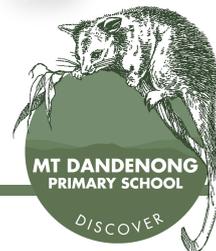


FEBRUARY 4TH 2021

# MT DANDY NEWS

Discover



## IN THIS ISSUE:

Message from Sally...

CSEF & RagTagd Information

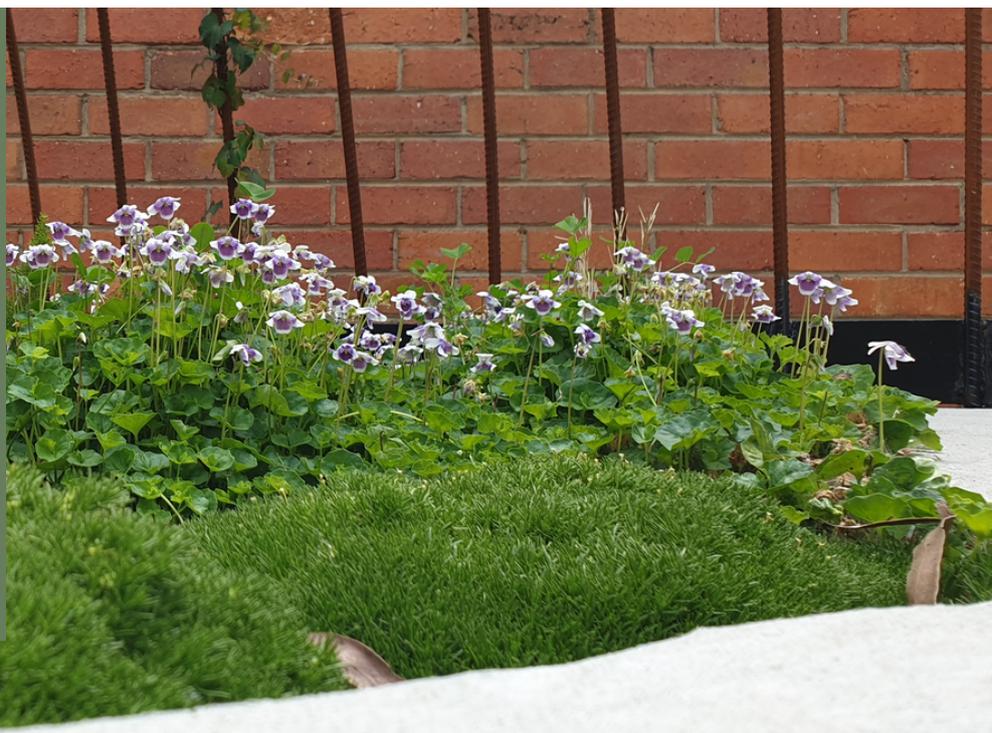
Dates for your Calendar

From Maeve's Media Desk

Art News

Chess Lessons

Groove Foundations



## Message from Sally...

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our students and families upon their return to school in 2021, as well as a big welcome to new 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. We are all crossing our fingers that this will be less eventful than 2020!

To our 22 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'd also like to welcome Kelly Watson, Matt Brown and Ryley Nyari who have joined the Mt Dandy staff this year. Kelly is taking Prep, Matt is teaching P.E. in Term 1 & 2 and then Music in Term 3 & 4, and Ryley is working in education support. Kelly, Matt and Ryley have been getting to know our students this week and I know that they will all make a wonderful contribution to the school.

## COVID-19 SAFE PRACTICES

Covid-19 safe measures are still in place at school this year, although some of the more disruptive restrictions have been removed. Happily, interschool sports, excursions and camps are back on, as are visitors to school. Here are the main points to take note of:

- We continue to practice good hand hygiene at school – please continue to reinforce the importance of this with your child
- Keep your child home if they are unwell – just like last year, any symptoms of colds or viruses, and you must stay away
- Respect social distancing in the school grounds
- Any visitors staying longer than 15 minutes at school must sign in at the office
- Density limits apply to any spaces at school being used by staff or visitors (not classrooms for student learning purposes)

If you have any questions or concerns about our Covid safe practices, please get in touch.

## STUDENT LEADERS ASSEMBLY WITH MINISTER JAMES MERLINO



I am excited to announce that Minister James Merlino, The Deputy Premier and Minister for Education, will visit our school on **Friday 12th of February at 9.05 am** to present our new student leaders with their badges.

We invite you to join us for this special assembly outside on the courts. We look forward to the minister's visit and hope you are able to share this special occasion with the students.

## COMPASS

A friendly reminder that you need to access Compass to keep up-to-date with school communications. 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!



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.

## 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 learning, 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, or be read to, 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. She can assist or refer you to the team leader who can provide further support.

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.



## PRIMARY MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE SPECIALISTS INITIATIVE

Mount Dandenong Primary School is proud to have been selected to participate in the Primary Maths and Science Specialists initiative during 2021 and 2022.

Michelle Lawrence and Alison Allison will train as primary mathematics specialists, receiving high-quality, targeted professional learning from experts in the field of mathematics over the first two years of the program. We are very excited to see what improvements we can make to our teaching of mathematics to support improvement in student learning through our participation in this initiative.



## GETTING TO KNOW YOU INTERVIEWS: GRADES 1-6



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 during the week beginning Monday 23rd 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. Please note that this needs to be completed on a computer. If you do not have access to a computer, please contact the office for assistance. Booking times will be open from next Tuesday 9th February.

Please note these interviews are being held in lieu of an Information Evening. Regarding general class information, you will 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>





## SCHOOL HOUSEKEEPING MATTERS

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

### BELL TIMES

- 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 2021 is 9:05 on Friday mornings; we look forward to sharing news, performances and recognition of student achievements with you at these weekly gatherings. For Term 1, assemblies will be held outdoors on the courtyard. Covid-19 density rules will prevent us having assemblies in the hall at this stage. Please come along if you can, as your child will love to see you there.

### LATE ARRIVALS AND 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.

### VISITING THE SCHOOL AND COLLECTING CHILDREN

A reminder to everyone that all visitors must report to the office first when entering the school. Anyone attending school for more than 15 minutes, must sign in - this is in line with Covid-19 rules. This also 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.

Warm regards,

*Sally*

## CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSIONS FUND APPLICATIONS

The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you have a valid means-tested concession card, such as a Veterans Affairs Gold Card, Centrelink Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card, or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible. There is also a special consideration category for asylum seeker and refugee families.

Payment amounts this year are \$125 for eligible primary school students. Payments are made direct to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions and sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

If you applied for CSEF through our school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year, unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

If you would like to apply for the first time, please contact the school office on 9751 1136 and ask for an application form.

You can also download the form, and find out more about the program and eligibility, on the Department of Education and Training's [Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund web page](#).

Check with the school office if you are unsure, and please return completed forms to the school office as soon as possible.



# RagTagd

**Have you purchased new uniform lately?** You may have RagTagd clothing!! Simply SMS the special code located on the orange tag to the number provided and you will receive an SMS alert when your child's item ends up in lost property. 👍

## LET RAGTAGD DO THE HARD WORK FOR YOU!



1

Your RagTagd approved uniforms will come with their tags already attached.



2

Parents pair new tags to their phone with a single SMS. Simply SMS the tag's unique code to the mobile number on the tag.



3

Parents receive a free SMS alert when their tagged items are detected in your school's lost property.



# Curriculum Day

**FRIDAY 5TH MARCH**

Staff will be undertaking Protective Practice Training. No students required at school.



## DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

### **Wednesday 17th February**

District Swimming  
School Council Meeting

### **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

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

Grade 5/6 Ballarat Camp

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

Grade 3/4 Forest Lodge Camp

*From Maeve's Media desk...*

## School Uniforms



This year the school uniforms have been changed a bit. The new school uniforms are to foster a sense of community and to encourage students to present themselves neatly and tidily for school. The new uniform includes: the bomber jacket, tracksuit pants, leisure pants, a summer dress, a winter tunic and shorts for girls and boys, the rest of the uniform is still there and you can buy all of the uniform at the uniform shop at school. This includes both the new and old uniforms. Your uniforms must be clean and in good repair, and must be clearly marked with the owner's name. The lost property is located in the room opposite the multipurpose room.

It is great to see so many students wearing the new uniforms and their hats.

Maeve

Media captain



# Art News

Welcome to another fabulous year of creativity and fun in the art room.

Please remember to bring to school a CLEARLY NAMED art smock.



## SELF PORTRAITS

A portrait is an image of a person who has usually posed for an artist. A self portrait is a portrait drawn by the artist.

It could be a painting, drawing or a photograph. The intent is to display the likeness, personality and even the mood of the person.

For the past **NINE** years the students at Mount Dandenong Primary school have drawn their self portrait. These portraits have been collected and stored so that each year we can compare, discuss and see the growth and development in our drawing. The collection of the self portraits will be given to the child at the end of Grade 6.

The self portraits for 2021 will be on display throughout the school.

## DONATIONS WANTED PLEASE..

- Firstly we would love you to eat lots of yummy ice-cream! Next, we would appreciate donations of the plastic ice-cream containers and the lids too! (the square 4 litre containers are great but we are happy to take the 2 litre containers).
- Newspapers

Please leave the donations on the table outside the art room.

THANK YOU   
Liz