS

## WEEK 3

PREP Hannah

1/2K Ruby

1/2C Katalina

1/2 JS Thomas

3/4L Willow

3/4S Ned

5/6 A Orlah

Ko

5/6M Rio

Wilbur

ART Jake B

JAPANESE Sylvie W

P.E. Arlo O

## WEEK 4

PREP Connor

1/2K Brandon

1/2 JS Edie

1/2C Harley

3/4L Jason

3/4S Roxy

5/6 A Fletcher

5/6M Claire

ART The Arts Captains

JAPANESE Connor L

P.E. Jonty



*Keep up the great work!*



## DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

### **Thursday 25th February**

Welcome Picnic (to be confirmed)

### **Wednesday 3rd March**

Division Swimming

### **Friday 5th March**

Curriculum Day- No students at school

### **Monday 8th March**

Labour Day Public Holiday

### **Thursday March 18th**

House Sports Day

### **Saturday 20th March**

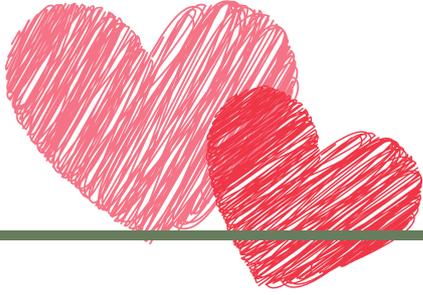
Working Bee 2pm-4pm

### **Tuesday 23rd March- Friday 26th March**

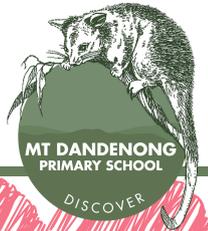
Grade 5/6 Ballarat Camp

### **Wednesday 24th March - Friday 26th March**

Grade 3/4 Forest Lodge Camp



FEBRUARY 18TH 2021



# Celebrations



The Junior school have been very busy, learning about some special Celebrations that happen in the month of February. We have made a special 'Book of Love' for Valentine's Day and an Ox craft to celebrate Chinese New Year. We even had a special lantern parade from the Preps and were visited by a dragon!

How exciting!!





## SUNSMART- TERM 1



It is that time of year, (commencing Term 1) where we **need to pack our school hats** into our bags and wear them during any outdoor play or outdoor lessons such as Physical Education. If your child has not brought their hat to school, they will be asked to play in the undercover area. Sun protection is required when the UV is at 3 or higher.



SunSmart and Mt Dandenong PS suggest 5 ways to protect you and your family from the Sun's UV rays:



**Slip on a shirt** - dress your child in clothing that covers as much skin as possible (e.g. elbow length tops with a higher neckline or collar and longer style shorts or skirts). Densely woven fabrics are best.



**Slop on SPF 30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen** - your child is encouraged to apply a generous amount of sunscreen at the start of the day before school, then reapply sunscreen before going out to lunch play. When sending sunscreen to school, please write your child's name on the bottle.



**Slap on a hat** - one that protects the face, neck and ears such as a broad brimmed, legionnaire or bucket style hat. Peak caps do not offer enough protection and are not recommended by SunSmart. Please help your child remember to bring and wear their approved sun hat to school, which is a broad brimmed hat.



**Seek shade** - choose shady spots for play whenever possible.

**Slide on some sunglasses** - if your child brings sunglasses to school, please ensure they are clearly marked with your child's name. It is a recommendation that Sunglasses are labelled AS 1067 and cover as much of the eye area as possible.

**Sun protection times** - Don't just wait for hot and sunny days to use sun protection. Check the sun protection times each day so your family can be protected when they need to be. Daily local sun protection times and weather details are available on the free SunSmart app or widget, in the weather section of the newspaper and on the SunSmart website at [sunsmart.com.au](http://sunsmart.com.au). Sun protection times can also be found at the Bureau of Meteorology website and live UV levels are available from ARPANSA.

For further information contact SunSmart:

W: [www.sunsmart.com.au](http://www.sunsmart.com.au)



*You're invited!*

# PICNIC AT THE POOL

**FEBRUARY 19TH - OLINDA COMMUNITY POOL**

**OPEN 2PM-7PM**

**Adult \$5**

**Concession \$3**

**Child \$3**

**Family \$14**

**Spectator \$2**

**BYO PICNIC - BBQ AVAILABLE - NO ALCOHOL**

**OLINDA  
COMMUNITY  
POOL**

Parents are responsible for supervising their own children at all times

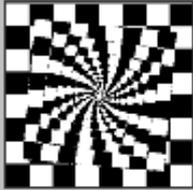
\*\*Pool closed if the fire danger rating is Severe, Extreme or Code Red



# CHESS LESSONS ARE HAPPENING IN TERM 1!!

Commencing February 10th. Registration forms are available at the office.

## Chess Ideas



Child Safe

### Organisation

In accordance with the Child Safety and Wellbeing act of Victoria.

Ph: 9532 8370  
Fax: 9532 8360  
P.O. Box 3158  
Ripponlea 3185

[admin@chessideas.com.au](mailto:admin@chessideas.com.au)

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



Follow us on Facebook  
Chess Ideas Australia

## Mount Dandenong Primary School Term 1, 2021

Chess lessons starts on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>Feb.

Free Trial: Lunch Time Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb.

Dates: 10/2 – 31/3: 8 weeks

Time: Wednesday 1.30 – 2.30

Cost: \$13.00 per lesson \$104.00 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.

Cheques 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](http://www.chessideas.com.au)

**PLEASE ADVISE Sally Alderton YOUR NAME AND DETAILS THAT YOU HAVE REGISTERED ALL PAYMENTS MUST BE MADE BY THE SECOND WEEK OF CHESS**

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

Go to [www.chessideas.com.au](http://www.chessideas.com.au) for our home page, to see upcoming tournaments and events.

### CHESS REGISTRATION TERM 1, 2021 (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: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose **\$104.00** 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.

# Groove FOUNDATIONS



## Music School

Have you ever wanted to learn a musical instrument or singing? Mt Dandenong Primary has a new team of instrumental teachers starting in Term 1. We are all passionate teachers and musicians who engage with the music you love, new musical styles, the foundations of music reading, and theory.



**Drums**

**Singing**

**Piano**

**Guitar**

**Ukulele**

**Bass**

To book your free trial lesson, contact Jordan at Groove Foundations.

**Jordan Scotney - 0408 881 395 - [groovefoundations@gmail.com](mailto:groovefoundations@gmail.com)**



# LITTLE SPORTS HEROES

CONTACT TAHLIA  
LSHparties@gmail.com  
or call 0402 892 811

**SPORTS BIRTHDAY PARTIES**  
suitable for ages 3-8

f i ndis

**JOIN OUR AWARD WINNING BASKETBALL CLUB**

**WINTER 2021 SEASON STARTS IN TERM 2**

Be United with us & register your interest now:  
[www.crossoverunited.club/joinourclub](http://www.crossoverunited.club/joinourclub)

# Form & Practice

Olinda & Mt Evelyn  
Physio & Reformer Pilates

- Sports Physio
- Reformer Pilates
- Clinical Exercise & Strength Classes
- Back / Neck Pain
- Headaches & TMD
- Post Operative Rehab
- Knee and Hip OA + GLA:D
- Women's & Men's Health Physio
- Orthotics
- Massage & Myotherapy

**9751 0400** for timetable and pricing  
[formandpractice.com.au](http://formandpractice.com.au)

We've rebranded  
**Physio**

*CLICK for more*